



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OCTOBER 2019

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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 13**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**: (front row) **Jeanette Pelletier, Ainsley Nutt, Elena Mikula, Oden Hoff**; (back row) **Sylvi Hanson, Alexander Organ, Bailey Sauve, Tate Sand, Lindsey Canedy, Nickolas Mikula, Seth Hansen**; (not pictured) **Thea Benson, Trevor Dell, Ellie Hall-Holt**.

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 21. 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 180
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays
All Ages from September - May

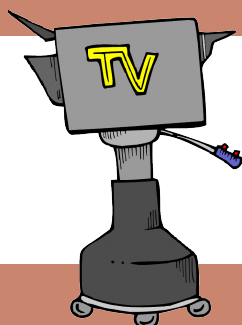
Live Broadcasts

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7:30 p.m. Mondays
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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.

150 Years of Grace Overflowing

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- Augsburg Fortress, Prayer for the Anniversary of a Congregation

Some time in 1869 - the records are not exactly clear what the first Sunday was - a group of Norwegian Lutheran immigrants began gathering for prayer and worship. They met on the campus of St. Olaf College for a while, and then on the other side of the Cannon River at Washington and 4th Street, on the corner where Benson & Langehough Funeral Home now sits. The congregational picture from that era shows people of all ages clustered together, with the sober non-smiling pose typical of the time.

Some things were different in 1869: these first St. John's members worshipped in a different language, in a different building, and with a liturgy that wouldn't look that familiar to us today. The nation had just emerged from the Civil War and was connected for the first time by the Transcontinental railroad. The Women's Suffrage Association was just being formed. The first professional baseball team (the Cincinnati Reds) was formed and the first college football game was played. Leo Tolstoy published War and Peace and Jesse James completed his first bank robbery in that year. **1869** was evidently a big year for Northfield as a whole. St. Dominic's Roman Catholic parish and Main Street Moravian church got their starts that year as well.

When we look at the past it's easy to come up with differences, but churches also hold their character remarkably well over time. After 150 years there are some things about St. John's that are not all that different:

- we still place a high value on singing together;
- we are attentive to the needs of new immigrants and refugees;
- our ministry speaks to the whole life of faith, from baptism to the grave;
- we are connected to both farm life and academia;
- and we seek to be a church that witnesses beyond our own walls.

This month we gather to celebrate the legacy we have received and the opportunity God gives us as a people together:

- We will welcome back former pastors, staff, and other members to celebrate at our Capstone weekend.
- We will worship together with new music commissioned for this occasion.
- We will celebrate the many capital projects completed to date through our Grace Overflowing campaign.
- We will strengthen our connection to our Grace Overflowing benevolence projects in Northfield.

And most of all, we will give thanks that God's care and providing are everlasting, and God's grace in every circumstance is overflowing. Thanks be to God!

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



Pastor Jonathan Davis

St. John's 150th Anniversary

Capstone Weekend Celebrations

Please plan to celebrate with us!

Thursday, October 24

American Red Cross Blood Drive

1:00-7:00 p.m.

St. John's Hall

Friday, October 25

Silent Movies with John Ferguson at the Organ

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Commons and Sanctuary
(refreshments will be served)

Saturday, October 26

History of St. John's w/ Joe Shaw and Jeff Sauve

9:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

*The Norwegian Connection
with DeAne Lagerquist*

10:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

Cemetery Tours

11:00 a.m., Northfield Cemetery

Capstone Evening Dinner

Starting at 5:00 p.m. with Pre-Dinner Music,

Dinner at 5:30 p.m., and

Dessert & Program at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 27

Church Services Debuting

150th Commissioned Music

8:30 and 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

150th Celebration Program

and Pumpkin Sunday

Between Services in St. John's Hall



From the Anniversary Steering Committee

As a congregation, we are blessed with 150 years of rich and dynamic history and a future filled with promise. The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee hopes that each of you have found your opportunity to embrace your unique place in our history and future over the last year and in the next month. Every one of us has a place in the body. Working together, we can celebrate our 150 years as a community, while strengthening ourselves for the next 150 years.

It's hard to believe that two and a half years of planning will culminate with our 150th celebration October 24-27. I have been privileged to work with a wide variety of congregants who have orchestrated the events and progress of the last 12 months.

The Sesquicentennial Steering Committee has worked quietly behind the scenes to make the magic happen:

- a capital campaign that provided important updates to our infrastructure and moved our mission of supporting and welcoming community forward,
- the oversight and implementation of those physical plant changes, and benevolence projects by boards and committees, and our exceptional staff members, and
- the celebrations of the last year.

As you see these folks in church, please take a minute to express your gratitude for their service.

Serving on the Steering Committee:

Pastor Pam began encouraging planning shortly after she was called to join St. John's. When she received lukewarm responses from all of us who thought "2019 is a long way off", she kept encouraging. Without that encouragement and leadership, the end result would have been very different.

It's hard for me to talk about **Dave and Ruth Neuger** separately, because what I say about one, I would say about the other. And they each bring distinct gifts.

- **Ruth Neuger** has served faithfully on the Steering Committee in addition to serving two terms as Congregation President. She is a fountain of good ideas, she's not afraid to work to make them happen, and she's one of the kindest people I know. We're so lucky that she hasn't learned how to say "no".
- **Dave Neuger** is a faithful servant of the church. If there's a need - at church, or anywhere in town - Dave will be a part of creating solutions, reasonable, executable solutions. He will roll up his sleeves and get the work done. And make sure the resources are available to do that work. He will initiate the tough conversations.

Nathan Proctor quietly and efficiently made sure that music and arts were integrated into the celebrations. He orchestrated music and art commissions, led the January celebration with the Ole Choir, and has participated in one way or another in every one of the other

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From the Anniversary Steering Committee

Continued from page 4

celebrations. In addition to doing his “regular” job, along with everything else, he’s a detail wizard, in the best possible sense.

Cheryl Buck lent her considerable knowledge, expertise, and connections to the Steering Committee, broadening our ranks. Her connections with the church go beyond her generation, and she reached out to gather information and make connections that ensured the celebration honored the broad St. John’s history.

Jeff Sauve generated ideas and enthusiasm for the rich and vibrant St. John’s history, and helped us to connect with the stories.

The Steering Committee recognized early in the planning process that we needed all of the congregation to support this effort, and began recruiting others to make sure we had a vehicle to steer. Without these folks and their committees, we would have had great ideas and lesser celebrations.

Four people who didn’t serve in any official capacity for the Sesquicentennial, and without whose participation we would have struggled: **Bernie Renander, Tim Byers, Leah Garlie, and Peggy Dell.**

From planning to implementation, the Steering Committee at various stages welcomed the following, along with their subcommittees:

- Grace Overflowing Campaign Steering Committee, with co-chairs **Carrie and John Duba, and Jo and Dan Franklin**
- Event chairs
 - Nathan Proctor - January Kickoff Event**
St. Olaf Choir Recognition
 - Jennifer Edwins - April Music and Art Celebration**
 - Sue Brockman and Brian Evenson - July Congregational Picnic Youth Celebration**
 - Amy McBroom and Patsy Ophaug - Capstone Weekend**

You have seen the fruits of their labors (or you will soon!). With joy and thanksgiving, let’s acknowledge these servants and celebrate together. Please make plans to celebrate with us October 24-27.

- Sandi Gerdes
Steering Committee Chair

Update on Cemetery Tours

Cemetery Tours: Walking History of St. John's Members will take place 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, at the Northfield Cemetery (across from the High School), not Oak Lawn Cemetery as indicated in various celebration literature. Enjoy a leisurely guided walk from one headstone to another as current St. John's members recount five interesting life stories of former members. Please note the terrain may be uneven.

St. John's 150th Anniversary

150 Pints for 150 Years American Red Cross Blood Drive

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

St. John’s is hosting a blood drive on **Thursday, October 24, from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** in St. John’s Hall.

Donors can schedule appointments by contacting

Bonnie Peterson at 218-686-8769,
or call 800-733-2767,
or go to RedCrossBlood.org.

150 pints for 150 years!

You may donate at any site convenient for you. To have your pints counted, send an email to St. John’s at 150anniversary@StJohnsNorthfield.org with your donation date and site.

RapidPass is a way to complete your pre-reading and health history.

Donors have 3 options to get their pass: online from their laptop, On-the-Go (the mobile version of RapidPass will allow users to complete their pass on their personal mobile device), or at the blood drive touchscreen tablets are available for donors to complete their pass while in the registration area.

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



St. John's 150th Anniversary

Capital Projects: Caring for Our Historic Building with an Eye to the Future

The Grace Overflowing campaign raised pledges of over \$800,000, 80% of which are designated for capital projects on our historic building. The first of these projects was completed in spring of 2018, and some are still scheduled for 2020. Here's some updates on what has been accomplished.

Many people have added their expertise and stewardship to make these projects happen: **Terry Dell** has led the Properties & Grounds Board (**Gene Bakko, Craig Schultz, Vern Koester, Leif Knecht, and Jim Cederberg**) with utmost dedication and patience; **Andrea Hoff** and **Daniel Edwins** shepherded the signage project to completion; a group of design savvy members, including **John Ferguson, Nathan Knutson, Judy Swanson, and Julie Brehmer**, selected the Commons furniture, led again by Andrea Hoff. **Nathan Proctor** saw the resurrection window work through to completion. And through it all our **Leif Knecht** has continually renewed our outside grounds.

Through it all, Facilities Manager **Tim Byers** has coordinated contractors, supervised volunteers, and made sure that we all remained safe and informed as projects moved along.

- **The Good Shepherd Window** on the south wall of the Sanctuary was losing its structural hold due to deterioration of the wood sill. In summer of 2018 the wood was replaced, broken panes were repaired, and new permanent lighting was installed so that this comforting image can be shared with passers-by on 3rd Street at night.
- **New interior signage** was installed in 2018, improving wayfinding for visitors throughout the entire building.
- **A new HVAC** air handler and climate controls were installed in 2018. The old air handler was over 60 years old. The new system is computer-controlled and programmable, allowing remote adjustments to the controls when necessary.
- **Tuckpointing** of the second-oldest part of our building (offices and classrooms on the west side) was completed in summer 2019. We have noticed a marked change in the amount of water that encroaches on the building even in this very wet year.
- **The parking lot** has been improved for water drainage as well as accessibility, with new curb cuts installed and "Lake St. John's" eliminated near the kitchen doors.
- **Painting of the Sanctuary**, with repair of cracked plaster, was completed in record time in the spring of 2019. Damage that preceded the 2014 tuckpointing project of the historic Sanctuary is finally complete!
- **The historic Resurrection Window**, which once adorned the front of the Sanctuary, was entirely re-leaded and restored. It is now installed with light boxes in St. John's Hall for all to enjoy.
- **New Commons furniture** arrived in summer of 2019. The furniture, along with new Welcome Desk constructed by Scott Swanson, was built with use by all ages and durability in mind.
- **Remodeling of Fellowship Hall**, including new flooring, new lighting, and a re-built quilters' closet, is in progress and due to be completed soon!

GIFTS OVERFLOWING - Beyond the projects we planned for, there have been unexpected gifts in this anniversary time:

- **The Maakestad eagle sculpture**, designed for St. John's and long in storage, was donated by Barbara Maakestad and restored and installed in St. John's entrance. Leif Knecht shepherded the restoration.
- **A hearing loop**, which allows those with hearing aids to connect directly to our sound system, was installed in the Sanctuary due to some designated gifts. The loop has vastly improved many members' experience of worship. **Ann Nicholson** championed the project, and Evangelism & Communications Board chair **Mark Gleason** helped us figure out how to do it.

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St. John's 150th Anniversary

Capital Projects: Caring for Our Historic Building with an Eye to the Future

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- A new table on the bridge between the Library and the Sanctuary turned the loss of trees on the Knecht property in the 2018 tornado into a beautiful new piece of furniture by **John Gorder**.

WHAT'S LEFT? There are a few projects scheduled for 2020, and some that remain open questions while we assess costs and determine what is still possible. Refinishing all the pews was explored by the Properties & Grounds Board and determined to be a “maybe but not yet” project. The St. John's Hall carpet is scheduled to be replaced in 2020, and at that time a different sound system and/or a hearing loop is a possible enhancement to the Hall. We also need to improve lighting in some parts of the building, particularly the Narthex and the choir rooms.

Gifts to Grace Overflowing have been early and generous and consistent with pledges. We trust that as this campaign is completed, there will be more grace to celebrate!



St. John's 150th Anniversary

Legacy of St. John's 125th Anniversary: An Endowed Seminary Scholarship

For its 125th Anniversary, St. John's endowed a scholarship at Luther Seminary designed to support people going into ministry. When possible, the scholarship has benefited members of St. John's. In years when no member is in need the funds have supported other students.

That made us curious - what gifts has this scholarship unleashed on the church and the world? The seminary provided us with a list of recipients, and member David Sudermann did research in 2018 to track some of them down. (Please note that these are distinct scholarships from our St. John's Foundation Soli Seminary Fund. Those are available to St. John's members regardless of which seminary they attend.)

Some of the names below you will recognize. In cases where we have a relationship with the recipient we have added more updates.

Recipients of St. John's Endowed Scholarship Fund, 1997-2017 (Compiled by David Sudermann, December 2018)

- **Philip Reimers (1997-98)** Current pastor of Lutheran Church of the Cross, Evergreen, CO
- **David Rogge (1997-98)** Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area, Counselor at Valhalla Place
- **Coral S. Rose (1997-98)** Serving in global mission in South Africa
- **Dawn Lyn Spies (1998-99)** Most recently served as interim pastor in 2016 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI
- **Patricia A Solomon (1999-2000)**
- **John S. Rohwer (1999-2000)** Rev. Rohwer is the pastor of a yoked Lutheran-Presbyterian church in White Sulphur Springs, MT
- **Valerie Strickert (2000-2001)** (probably Anne Strickert) Bethesda Lutheran Church, April 2013-present, Bethesda, MD
- **Marsa C. Terell (2000-2001)**
- **Patrick Ziems (2001-02)** Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Grove City, MN
- **Lucinda Nygard (Lien) (2001-02)** Marion Lutheran Church, Marion, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Griswold, Litchville, ND
- **Kristin Mooneyham (Johnson) (2001-02)** Kristin serves as Deacon and Director of Youth and Family Ministry, St. Petri Lutheran Church in Sotry City, IA
- **Justin Neugebauer (2001-02)** Pastor at American Lutheran Church in Milbank, SD
- **Ivy Borgstrom (Huston) (2001-02)** Pastor for Faith Formation at St. Mark's Lutheran in North St. Paul
- **John Syvertson (2003-04)** "After graduation from Luther, I was called to parish ministry both in Eastern and Western North Dakota where I served for 10 years. For the past 6 years, I have been the Chaplain for a retirement community in Spencer, IA, in which approximately 250 individuals reside. Our level of care begins at independent living spanning the spectrum to skilled nursing home care."
- **Joy Gonnerman Norquist (2004-06)** "I am in Sioux City, Iowa, currently in leave from call (having ended an interim here in Sioux City) working as a Prevention Specialist for Jackson Recovery Centers. (I was doing both jobs for over a year.) At Jackson, I work with youth who are at risk for substance use disorders by teaching them skills that add resiliency to ACES (adverse childhood experiences scores). A large part of my work is taking away the shame and mis-understanding of addiction so it can come out of the shadows. I also work with businesses, faculty, and Commu-

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St. John's 150th Anniversary

In Remembrance By Alyssa Ness

At St. John's, it is not only the communion meal itself that is a very special sort of "remembrance," but also the brightly glinting communion plates that we see every Sunday morning. There are 21 plates available to serve the congregation's needs, a selection of them holding the brimming cups of red wine and grape juice as the assisting minister offers "the blood of Christ, shed for you," then moments later another of the plates, emptied and clasped in the hands of an acolyte, cradles the drained glasses as parishioners make their way back to their pews. All of these plates are engraved, 20 of them with names and often a year between 1955 and 1968: In Memory of Theodore O. Elstad 1956; In Memory of Mrs. Clara M. Quinnell 1967. Unless preparing or cleaning the communion plates, these engravings are easily missed, hovering as they do below eye level, and doubtless further obscured beneath the fingertips of acolytes and servers. The people belonging to these engraved names are long buried, but not altogether gone; their quietly-shining names remind us that we share this church with 150 years' worth of St. John's congregations who lived, loved, and grieved.



There is only one plate donated by or in honor of something - the one marked "St. John's Senior Luther League 1959." The others are in memory of...

† Theodore O. Elstad 1956	† Lloyd Fossum & Mrs. Oswald Nelson
† Mrs. Clara M. Quinnell 1967	† Mrs. S. J. Ellington 1956
† Baby Boy Benson 1967	† J. N. Neulen
† Mrs. Esther Bergo	† Mr. & Mrs. Arthur M. Peterson 1967
† Reuben Olander 1959	† Karl O. Kappedahl 1955
† August F. Lind 1967	† Clayton L. Edmonds 1955
† Miss Emma Knutson	† Sigval W. Pederson 1968
† Mrs. Sena Schonning 1966	† Mr. & Mrs. Anton S. Westereng
† Mrs. Emma Vollmer	† W. LeRoy and Cheryl Ann Engen 1962 (2)

Who were these other members of the body of Christ, people held dear by our congregational ancestors? Twenty-two whose worldly absences were marked on our silver communion trays, so familiar and sacred? They all made an impact on someone at St. John's, but only a few had their histories well-documented in obituaries or other public articles. Some were veterans or still serving in the military; some were actively involved in women's organizations within the church; many worked for or had a connection to Carleton or St. Olaf. One was, at the time of her death, "Minnesota's oldest citizen" at 110 years old.

There have been no records found so far that indicate who gave the plates in memory of these loved ones. Periodically, when "The Voice" was published, recent memorials would be noted, including things like the communion trays, as in the case of the Engens, young newlyweds who died tragically in an apartment fire in California as LeRoy was nearing the end of his Navy duty: "Two silver Communion trays have been given in memory of Cheryl and LeRoy Engen." In the late 1950s and early 1960s, St. John's was in the process of modernizing, and perhaps a request had gone out that communion trays were needed. Whatever the reason for the plates' presence, they are a reminder that everything has history that reaches back to the previous lives of St. John's Lutheran Church, and of the people before us who broke bread and communed together, shared the peace, and made a joyful noise in this space.

St. John's 150th Anniversary

Creative Arts Group

Laura Baker received a grant as part of St. John's *Grace Overflowing* 150th Anniversary Campaign.

The goal of the grant is to foster community between Laura Baker clients and St. John's members through art and music.

We had a lot of fun last year painting, playing instruments, making holiday art, and playing musical games!

This year we want to continue to focus on our goal of developing community connections.

One factor we believe will help us better work toward our goal is to have a consistent group of attendees, from both Laura Baker and St. John's.

Please join us!

We need 5 or 6 St. John's members to commit to consistently attending these Creative Arts Groups.

Grab a family member, your small group, or someone new to town, and join us for one hour of art making and fellowship each month!

Creative Arts Groups are typically the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 6:00-7:00 p.m., after dinner at 5:15 p.m.

This fall the Creative Arts Group will meet

October 9

November 13

December 11

Groups will continue January through April.

Please contact

bridget.novak@laurabaker.org

with any questions or for more information!

Legacy of St. John's 125th Anniversary: An Endowed Seminary Scholarship

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nity coalitions to help people who are currently suffering from addiction and also those who love them have some tools to deal with the complexities of life without chemically altering their brains. I really, really love this work plus I get to work with my dog. (Check out Loyola, therapy dog on Facebook.) Personally, my son, Carl Norquist, also lives in Sioux City. He graduated from Augustana University 2 years ago and is a producer of the news at KTIV, an NBC affiliate (not Sinclair). I am also getting married to Wayne Gallipo (a seminary friend and classmate) on July 5th. He is the pastor of St. Dysmas, the Lutheran congregation inside the walls of the prison in Sioux Falls, SD."

- **Joy Johnson (2006-07)** Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway
- **Paul Cannon (2007-08)** Associate Pastor at Bethany Lutheran, Crystal Lake, IL
- **Denise Fossen (2008-09)** Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Hendricks, MN
- **Gregory Olson (2009-10)**
- **Daniel Rinehart (2010-12)** Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Clinton, MD
- **Austen Hartke (2011-12)** Author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*; frequent speaker and presenter on transgender issues; Recipient of 2019-2020 Bush Foundation Fellowship.
- **Kristofer Coffman (2012-13)** Ph.D. studies at U of Minnesota in Classical, Ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies. and Archaeology, 2017-present
- **Paul Nichol (2012-15)** Current pastor at Faith Lutheran in Monticello, MN. "I extend to you my thanks for your support of my education at Luther Seminary. I am grateful not only for your financial assistance, but also for your prayers and friendship. On my desk I keep close at hand a volume of sermons titled *Concerning Sin and Grace*, by John Nathan Kildahl, a man who once served as pastor at St. John's. Pastor Kildahl's sermons are a wonderfully forthright preaching of God's salvation. The sermons emphasize that we are saved from sin by the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, and that we receive God's saving grace through a living, active, and personal faith in the same Jesus Christ. Many of the sermons in *Concerning Sin and Grace* were actually preached from the St. John's pulpit. When I read the sermons, I am reminded that the forthright preaching of the gospel message is the reason for which St. John's Lutheran Church was once founded, and that it remains the reason for which the congregation continues to exist today. May God continue to bless and to sustain the gospel ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church."
- **Martin Charest (2015-16)**

Music Commissioned for 150th Anniversary

On Sunday, October 27, as part of our festival worship services, you will hear the premier of two pieces of music commissioned specifically for the 150th anniversary of St. John's. Music has played an important role in our church since the founding of this congregation, so it's only appropriate that we mark this moment in time, and capture the spirit of the anniversary, with new music created specially for the occasion.

Daniel Kallman, a Northfield composer, created an anthem for the St. John's Chorale titled "When at Creation's Dawn There Was No Sound" using the beautiful poetry of Jean Janzen. The text begins when God hums a song at creation, out of which flow rivers and drifts of sand, insects and all of creation, instruments, and finally our voices - all overflowing in songs of unending praise. Everything in all of creation joins in the refrain of "Alleluia" to God our Creator.

St. John's members John Ferguson and Rev. Bruce Benson teamed up to create a hymn that we will sing in different ways throughout the anniversary weekend. John Ferguson wrote a new musical setting on a familiar hymn tune, and Bruce Benson crafted new words for us to sing.

Come Sing of Years Gone By

Come sing of years gone by.
Acclaim our forebears bold,
Their roots in faith and hope and love,
Of God's own flock and fold.
Amen. Amen. To them we say Amen.

And still the world has need
For those who hear God's call
To rise in faith and hope and love,
Seek justice, grace for all.
Amen. Amen. To this we say Amen.

We join our forebears now;
Our time has come to choose.
What values shall our lives uphold?
Which claim, and which refuse?
To faith, and hope, and love, we say Amen.

To walk the way of Christ,
Though daunting, is not grim,
But rich in blessing, full of love,
A joyous living hymn.
Amen. Amen. To this we say Amen.

St. John's 150th Anniversary

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 2
Scalloped Potatoes and Ham

Wednesday, October 9
Pulled Turkey Breast

Wednesday, October 16
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 23
Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole

Wednesday, October 30
Sloppy Joes



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.



Baptisms

August 25, 2019
Marit Rose Wanken, daughter of
Bridget Draxler and Matthew Wanken

Deaths

July 18, 2019
Robert Matta

July 21, 2019
Fred Dahl

July 23, 2019
Margaret Mohn Spear

August 8, 2019
Loren Lee

August 16, 2019
Walter Lee

August 28, 2019
Fred Gonnerman

Stephen Ministry: A Short History?

Have you noticed that every month's Voice has an article, similar to this one, about Stephen Ministry? How much do you know about Stephen Ministry? Have you ever had a Stephen Minister? Are you one?

As we celebrate 150 years of St. John's presence here in Northfield, we also can celebrate a remarkable number of years that Stephen Ministry has been a part of that presence. This one-on-one ministry by non-clergy originated in St. Louis, Missouri in 1975, and St. John's sent its first members to be trained in 1981. Since then more than 140 of us have received Stephen Ministry training and approximately 20 currently serve as caregivers. Although it is not clear exactly how many care-receivers have met with one of our caregivers, the number is well into the hundreds.

Stephen Ministers are not professional counselors, but their 50 hours of training equip them to be caring Christian friends to other adults who are going through difficult events or times. Stephen Ministers typically meet with their care-receivers weekly for an hour or so - listening, encouraging, praying together, and simply being present. Praying together and simply being present for one another sounds like the work of the St. John's family, doesn't it? Listening to and encouraging one another with love does, too.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry as a way to experience your faith and enrich life at St. John's, talk with one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

St. John's Health Fair Sunday, November 10, 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
- Acupuncture
- SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life)



St. John's Forums in October

October 6:

TEDxStJohns: Jon Kerr - Struggling with Balancing Definitions of Faith and Justice (Sanctuary)

TEDxStJohns is an ongoing series where St. John's members give a TED Talk Style presentation on stories and ideas that are worth sharing. In the course of researching and writing a book (*Mohamed's Dream: Overcoming tragedy & coverup from the Midwest to West Africa*) about the 2013 landslide in Saint Paul's Lilydale Park, Jon Kerr became close to the family of one of the two boys killed. Their Muslim-faith-based ability to both forgive and put total faith in God has been a wondrous revelation, along with a silver-lining story of generosity inspired by their son. But it has also challenged his journalist & western rationalism-influenced approach to faith that has probably often focused more on human responsibilities (and earthly justice) than divine plans.

October 13:

Addressing Youth Homelessness in Northfield: Meredith Stolte and an Update on The Key's Wallflower Project (Sanctuary)

Last Spring, youth and staff from the Key talked to us about youth homelessness in Northfield and The Wallflower Project, a host home program that is designed to provide a caring and supportive family environment that puts the emphasis on *home* rather than *housing*. Meredith Stolte, Youth Advocate, will give an update on this project and how we in the faith community can help support it.

October 20:

Creation Care: Martha Larson and Energy and Sustainability on Carleton's Campus (Sanctuary)

The world is facing a new era of energy technology, policy, and planning. Carleton College is in the midst of transitioning its 100-year-old legacy of campus steam to a new hot water geothermal heating system. The new system will address much-needed plant maintenance, support the campus master plan, and permanently reduce annual operating costs and carbon emissions. Join Carleton Manager of Campus Energy and Sustainability, Martha Larson, for how this project fits into Carleton's overall energy strategies within the broader context of global concerns over energy and climate.

Community Beer and Hymn Sing with the Fleshpots of Egypt!

**Sunday, October 27, 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Imminent Brewing**



Have you ever wanted to sing church hymns in a pub with your friends? Now is your chance! On Sunday, October 27, Imminent Brewing is hosting a Community Beer and Hymn Sing. Come out with yours friends and sing some good ol' church hymns, led by The

Flesh Pots of Egypt. Imminent has committed 10% of the proceeds that day to the Community Action Center Foodshelf. As with all events, everyone is welcome.

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

August 4, 2019

Given by Judith Stoutland
in remembering the dates of the first use of
the atomic bombs on the citizens of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki
(August 6 & 9, 1945).

August 11, 2019

Given by
Gerhard and Gloria Knutson in celebration of
their 65th wedding anniversary on August 14.

August 18, 2019

No Broadcast Available

August 25, 2019

Given in honor of Nathan Proctor's
fifth anniversary as our Organist
and Director of Worship, Music & Arts
by his parents Duane and Jewel Proctor.

September 1, 2019

Given by Phil and Barb Eaves
in gratitude for St. John's radio ministry.

September 8, 2019

Given in loving memory of
Cora & Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss
by Marie Struss and family.

September 15, 2019

Given by Judith Stoutland.

September 22, 2019

Give in memory of
Edgar Larson by Helen Larson and family.

September 29, 2019

Given by Pamela Groves-Gaggioli in loving
memory of her husband, Fred J. Gaggioli,
who left this physical world
on September 30, 2017.

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.



the WOMEN'S PAGE

St. John's Anniversary Edition October 1869-2019

150⁺
YEARS OF
GRACE
OVERFLOWING

OCTOBER GATHERINGS

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Oct. 5th,
4:30-6:00pm
Jennifer Edwin's home
106 Nevada

Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, Oct. 12, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Oct. 10, 7:00pm
In lieu of circle, will
attend evening program

Lydia & Paul Circles

Wednesday, Oct. 9
Fellowship 9:00am
Bible Study 10:00am
St. John's Hall
Pastor Luther Peterson

Mary Circle

Friday, Oct. 11, 1:00pm
Genevieve Quarberg's home
1604 Cannon Valley Dr.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Oct. 10, 9:30am
Parkview West
Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Oct. 10 & 24
10:00am Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Oct. 8 & 22, 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. & Thu. Oct. 14 & 17
8:30am-noon, Social Hall



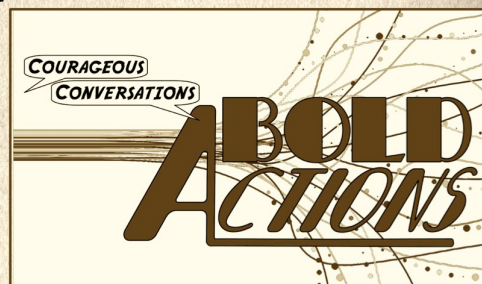
Ladies Aide Quilters 1860's



October 10: "HUMAN RIGHTS IN PALESTINE: Obstacles and Opportunities" 7:00pm

Rev. Mark Brown (St. Olaf '78), longtime advocate for human rights in Palestine/Israel, serving 14 years as Lutheran World Federation (LWF) advocate for health and education at Augusta Victoria Hospital, in the West Bank, and Gaza, and currently serving LWF as Middle East Advocate in Washington D.C., will offer insights into recent developments.

Co-sponsors, NJP (Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel), will share local advocacy efforts. Open to the public. Refreshments.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Women's Triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly
July 16-19, 2020, in Sunny Phoenix, Arizona

"Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice."

Registration opens September 30. Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020, is \$325. After that, \$375. Day registration is \$200.

QUESTIONS? Mary Hoff: 763.688.4516 or www.welcatg.org

Find us on the web:

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



like us on Facebook:
"Women of St. Johns"
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: "Women" in Norse 🇳🇴)

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

New Norwegian Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minn.



The Library at St. John's

From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

By Genevieve Quarberg

There will be new books on our shelves, donated by readers at St. John's. From this past summer's reading group: *Little Faith* by Nickolas Butler, a Wisconsin writer who includes his region along with familiar characters in a story that keeps you reading. Butler was featured in "I'm a Lutheran" in the June issue of *Living Lutheran*. *The Road Back to Sweetgrass* by Linda LeGarde Grover, professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. *Tinkers* by Paul Harding, who won the Pulitzer Prize with this fascinating yet complicated book. Common threads in these three books are the pull of family and the pulse of the natural world.

Look forward to being part of a Winter Reading Group meeting in January, February, March, and possibly April. Titles will be suggested later.

Readers of books from the Women of St. John's book groups from past months have also given copies of their books: *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving; *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo; *White Rage* by Carol Anderson. For October and November the Women of St. John's are sponsoring group discussion of *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. This is another invitation to all members to read and talk together about a persistent failing in our life together.

In addition, some of the books pertaining to the Sunday Forums that are focusing on conservation of our natural world will still be featured. Some of you may have books by Joseph Sittler, a Lutheran theologian who in 1961 spoke eloquently and provocatively to the World Council of Churches in New Delhi. He continued to write and speak of 'ecological commitment as theological responsibility.' His proposal for a 'cosmic christology' and his clear call for 'the care of the earth' are perspectives for serious thought and responsibility, especially now. If any of you have Sittler's book, *Evocations of Grace: The Writings of Joseph Sittler on Ecology, Theology, and Ethics*, we would be happy to accept your copy as a gift to the library. If you have personal copies of Sittler's *Gravity and Grace*, I urge you to read the first chapter again.

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
Jennifer Paulson
Cora McBroom

Kindergarten

Sue Brockman
Jeanette Pelletier

First Grade

Candace Godfrey
Melissa Pellinen
Lucy Menssen

Second Grade

Kristy Harms
Mia Becker
Will Becker

Third & Fourth Grades

Dena King
Stephanie Almen
Lily Almen

Fifth Grade

Amy McBroom
Trish Goodrich

Toddler Time

Jenny Nystrom

Resource Room

Brian Evenson

Music

Arielle Loy



Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

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

October 6	Sunday School
October 13	Sunday School
October 20	No Sunday School (MEA)
October 27	Sunday School

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

October 2	
October 9	
October 16	No Programs (MEA)
October 23	
October 30	

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

October 2	
October 9	
October 16	No CAT (MEA)
October 23	
October 30	

3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with Parents

Saturday, November 16
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

PJ and Movie Morning

Monday, November 4 - NO School Day!
Watch for more info!

3rd Graders and Preschoolers to Receive Bibles

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, November 16, 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, November 17. Please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

4th graders who received Catechisms this year:

Jonah Brownlee, Alarya Cook, Tegan DeGrego, Michaela Gummow, Micah Hassanally, Jacob King, Wyatt Norrie, Trevor Volkert

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429 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 starts Wednesday, October 2. 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 October 2, 9, 23, 30

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 9/1/19) 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. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, April 5, and May 3.

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

Sunday Morning Youth Group

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth (grades 6-12) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Other young adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections. These gatherings will be led by Emmanuel Kaghondi and other adults. This month's topics are:

- October 6: *Nooma* - Why Do We Go to Church?
- October 13: Re-Form - Why Are There So Many Different Christian Churches?
- October 20: No Youth Group - MEA BREAK
- October 27: Re-Form - Who wrote the Bible?

Wednesday Confirmation

Youth are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of our Confirmation program. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Pr. Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Grade 6: Meets in the Undercroft

Large group teaching of the story of scripture through *Mana and Mercy* curriculum followed by guided smaller group discussion time. This month's topics are:

- October 2: God Births a People
- October 9: The Wilderness School
- October 16: No Confirmation - MEA BREAK
- October 23: The Covenant Gift
- October 30: Graduation

Grades 7-8: Meets in Fellowship Hall

Large group teaching on how faith connects with important topics followed by guided smaller group discussion time. This month's topics are:

- October 2: What is Prayer?
- October 9: What is the Bible?
- October 16: No Confirmation - MEA BREAK
- October 23: What is Salvation?
- October 30: Ethics/Justice

High School Youth Group

All High School Youth are invited to attend High School Youth Group on Wednesday nights in the Youth Room, from 6:15-7:30 p.m. To connect with each other and explore what it means to live a life rooted in Christ. Each week's activities will alternate between interest-driven faith discussions, burning questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster friendships with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers. This month's topics are:

- October 2: Religion - Spirituality is Not Enough
- October 9: Jesus - Revolution of Love
- October 16: No Youth Group - MEA BREAK
- October 23: Salvation - Abundant Life Now
- October 30: Cross - Where God Is

Children and Youth

Upcoming High School Youth Event...

Trip to Mill City Haunted House!

Date:

Friday, October 25

Time:

8:30 p.m.

Place:

Meet at St. John's in the Commons.
We will carpool to the haunted house.



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 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 2

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.



From Bread for the World: Excerpt from 2019 Hunger Report

Ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 is one of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by the governments of 193 countries including the U.S. with support from their civil society and business sectors.



The world has made tremendous progress against hunger. Hunger and poverty rates have been cut nearly in half during the past 30 years. Both childhood stunting and wasting are on the decline. And every year, more than 100 million people from all over the world join the middle class. This is important because it allows them to afford more and better food.

2030 sounds audacious. But decades of victory over hunger, despite recent setbacks, reveal a different picture. It is rapid global progress, not any one country's achievement, which persuades us that ending hunger and malnutrition is possible sooner rather than later.

Global progress against hunger means the entire world - its people, governments, and private businesses - needs to play a pivotal role in the process. Specifically, progress on nutrition, livelihoods, gender, fragility, and climate change will be crucial to ensure that the hundreds of millions of people still living with hunger have a real chance at a better life. These five challenges clearly require more attention.

Nutrition: The foods we consume are among the most basic ingredients of human development. All people should have access to food that provides sufficient calories and nutrients to promote good health.

Livelihoods: The only way to end hunger with dignity is to enable people to earn the income they need to provide enough healthy food for themselves and their children.

Gender: Women in every society are treated as less valuable and or less capable. Women and girls are the largest group of marginalized people. Yet food security is dependent on them.

Fragility: When marginalized groups or people living in extreme poverty turn to violence, hunger is very often an underlying factor. Hunger is both a cause and an effect of the violence associated with fragile environments.

Climate Change: Populations that are most affected by the impact of climate change are those most likely to be hungry. Climate change is the biggest barrier to ending hunger once and for all.

Each of us is part of the solution. Good policies and strong leadership can ensure solutions leave no one behind. Democracy gives us a voice in determining our country's future. But, of course no one will hear our voice if we don't speak up. Bread for the World has seen the power of advocacy and citizen engagement time and time again. Some of our efforts have transcended bitter partisanship and overcome powerful

Continued on page 19

Add Your Voices

Sounds like thunder or walking in snow, colors like changing fall or chrysanthemums, smells like rain or ripening corn beg for words to convey what we hear and see and smell. The world God has created, us included, is a changing video before us, one to which we can write the words. The Adult Ministry & Education Board is asking you, young, old, boy or girl to do just that. We suggest that you use the Psalms as models (check Psalm 8) for what you experience and also to imagine words that God might say, just as the Psalms do. If you are a first grader skipping to school, a farmer in a combine, or a pilot flying a plane, you can tell your perspective to all of us. You have October, November, and December to soak in the natural world around us, then write, then submit your psalm to the Adult Ministry & Education Board by emailing Genevieve Quarberg, davidquarberg@hotmail.com or in the church office.

A small group will read and choose which ones to print in the Voice in the months after the New Year. You have a chance to add your voice to the voices we will hear in the various Sunday forums focusing on the conservation of our natural world in its many aspects.



Co-sponsored by St. John's Women
& Northfielders for Justice & Peace
in Palestine/Israel

“Human Rights In Palestine: Obstacles and Opportunities” Thursday, October 10, 7:00 pm St. John's Hall - Open to the public



Rev. Mark Brown, longtime Lutheran World Federation advocate for human rights in Palestine/Israel will offer insights into recent developments.



From Bread for the World: Excerpt from 2019 Hunger Report

Continued from page 18

political interests. Since our founding in 1974, Bread has been a strong voice in solidarity with those affected by hunger and marginalized by society in the U.S. and abroad. We bring the realities of hunger to the attention of those who are elected to represent our priorities for U.S. policy. We also bring hunger into elections by urging candidates to support policies that will address inequities around the world and lead to the end of hunger and poverty. (Entire 2019 report at bread.org)

St. John's will join congregations throughout the U.S. lifting up Bread for the World in prayer on Bread for the World Sunday, October 20.

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

150th Anniversary Celebration
St. John's Lutheran Church

Capstone Weekend
October 24-27