



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OCTOBER 2024



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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 27**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**:

Anna Bash, Mya Haak, Saycia Johnson, Genevieve Knutson, Dyson McBroom, Will McLaughlin, Isabelle Paulson, Ella Skoglund, John Tracy, Braden Van Sickle

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 on September 29. Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

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

LIVESTREAM
8:30 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS
8:30 Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187

7:30 p.m. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



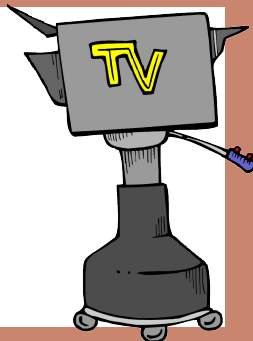
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need; leave something when blessed."



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

From Our Pastors

Dear people of St. John's,

This fall, we invite the people of St. John's to rediscover the Bible, and not just *the* Bible, but *our* Bibles. Have you opened your bible recently? Please don't feel any shame or judgment if the answer is no. I, too, struggle to find the time to open and read the Bible if I am not preaching or teaching on it in the days or weeks ahead.

The Bible is intimidating for many of us – we don't always know how to read it or what the passages mean when we do. A lot of us also just simply have questions about the Bible. What is it and how did it come to be? Is it the inerrant *Word of God*, and what does that even mean?

So here are so Bible basics to help get us all on the footings as we dig into our Bibles this fall.

- The Bible is an ancient library of books that is (as we like to say in Confirmation) written by humans, inspired by God. The word *bible* means “books” or “library.”
- There are over 40 authors of the Bible and it was written in the course of 1500 years.
- The Bible has all different kinds of writings in it: history, letters, poetry, laws, stories. It is important to know what kind of writing you are reading – we do not expect the same kind of things from poetry as we do from history.
- We say the Bible is the Word of God because we trust that God speaks to us through these words and reveals to us the grace of God in Jesus.

There are a number of ways and reasons to read the Bible. Here are four ways to read the Bible and a question to consider and ask yourself.

- Historical: Where did this text come from? What's the background here?
- Theological: What does this text say about God?
- Narrative: Why is this story told this way?
- Devotional: What does this passage evoke in me?

If you are wondering where to start with reading the Bible, a good place to begin is *the beginning* – with the book of Genesis. In the St. John's Forums this fall, we will be reading the book of Genesis, in a series called *Rediscovering Genesis*. These forums will bring us back to the old, familiar stories of Genesis that many of us learned in Sunday School. You can read more about this series later in this newsletter.

We hope you will join us this fall in opening up your Bibles and your minds to the rich and deeper meaning within old, old stories, that are too often overlooked. If you have any questions about the Bible, or if you do not have a bible and would like one, please reach out to Pastor Pam or myself. We would love to connect with you.

*Peace and love,
Pastor Jonathan*

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 507-663-1097.

Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



The following St. John's members died in these months last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

October 4, 2023
Rev. John E. Quam

October 7, 2023
John Barber

October 15, 2023
Betty Stromseth

October 22, 2023
Lester Gunderson

New Communion Kits and Ministry for Stephen Ministers!

In September, Stephen Ministers of St. John's were trained to take Holy Communion from our Sunday worship to their care receivers who are homebound.



Their communion kits are consecrated with our Sunday elements and will be prayed for as we send them to our siblings in Christ at home. This extension of the Lord's table is intended to supplement our pastors' care of the homebound and provide more frequent connection of members who cannot attend our Sunday assembly.

If you are aware of someone in our congregation who needs this ministry, please talk to one of the pastors.



St. John's Certified as a "Cool Congregation"

St. John's sustainability efforts have earned it certification by Interfaith Power & Light, a national nonprofit that provides resources and advocacy for faith communities to respond to climate change.

IPL certifies congregations that can demonstrate their efforts in climate sustainability have decreased their carbon footprint. Following the installation of our solar panels this summer, St. John's applied to IPL for Cool Congregation status. We are certified for 20% carbon reduction based on the work done so far, and hope to apply for the next level when more Sustaining Grace projects are completed. The certificate will be displayed at St. John's in October.

Cool Congregation certification gives St. John's national recognition. Through their website our story could inspire other congregations and offer our experience as a resource as they plan their own efforts.

November 3 is All Saints Sunday

This is the day the church particularly gives thanks for those who have gone before us in faith.

St. John's will remember by name those members who have died in the past year, ringing the bell, and lighting candles in memory of each of them.

St. John's also rejoices with thanksgiving at these new saints who have entered the baptismal waters in the past year.



St. John's Forum Series: *Rediscovering Genesis* Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

This fall, St. John's Forum will return to the old, familiar stories of Genesis that many of us learned in Sunday School—the stories of creation, Adam and Eve, and Noah and the flood. We'll dig into the stories of siblings who can't seem to get along, like Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, Rachael and Leah, and Joseph and his brothers. We'll also venture into some stories we rarely hear or read, like the stories of Hagar and Ishmael, and Judah's daughter Tamar. We expect to discover there's more to Genesis than we thought. We hope you'll see how Genesis insists on the invincibility of divine blessing in spite of the curse hanging over Eden and the reality of fractured human relationships, even among God's people. We hope you will join us in opening your Bibles and your minds to the rich meaning of these old, old stories that are too often overlooked. Advance preparation is not necessary, but we hope you'll read along as you are able. In the E-Voice each week, you will find a short focus text to read and a question to ponder to prepare for the upcoming forum. See the schedule for this month below.

- September 29: *Creation* with Pastor Jonathan Davis
- October 6: *Adam and Eve, Cain, and Abel* with Professor Charles A. Wilson
- October 13: *Noah and the Flood* with Pastor Bruce Benson
- October 20: *Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar* with Professor Jamie Schillinger
- October 27: *Jacob and the Favored Ones* Professor Charles A. Wilson

Pub Theology in October

What is Pub Theology? It is weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.



We will meet on Mondays, October 7 and 21, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow.

The topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and an email list. Contact Pastor Jonathan (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.

Life and Growth

Deaths

September 8, 2024
Richard "Dick" Kleber



Radio Broadcasts in September

September 1, 2024
Given by friends of St. John's.

September 8, 2024
Given by friends of St. John's.

September 15, 2024
Given in loving memory of
Cora & Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss
by Marie Struss and family.

September 22, 2024
Given by Tony Becker and Beckie Judge.

September 29, 2024
Given by Cindy Clauson

If you would like to
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),
please contact the church office
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule
October 6, 13, 27
No Sunday School
October 20 - MEA Break

Wednesday After School Schedule
October 2, 9, 23, 30
No Wednesday Programs
October 16 - MEA Break

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat
Saturday, October 26, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Details in the Article at Top of the Page

Trunk or Treat!
During Sunday School on October 27
Details in the Article in Middle of the Page

PJ Movie Morning
Monday, November 4
Details in the Article at Bottom of the Page

Advent Fair
Wednesday, December 4, 5:15–7:00 p.m.



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/23) are invited to join the preschool Sunday School class.

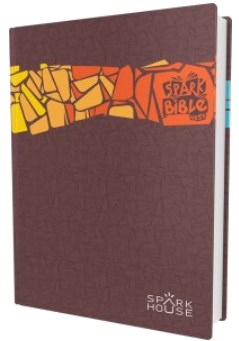
Toddler Time meets in Room 14.
Parents are welcome to attend.

Here is the schedule for October: October 13

3rd Graders to Receive Bibles

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on Saturday, October 26, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.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 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 27. Please call or email Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.



Trunk or Treat, October 27, during Sunday School, 9:45–10:30 a.m., at St. John's

Last year's Trunk or Treat was so much fun, we're doing it again this year. Kids are invited to dress in costume and trick or treat at a variety of decorated car trunks! Games and activities too!

Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are willing to decorate your car trunk, or help with games and activities.

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's. Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie. Feel free to bring friends!

Where: The Commons for Breakfast, Movie in St. John's Theater

When: Mon. Nov. 4 – NO SCHOOL DAY!

Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 507-645-4429. Parent help is appreciated. Let Julie know if you can lend a hand.



Get involved with Children's Programming at St. John's

Parents, grandparents, high school and middle school youth! Please consider how you can help partner in faith by volunteering with children's programs this year. We try to create opportunities that are easy to commit to and can fit into busy schedules.

Wednesday afternoons:

- Snack Servers - help serve snacks on Wednesdays for our after-school programming, 3:45-4:00 p.m.
- Youth! Lead games and assist with other activities during our programs.

Sunday Mornings:

- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

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

Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

Would you like to help out on a regular or occasional basis with youth Wednesday night Confirmation and High School Youth Groups? Volunteering with youth events and regular programming is a great way to get to know the young people in our congregation. Below are some ways you could help in ways big and small – all of which make a difference for everyone involved.

Wednesday nights

- Provide adult presence downstairs between dinner and programming
- Help setting up for confirmation, 5:45-6:00 p.m.
- Sharing game ideas
- Visiting to tell part of your story to youth
- Teach a J-Term class on the spiritual aspects of something you know well

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

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

Children and Youth



Confirmation Retreat for 10th Grade
Sunday, September 29
from Noon - 6:30 p.m.
Gustavus Adolphus College

Confirmation Breakfast
Saturday, October 26

Students, parents, and mentors
will gather at 8:00 a.m.

for pictures and service rehearsal followed by
breakfast and presentation of projects.

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism Sunday
October 27, at the 10:45 a.m. Service

the WOMEN'S page



October Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Oct. 5, 4:30-6:00pm
Alison Kavanaugh's home
428 Ford St. East

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Oct. 12, 9:00am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Oct. 10, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

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

Mary Circle

Friday, Oct. 11, 1:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Wellspring (GenXers)

Tuesday Oct. 1, 6:30-8:00pm
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

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

Night Knitters!

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

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00am - noon,
Fellowship Hall

October 3, 2024 FAITH IN DEMOCRACY?: Christian Nationalism 7:00 pm

Angela Denker, ELCA Pastor, author of *Red State Christians* and *Disciples of White Jesus*, is this month's Courageous Conversations guest. She will discuss the growing popularity and influence of American white Christian Nationalism, especially its influence on the upcoming presidential election. Pastor Angela has been researching white Christian Nationalism since 2018 as a reporter, pastor, and theologian. During this meeting, Pastor Angela will help us define Christian Nationalism in theological terms, understand its roots and how it's being weaponized in American politics, as well as how to use the Theology of the Cross as a tool of resistance against Christian Nationalism.



November 7, 2024

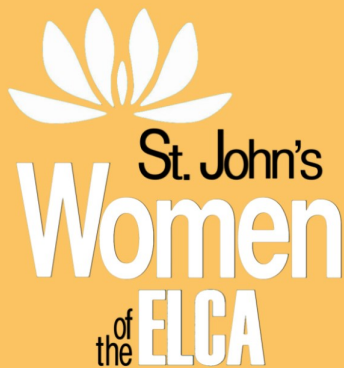
The INTERCONNECTEDNESS of EVERYTHING

Heidi Goldberg, printmaker and fiber artist, emeriti professor of Art, Concordia College, will share the transformative process of her creative visual work, rooted in nature and our current world: "Seeking that which Heals through Making and Connection."

Quilters need more sheets!

Cotton, cotton blends, and flannel only (no microfiber, 100% polyester, or jersey). Any color and size sheet is welcome.

Place next to the wicker basket in the Commons, or leave in the quilter's closet in the Fellowship Hall.





Celebrating 150 years of St. John's Women 1875-2025

The women of St. John's are gearing up to celebrate our 150th anniversary in 2025. We are in awe of our foremothers' drive and dedication. For grins, the following is an excerpt from our own Edna Hong who compiled the history of our church through its first hundred years in *The Book of a Century*.

"In 1874 Harold Thoreson of the (*then named*) First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Northfield offered 15 acres of land and two thousand dollars to establish an academy for the education of young Lutherans in Northfield. [...] and on a stormy winter day, January 8, 1875, the academy opened to the task of giving Norwegian youth a Christian higher education."

"We can well imagine that the whole congregation was present at the dedication of the new educational institution [...] They heard Pastor Muus in the opening address say, 'Remember that the crown of victory is higher than this earth. Let not the honor or the emoluments of this world be your main concern, but seek to please the god who has created you, redeemed you, sanctified you, and called you to be His children and the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven.' The women of the congregation served a noon meal to all attending - the first record of the prodigious work that the women of St. John's congregation have done through the years! How they managed to feed a large assemblage of out-of-town visitors on that stormy winter day with no kitchen and no dishes is one of the sealed-forever mysteries of the history of St John's congregation!

"In the autumn of 1875 the women of the congregation met in what is thought to be the first Ladies' Aid (*Kvindeforening*) meeting of the congregation. Mrs. Harold Thoreson was the hostess, and four other ladies were present: Mrs. O. T. Lysne, Mrs. A. K. Teisberg, Mrs. Th. N. Mohn, and Miss Julia Lysne." (*Apparently women lost their first names once married.* 🙄) "Each lady contributed twenty-five cents to buy material to make into useful articles to sell to raise funds to buy a reed organ to place in the St Olaf's School building, where the congregation met with the students to worship." –Edna Hong, *The Book of a Century 1869-1969*, pp. 16, 17, & 19

St. John's Women 2024-2025 Calendar of Events



Thu.	12-Sep	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Kathryn Lozada
Sat.	28-Sep	9:00am	Mission Morning	Kim Dickey, GHM
Thu.	12-Oct	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Angela Denker
Thu.	7-Nov	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Heidi Goldberg
Sat.	14-Dec	9:00am	Christmas Cookie Packing	for Shut-Ins
Sat.	4-Jan	11:30am	Holiday Luncheon & Carols	
Thu.	6-Feb	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Rachel Williams
Thu.	6-Mar	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Thompson & Bateza
Thu.	3-Apr	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Sarina Partridge
Sat.	26-Apr	9:00am	Mission Morning	Election of Officers
Thu.	1-May	7:00pm	Courageous Conversations	Xavier Tavera Castro
Sat.	10-May	TBD	150th Anniversary Brunch	



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

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA



News and Updates

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
Taco Boats with the Fixins

Wednesday, October 9
Chicken Pot Pie

Wednesday, October 16
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 23
Mostaccioli with Salad

Wednesday, October 30
Bacon Cheeseburger Tater Tot Bake



Annual Fall Church Yard Clean Up Saturday, October 26, 2024 8:00 a.m.-Noon

The Property & Grounds Board needs help cleaning up the church yard. We will be happy to assign you a task! Please bring gloves, rakes, brooms, clippers, hedge trimmers, dandelion diggers, leaf blowers, tarps, leaf bags or baskets.

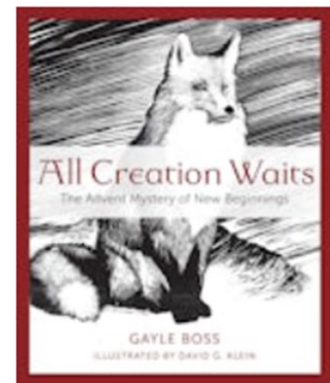


Garden trailers and trucks are needed for transporting yard waste to the Northfield Compost Site.

Advent Book Read: All Creation Waits

The Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to join us in reading *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings* during the Advent Season.

We've chosen this book because it encourages us to learn from the animal world as we begin our own season of waiting. In each daily reflection on the wintering habits of animals in the upper Midwest, the author Gayle Boss deftly draws out metaphors for the creative work of God in this season of waiting. Each daily meditation focuses on a single animal as it adapts to the deepening cold of winter. In each case, Boss shows how the animal world has its own unique beauty and wonder. She also uses these meditations as windows into the practice of waiting, of seeking out community, drawing on hidden resources, and awakening to new life.



During Advent we will meet weekly in the Fireplace Room to reflect on these meditations by considering questions like: What were you surprised to learn? With which animals do you feel kinship? What do these meditations help you to see in your own winter back yard? Because of the unique structure of this book, we invite you to drop in for a conversation when you can. We also hope that if you are not able to join us in the Fireplace Room that you will find other ways to talk with others about this book—perhaps at Wednesday night suppers, or during coffee between the services, with your family at home, or over coffee with friends during the week.

Since the publisher offers a handsome discount for bulk orders, we will be taking orders through the month of October and will have the books available for you to purchase in late November. Although the \$18.99, we expect the discounted price will be around \$15.

Sustaining Grace Update

Our solar panels are complete! The final metering and connection meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2. At that time, Xcel will officially begin crediting power generated by our panels to St. John's. Any power not used internally will be returned to the grid for credit on St. John's Xcel bill.



The completion of this stage and our final payment to All Solar Energy will mean we can apply for the federal rebates available through the Inflation Reduction Act. Watch our newsfeeds for a solar celebration when we call this part of Sustaining Grace complete!

Thanks so much to St. John's members who gave generously and quickly to the Sustaining Grace campaign. We were able to start the solar project immediately without the use of a loan from the St. John's Foundation. And thank you to Jeff McLaughlin, whose championing of the solar panels from conception to finish made a complex project both inspiring and *possible!*



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

With gratitude

The sun is low, the leaves turn color and fall is here. Seasons ebb and flow just like stages in life. How do we care for each other in changing or challenging times? We gather, we listen, we pray. We are Stephen Ministers and grief support groups. We are the Faith and Health board and a parish nurse. We are faithful funeral volunteers. We are prayer shawl knitters, bible studies, prayer chains and Circles. We are a community.

We are St. John's

News and Updates

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

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St. John's

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

FALL CLEAN
UP DAY

PLEASE HELP!
SAT. OCT. 26
8 A.M.-NOON

FALL CLEAN
UP DAY