



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025



CONFIRMATION

Affirmation of Baptism

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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, Oct. 26**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**:

*Jonah Brownlee, Alarya (Rosie) Cook,
Micah Hassanally, Wyatt Norrie, Trevor Volkert*

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 28. 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 Sunday

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



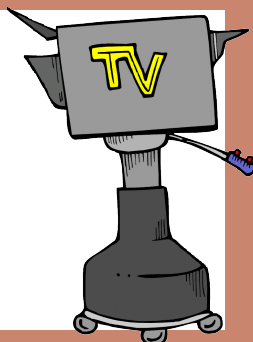
Radio Broadcasts

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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,

At my ordination years ago, I was given a gift I didn't expect. Traditionally at ordination, a pastor receives a stole as a sign of their call to ordained ministry. I did receive a stole during the service, which was expected. What I didn't expect was that during the Passing of the Peace part of the service, as I greeted and offered peace to friends, family, and strangers, suddenly I turn around and someone was putting something over my head. Caught off guard, I finally realized *what* it was and *who* was giving it to me. Rev. Marvin Witte, who was a 90-year-old retired pastor and member of my home congregation, was putting around my neck a pectoral cross (a cross necklace worn over the chest that many pastors wear during worship). As he placed it around my neck, Marvin said, "This was mine during my ministry and now I want you to have it." I was quite moved and a bit stunned in that moment. I did not expect such a gift.



I've had that cross with me throughout my 14 years of ordained ministry, but I confess that I haven't worn it all that often – maybe a few times a year. But that has changed recently.

In his book *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*, Richard Rohr talks a lot about how Christianity offers us a "third way" of seeing (also known as the "third eye" in Eastern religions). So much of our society lives in a dualistic, or binary, way of seeing – us vs. them, liberal vs. conservative, pro-life vs. pro-choice, good vs. bad, etc. etc. This is living an "either/or" way of life. Rohr says, "It is hardly an exaggeration to say that (such thinking) is the foundation of almost all discontent and violence in the world."

Christianity (along with other religions!) offers us the wisdom of an alternative way though. A third way, which can bring unity, instead of division. This is living a "both/and" way of life. We see this in our faith tradition – Jesus was both human *and* divine, we are both sinner *and* saint, the cross is both great suffering *and* great love.

Through this, the cross – our central Christian symbol – has become for me a lens for how people of faith are called to look at the world and this life. The cross becomes quite literally the "third eye" we mark on our foreheads, trace across our bodies, or wear around our necks, through which we can see each other as both beloved and imperfect children of God. We are not separate from each other – we are one. We are not separate from God – we are one.

And so, I've started to wear a pectoral cross each Sunday now – as a reminder to myself (and you, perhaps) of this deeper truth.

When society wants us to see each other as this or that, to put each other in narrow boxes that cause more and more division between us, I pray that our faith in the God revealed to us in Jesus can be a *third* eye that gives us a new vision for each other, for God, and for the world.

Peace and love,
Pastor Jonathan Davis

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



The following St. John's members died last year in this month.

October 23, 2024
Jeanne Narum

October 25, 2024
Lois Pearson

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

New Community Opportunities for Assistance and Support

The Faith & Health Board would like to bring to your attention some valuable services available on an ongoing basis at FiftyNorth. These include a new grief support group, a caregiver support group, and individual assistance with the completion of health care directives. If you are interested in any of these, please read on for more detailed information:

New Grief Support Group

Tuesday, October 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m., (Register by Friday, October 10)
FiftyNorth, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield - Room 102

Join with others in a safe, confidential, and supportive environment for afternoon coffee and an opportunity to make connections, share personal stories and coping strategies with others experiencing grief. This is a 3-month, limited-time support group which started in August. Participants may choose to attend one, two, or all three sessions, so it's okay to register for the October session even if you weren't at the August or September sessions! Anyone ages 18+ dealing with the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend. We are hoping people will come and then we will be able to extend this beyond 3 months!

Presented by: Three Rivers Community Action / Minnesota Hospice

Capacity: 20

Cost: Free

Caregiver Support Group

Thursdays, October 9, November 6, December 4, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
FiftyNorth, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield - Room 103

Join our monthly Caregiver Support group at FiftyNorth. Learn, share, listen, laugh, and gain strength and understanding alongside other care partners. Kathy Voss, Caregiver Support Specialist, facilitates the discussion.

Facilitator: Kathy Voss, Caregiver Support Specialist

Capacity: 20

Cost: Free

Continued on page 5



Are you stressed or going through a particularly difficult time? If so, you are not alone, and you may benefit from a caring listening ear. St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429).

St. John's Forum - Fall 2025

Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change

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

The series continues with Professors Kathy Shea drawing attention to the unique features of our own natural environment in Northfield while modeling habits of attention and care. Professors Kathryn Schifferdecker, Tim Eberhart, and Colleen Carpenter introduce us to biblical and theological resources for redefining our relationship and responsibility to the natural world and its creatures. Professor Jorgenson and her students, Addie Flesch and Paavo Rundman, bring the series to a close with reflections on our current situation: how, amid the anxiety of dealing with a rapidly changing environment, do we move forward with hope?

Other activities are also planned. On October 5, please join Professor Shea from 4:00-5:00 p.m. for a walk through the St. Olaf Natural Lands (details to follow in *E-Voice* and bulletins). And watch for further information on an online discussion of *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to You), Pope Francis's encyclical on care for Earth "our common home." This discussion, tentatively scheduled for October 16, 30, and November 13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., is designed to complement Professor Carpenter's talk on November 16.

Continued on page 12

New Community Opportunities for Assistance and Support

Continued from page 4

Advance Care Planning Open Houses

Tuesdays, October 28 and November 25, 1:30–3:00 p.m.

FiftyNorth, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Northfield - Room 103

At these open house sessions, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive. A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)

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

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective
Cost: Free

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

September 7, 2025

Given by Cindy Clauson.

September 14, 2025

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

September 21, 2025

Given by David & Martha Brown.

September 28, 2025

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.



November 2 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.



Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

October 5, 12, 26

No Sunday School

October 19 - MEA Break

Wednesday After School Schedule

October 1, 8, 22, 29

No Wednesday Programs

October 15 - MEA Break

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat

Saturday, October 25, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Details in the Article in Middle of the Page

Trunk or Treat!

During Sunday School on October 26

Details in the Article at the top of the Page

PJ Movie Morning

Monday, November 3

Details in the Article at Bottom of the Page

Advent Fair

Wednesday, December 3, 5:15–7:00 p.m.

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 - Kindergarten

Arielle Loy, Jenny Nystrom, Will McLaughlin

First & Second Grades

Elizabeth Evenson, Emily Westerback

Third, Fourth, and Fifth

Kristi Harms, Amy McBroom, Jenn Paulson



Trunk or Treat, October 26 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.

Third Grade Bible Retreat

Third graders and parents meet at St. John's on **Saturday, October 25, from 11:00 a.m.–12:30 P.m.** for a retreat on the Word – an Introduction to the Bible. Third Graders receive their own Spark Bible at the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 26. Please call or email Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either Saturday or Sunday/

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. November 3 – 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.





Confirmation Breakfast

Saturday, October 25

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 26, at the 10:45 a.m. Service

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion. Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

Bowling - November 3

Monday, November 3, is a **NO SCHOOL DAY** so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who: Grades 6-12, Friends are always welcome!

Where: Flaherty Northfield Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

When: Monday, November 3 - **NO SCHOOL!**

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Cost: \$12.00/youth for 2 games and shoe rental

Please sign up online or on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Youth Room.

Parents: Please drop off and pick up at the bowling alley. If your youth need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Kristin a call at 507-645-4429. Parent or high school chaperones are needed and much appreciated.

Children and Youth

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

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

**Middle School Confirmation
(Grades 6-12)**

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

**High School Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)**

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

Note for All Youth

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

No programming October 15 for MEA.

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

the
Women's page

October 2025



**Thursday
October 9, 2025**

September Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Oct. 6, 4:30-6:00
Pam Groves-Gaggioli's home
2112 Taylor Ct.

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Oct. 9, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Oct. 8,
9:30 Coffee 10:00am Study
St. John's Library

Mary Circle

Friday, Oct. 10, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Oct. 7, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Oct. 11, 9-10:30
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursdays, Oct. 9 & 23
10:00am St. John's Library

Evening Knitters

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

Wellspring Craft & Conversation

Wednesday, Oct 15
5:30-7:30pm
Fireside Room

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



IN PURSUIT OF AFFORDABLE AND FAIR HOUSING



Kristi Pursell, Northfield's MN St: Representative, and George Zuccolotto, ISAIAH Organizer, will share their ongoing work with Manufactured Home Parks legislation, community organizing, and its implication for Vikin Terrace and our local housing needs.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP OCTOBER 12, 2025

In October of 1875 the women of St. John's gathered and established the Ladies Aid Society of our church. They quilted, and sewed, providing blankets and clothes and other items for charity. They cooked and baked, and held numerous fundraising dinners for St. John's helping in the purchase of an organ, altar, kitchen equipment, and a whole host of other needs of the congregation through the generations.



After 150 years we are continuing the traditions our grandmothers and great grandmothers began!

Join us for worship as St. John's Women serve as ushers, musicians, conductors, and assisting ministers, with our Bishop, Regina Hassanally as our preacher that morning.

To top it off, Bruce Benson and David Sims have written a new hymn for the event!

Please contact Rhonda Reece, or email women.stjohns500@gmail.com, if you would like to participate in the women's choir, or usher, serve communion, read scripture or offer prayers. **Let's all celebrate this special day in the life of St. John's!**

YOU'RE INVITED!

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

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

Come join the fun as we celebrate



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

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

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

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

KNITTERS!

Here's a warm circle of friends working for the good of others. Recently four baby blankets were taken to Ruth's House. Other projects include prayer shawls for local use and knit sweaters, caps, and blankets for World Vision, Global Health Ministries, and CAC/ Operation Joy. You could join in or just appreciate their efforts!



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

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

“Stewardship is understanding we have been given much to take care of, and we are responsible to shepherd all we have been given to ensure everyone can live abundant lives.”

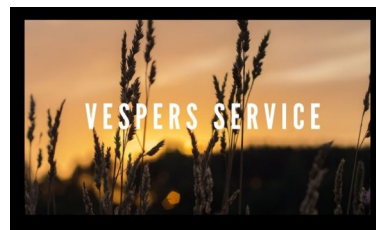
Sandi Gerdes

“Freely you have received; freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

Wednesday Worship in October and November

Join us for worship on Wednesday, October 1, at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We'll gather in the middle of our busy weeks to breathe, pray, and join together in community. You are invited to have dinner first in St. John's Hall from 5:15–6:15 p.m. and then join us for worship. Children of all ages are welcome.



In October, we begin with the story of creation and celebrate the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi writing his Canticum of Creation. We will join in singing Francis's famous words in the hymn "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"

In November (Wednesday, November 5), we will pause and give thanks for all the saints who have been important parts of our lives. You are invited to bring a photograph of your loved ones to place in the Sanctuary and their names will be read during the service.

Online Giving Goes to New Platform

The Business Management Board has been working on streamlining our financial processes to save staff time and reduce human error. One big step taken this month was to move our online giving from the previous Vanco platform to Pushpay, a software that is integrated with our CCB church management system. Using this platform will eliminate the need to double enter online gifts and will give us better data on our giving patterns.



For those of you who give periodically online or make payments for church activities through our website, you will not see any difference other than a new button on the church website. **Members who have been enrolled in automatic online giving through Vanco will need to go to the church CCB system to move their giving into the new platform.** The security and look of Pushpay is very similar to what you'll see in other online payments. The church staff are available to help if you want assistance navigating the new system.

Fall Book Read: *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be to You")

Wildfires, floods, hurricanes, droughts: extreme weather events are becoming more common, and more deadly. Even as the scientific consensus points to climate change as the root cause of these disasters, our contentious and divided politics makes it difficult to discuss what is happening, and what we might be called to do about it.

Join us as we approach climate change from the perspective of our Christian faith:

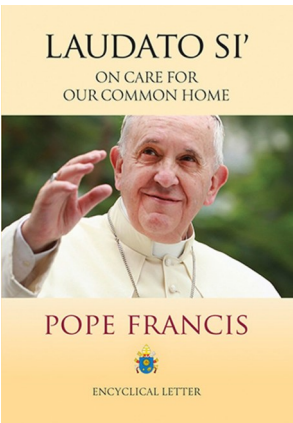
- How are we called to care for the Earth?
- What insights does our faith contribute to the wider discussion of climate change?

We will be reading *Laudato Si'*, the message Pope Francis wrote "to every person living on this planet," about how we can and should be caring for our common home. We will be led in this discussion by Christine Engstrom, a member of St. John's, and Dr. Colleen Carpenter, who has taught theology at the University of St. Catherine (2006-2022) and environmental studies at Carleton College (2022-2024). Dr. Carpenter will also be speaking on *Laudato Si'* at the Adult Forum on November 16. A generous grant from the St. John's Foundation has made it possible for us to provide this opportunity for deeper understanding, for debate, for inspiration, for shared commitment, room for you.

We will be meeting online on Thursdays, October 16, 30, and November 13, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Please sign up by contacting Chris Engstrom by text (507 403-3623) or email (revchristea@me.com). Let her know if you have any questions or would like a reply. Contact the church office for the link to a free copy of *Laudato Si'*. Chris will send participants a Zoom link and reading guide a few days before the first meeting.

Can't join the reading group? Plan to attend Dr. Carpenter's forum presentation on November 16 and stay for the lunchtime discussion at noon. Look for more information about this lunch in church bulletins and e-voice in mid-October. For the schedule of other forums in our fall series, Courage, Conversion Care: Responding to Climate change, please see pages 5 and 12.

The Adult Ministry & Education Board is grateful to the St. John's Foundation for making these opportunities for deeper learning and engagement possible.



News and Updates

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

“ We moved to Dundas in April 2021 in the middle of Covid. Searching for a new church while everything remained on lockdown led us to an online service at St. John's. We found Pastor Pam's and Pastor Jonathan's sermons to be thoughtful and compelling. Listening to organist Nathan Proctor and cantor David Sims when music seemed to be missing everywhere else was heartwarming. When we finally were able to attend church, a lady behind us passed us a note. It read: I've noticed you sitting in front of me the last three weeks—welcome to St. John's. What could be better than that?! Since joining, we have become involved with stewardship, fundraising, ushering, Bible studies, assisting with communion, assistant ministry, and library work. All of these activities have introduced us to other neighboring church members which helped us transition to a new town where we didn't know a



soul. St. John's remains a place of comfort and reflection, and we always come away feeling blessed.”

Dean & Deb Schoeb

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 1
Taco Boats

Wednesday, October 8
Chicken Pot Pie

Wednesday, October 15
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 22
Mostaccioli

Wednesday, October 29
Shepherd's Pie

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

St. John's Forum - Fall 2025

Continued from page 5

Models of Attention and Care

October 5: *Why Care for the Natural Lands at St. Olaf College?*

- Kathleen L. Shea, Ph.D. Professor Emerita of Biology, St. Olaf College

Christian Biblical and Theological Resources

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

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

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

Courage and Hope in the Present Moment

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

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

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate and Thistle Farms Sales

Fair Trade Coffee and Thistle Farms items are available for purchase during fellowship hour between worship services on Sunday, Oct. 5.

If you need items other times during the month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com or 701-238-5038.

Accompany Program Fall Session Begins Sunday, October 19

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

Annual Fall Church Yard Clean Up Saturday, October 25, 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.

Continual Giving

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

“Current Needs List” for Ruth’s House:

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

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

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



News and Updates

Pub Theology in October

What is Pub Theology?

It is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet Mondays,

October 6 and 20,

from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice for dates and locations.)

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list. If you’d like to be added to the

Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan.

Contact Pastor Jonathan

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

to add your name to the email list.



News and Updates

Shared Ministry is Collecting Potluck-Style Salad Recipes

Can you help by sharing a
favorite salad recipe?
Why, you might ask?

Each year, salads are an important part of
our community Christmas dinner,
and we'd like those who sign up to bring a
salad to have easy idea options on hand.

We'll collect them from you,
and then print out copies for the taking at
the sign-up table during Advent.

It can be ANY type of salad:
pasta, bean, potato, rice, quinoa, fruit,
tomato, coleslaw, waldorf, etc.

Whatever recipes you think others would
enjoy that aren't overly complicated to make.

To submit a salad recipe, you can either drop
them off at the Welcome Desk or
email them to Angie
at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Thank you!

St. John's Funeral Hospitality Ministry

May we add you to our funeral hospitality help email list?

St. John's hosts many funeral receptions in our lovely hall each year, averaging 2 per month. Our funeral hospitality ministry provides grieving families and friends with coffee, tea, and dessert, either to compliment a catered lunch, or simply as an afternoon refreshment following a funeral.

The dessert, along with reception service and clean-up is provided by St. John's volunteers. We are currently in search of more people who are willing to occasionally volunteer a dessert (homemade or store-bought) and/or assist with a funeral reception when able.

Joining the email group is simply a way to receive notice when funeral reception help is needed. Being on this email list does not mean you are committed to helping for every funeral reception - it is only a notification and an opportunity if and when you would like to help.

Funeral receptions are scheduled either on a weekday or on a Saturday, and are typically 1 & 1/2 hours. If you would like to be on this list, contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Thank you!



Looking for Volunteers to Help Wash the Church Kitchen Laundry

Do you have a washing machine and dryer at home, and can help wash our kitchen washcloths and towels on a monthly or occasional basis?

Each week we fill up a laundry basket with soiled washcloths, towels, and a couple of table cloths. In the past there were a handful of people who helped with washing the laundry on a rotating schedule, but now the laundry has fallen upon the shoulders of just 2 or 3 people. We'd love more people to assist, so if you feel you can help in this way, please let Angie know! The items being washed aren't delicate or require any special treatment - just wash in hot or warm water, dry, and bring back to the church. A laundry basket is provided for transport.

Contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org if interested!

Winter Gear Drive **WARM OUR COMMUNITY**

SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15

Help keep our community warm this winter by donating new or gently used winter gear.

Accepting all coat sizes children to adult

Coats, hats, gloves, and scarves are welcome

Must be clean
No tears or holes
Zippers must work

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

- Merchants Bank
- Northfield Hospital
- Northfield Chamber of Commerce
- Fifty North
- First UCC Church
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Just Food Coop

Thank you community partners!











Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (November 2025 Edition):

October 15

Please send submissions electronically via email to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or the [Announcement Request Form](#) found on our website.

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenschner

pfickenschner@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Kristin Partlo

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and
Early Childhood Specialist

arielleloy@gmail.com

David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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Parish Nurse

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WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Fall Clean
Up Day

8 A.M. — 12 P.M.

SATURDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2025