



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2026



CONFIRMATION

Affirmation of Baptism

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

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

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

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

*Jacent Almen, Otto Bash, Violet Froehle, Jacob Mandsager,
Noah Mandsager, Luke Nelson, Beau Paulson, Edie Pellinen,
Emmett Rychner, Luke Thorsheim, Lucas Van Sickle, Liam Wilson*

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 Sunday, October 4. Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



Radio Broadcasts

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



Video

St. John's YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

"For the harvests of the spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,

Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God."

(Ralph Vaughn Williams, ELW 679, *For the Fruit of All Creation*)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes it feels to me like gratitude has become a bit of a cliché – social media is full of posts reminding people to be grateful, and pay attention to all we have to be grateful for, even in the worst of times. Then there is also a backlash against gratitude, claiming that to find things to be grateful when you are not feeling very grateful is "toxic positivity."

St. John's is studying the book of Exodus during the Sunday Adult Forums this fall, and I remember a rabbi giving a sermon once on Exodus chapter 3, where Moses sees a bush that is burning, but not consumed, and goes toward it. He then has an encounter with God that changes the course of his life. The rabbi highlighted that what set Moses apart was his attentiveness – Moses looked at the bush long enough to see what was happening was unusual, and he was drawn in.

I like to think of gratitude as a kind of attentiveness; it helps me notice God's activity in the world and the gifts that other people and all creation are. Part of what I love about the hymn *For the Fruit of All Creation* is this last verse, helping me be attentive and grateful for things I may not have noticed – the good we inherit, the astounding wonders that surround us, and yes, truths – like that Jesus died and was raised from the dead! – that can still confound us.

My time at St. John's as bridge pastor is coming to an end on October 18. I am grateful for many things. I am grateful that St. John's is tending to its pastors by making space for sabbaticals and providing additional helping hands when sabbaticals are taken. I am grateful for the warmth and generosity of the people here. I am grateful for our times of worship, study, and care together. I am grateful to the staff for all their work and kindness. I am grateful for laughter and tears. I am grateful for the love that has found everyone at St. John's. I will continue to be attentive to the many things to give thanks for as my time winds down. Thank you all so much, and blessings to you all in this next season.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Katie

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis



Pastor Katie Fick

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving.

Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested.

Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 507-663-1097.

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource or 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, 2025
Kathy Vang

October 26, 2025
Joan Bell

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

Please Join Us on a Mindful Walk

The Faith & Health Board is pleased to invite the congregation and friends to a mindful walk at Hauberg Woods in Northfield. This gentle walk, approximately one mile in length, will focus on being present in the moment and observing the natural world, and will provide an opportunity for quiet contemplation in the spirit of community. Comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear recommended, as this is an unpaved path.



Date: Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Please register on CCB or on the sign-up sheet in the Commons. If you have any questions, you may contact Faith & Health Board member Debra Miller at debra.ehret@gmail.com.

Accompany Program Fall Session Begins Sunday, October 18

Accompany is St. John's approach to welcoming newcomers to our faith community through gatherings that provide information, connection with others, and spiritual reflection, along with a sponsor who provides friendly support. If you are new to St. John's, we invite you to join us! Accompany meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Undercroft after worship on the following Sundays: October 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15, 22. If you would like to sign up for the fall session, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Enneagram Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the Month, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

We invite you to join us while we learn about and explore the Enneagram! What is the Enneagram? It's a personality typing system (consisting of 9 personality types) that is used as a tool to better understand ourselves and others, improve our relationships, and promote inner growth. This growth can lead to greater self-knowledge and more meaningful connections, while discovering your own true "essence".

These meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month throughout the program year, and led by certified Enneagram coaches, Cynthia Neubecker and John Owens. Intrigued? Have questions? Contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or simply show up to find out more! All are welcome!

St. John's Forum Fall Series

Exodus: The Shaping of a People

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

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

We hope you will join us in opening your Bibles and minds to the rich meaning in these foundational stories that can still speak to us today. Each week will come with a suggested (but not required) reading from the book of Exodus.

- **October 4** – Exodus 3: *Moses the Murderer, the Burning Bush, and the Call of God*, led by Prof. Nicholas Schaser
- **October 11** - Exodus 7-10: *Does God Send Plagues?* Led by Prof. Nicholas Schaser
- **October 18** - Exodus 11-12: *The Fast of the First Born; The Final Plague and The Escape from Egypt in Jewish Interpretation and Practice*, led by Prof. Sarah Zager
- **November 8** - Exodus 14-15: *Crossing the Reed Sea and the Song of the Sea*, led by Prof. Charlie Wilson
- **November 15** - Exodus 16-19: *Wandering in the Wilderness*, led by Prof. Cameron Howard
- **November 22** - Exodus 20: *Words to Live By: The 10 Commandments*, led by Pastor Pam Fickenscher
- **November 29** – Exodus 21 – 40: *Holy Smoke, Underwear Design, and Advent at St. John's*, led by Rev. Bruce Benson.

From the Nominating Committee...

The Nominating Committee has begun their work contacting people to consider serving on a board starting in 2027. There are several opportunities on different boards to use your time and talents in areas you may have an interest in. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are asked by a committee member.

If you are interested in serving and want to learn more, please feel free to contact one of the committee members, Dan Franklin, Kristy Harms, Christy Hall-Holt, Peter Skoglund, Susanne Smith, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, or Pastor Jonathan.

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

September 6, 2026

Given in memory of Jon Nicholson for his upcoming 90th birthday on September 13 from his loving family.

September 13, 2026

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

September 20, 2026

Given in memory of Gert Brosz by Wil Brosz and family.

August 23, 2026

Give in memory of Fred Gaggioli, Jr. by Pam Groves-Gaggioli and Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard.

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.

From the Evangelism & Communication Board...

Our new STJ video worship business cards feature a custom QR code that takes you straight to our online services.

Just scan the code with your smartphone camera to join our vibrant faith community from anywhere, anytime.

Grab a few cards from the church Commons to keep in your wallet to share with friends, family, and neighbors who are looking for a welcoming place to worship!

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

October 4, 11, 25

No Sunday School on October 18 –
MEA Break

Wednesday After School Schedule

October 7, 21, 28

No Wednesday Programs on
October 14 – MEA Break

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat

Saturday, October 24,
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Sunday, October 25, 3rd graders
receive their Spark Bible at the
8:30 a.m. worship service

Trunk or Treat Fall Fest!

October 25 during Sunday

Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start! Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who help lead Sunday school at St. John's.

Preschool - Kindergarten

Arielle Loy, Jenny Nystrom,
Will McLaughlin

First & Second Grades

Joey & Jenna Paulsen, Erin Klaers

Third, Fourth, and Fifth

Krist7 Harms, Amy and Dyson McBroom,
Lucy Lindgren

Resource Room—Brian Evenson



Trunk or Treat Fall Fest, October 25 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. Games and activities too! If the weather cooperates, we'll have a bouncy tent!s.

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

* Fika for parents



What: A fellowship time with coffee and treats with childcare provided

Who: The parents of young children

When: Sundays, 9:45-10:30 (starting Sept 27)

Where: St. John's Nursery, downstairs

Questions? Ask Arielle (arielleloy@gmail.com)

* Fika: the Swedish tradition of taking a break for coffee, treats, and conversation

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.



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 6

Friday, November 6, 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: Friday, November 6 - **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 Nick 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
 No programming October 14 for MEA.

the WOMEN'S page



October 2026

October Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, October 3rd,
4:00-6:00pm
note time change!
Zdenek's home
2121 Ontario Ln

Lydia & Paul Circle
Wednesday, Oct. 14,
9:30am Coffee 10:00am Study
St. John's Library

Mary Circle
Friday, Oct. 9, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring
(GenXers & Millennials)
Tuesday, Oct. 6
5:30-6:30 Bagged "supper"
6:30-8:00pm Faith Discussion
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group
Saturday, Oct. 19, 9-10:30am
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
2nd & 4th Thursdays
10:00am Youth Room

Quilters & Bandage Rollers
Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Like us & Friend us on Facebook:



"Women of St. Johns"
@ Kvinner St. Johns

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS



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

10/1/26: Supporting
Immigrant
Neighbors Now

11/5/26:

**Coalition for
Responsible Data
Center Development:
Uniting Neighbors in Farmington and Beyond**

Founding member Cathy Johnson has had a front-row seat to something she never expected to see: a hyperscale data center proposed in her hometown of Farmington. She will speak about how the coalition was formed and how the grassroots resistance is holding up against big tech and big money.



the
TIME is
NOW



Fridays

October 2 & 16 5:30 - 7:00pm

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



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

SAVE THE DATE!



Mission Morning
mocha, muffins, & missions

**Saturday
November 7
9:00-11:00**





Share Your Talent(s)!

Saturday, October 10 - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Talents will shine at this event -

musical, culinary, monetary and more!

Our St. Olaf interns will share their amazing musical talents.

Would you like to perform at this event?

Contact Pam*

LUNCH!

Bring your "Cherish All Children" mugs

full of coins to the gathering.

If your talent is cooking, serving, or cleanup, Contact Pam*

*Pam G-G: ladylynneg@gmail.com 562.237.3781 *

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

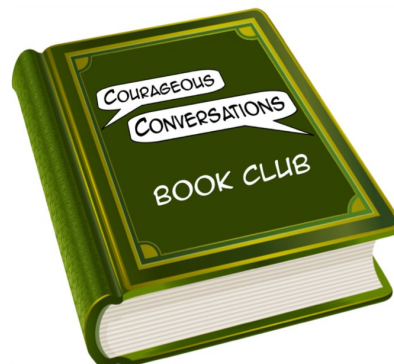
This is like bringing your own "sack lunch" to eat, except it's at dinnertime, while enjoying time to visit with others. The Fireside room has a large table for eating and is conveniently located next to the small kitchen.

Then, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. we'll have a faith discussion, usually based on an article. Over the past year, we've engaged in many interesting and meaningful conversations during these gatherings! We invite you to come as early as you like and stay as long as you'd like.



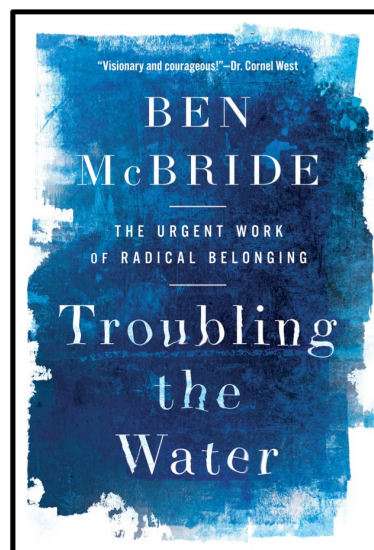
This group is about making friendships and finding support among our peers while exploring faith and life's many questions, frustrations, and joys!

Our first meeting of the program year is September 1st. We will meet again on October 6th, November 3rd, December 1st, and so on into the new year. We hope you can come, and we look forward to seeing you!



You're invited to join the next
Courageous Conversations
book discussion

*Ben McBride's
Troubling the Water: The Urgent
Work of Radical Belonging*



Discussion dates are Thursdays:
October 1, 15, 29

and November 5

from 4:00-5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Contact:

dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com for
the reading plan and zoom link.

*The book is available at Content
Bookstore.*





Hymn 315, Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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

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

The stone soup tale begins with hungry travelers arriving in a village carrying nothing but an empty pot and a stone. The villagers are initially unwilling to share any of their food, fearing scarcity. To encourage generosity, the travelers announce they are making stone soup which will be delicious but needs a few extra ingredients to reach its full potential. Curious villagers begin to contribute small items from their own supplies -- carrots, cabbage, potatoes, onions, peas, meat and seasoning -- gradually transforming the plain water and stone into a rich, nourishing soup. Eventually the stone is removed, and everyone enjoys a hearty meal together. The travelers share the soup with the villagers, and the community members experience the joy of cooperation and sharing.

St. John's heartily feeds and nourishes us both physically and spiritually through Word and Sacrament. How good, Lord, to be here. What has God set in motion for you at St. John's? How can you help St. John's reach its full potential?

St. John's operates from gifts and pledges that are joyfully given. Come, join with us and our generous God as we give back to God what God has first given us. Prayerfully consider your 2027 stewardship pledge and sign your pledge card. Increase your giving if that is what God is urging you to do. Enter with us into the generosity of God's love, forgiveness and grace through the joy of giving.

Be fed and nourished as you share God's rich abundance with others.

- Diane F. Melbye, Stewardship Board

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

Stewardship

**Out'n About:
Conversations with Minnesotans
Monday, October 26
9:00-11:30 a.m., St. John's Hall**

Our first presenter will be Ellen Saul with *"Sand, Symbols, and Safe Limits: From Pain to Power"*. Ellen will weave together clinical practice, personal story, and practical tools to offer a hopeful path from wounding to wholeness. We will see a slide sequence from Kallfian Sandplay work that traces an alligator's transformation—from a symbol of trauma into a protector—illustrating how images in sand can reveal, hold, and reframe painful experience. The talk will close with a short, guided practice you can take home and use the same day.

Second, will be Sam Daly with *"Transforming Veterans' Lives Through Service Dogs"*. Believet founder Sam Daly joined the United States Marine Corps in 2010 as a civilian contractor providing bomb detection dogs to frontline units. During his deployments to Afghanistan, Sam witnessed firsthand the comfort, emotional support, and security these highly trained dogs brought to the Marines they served and protected. After his return to Minnesota, Sam partnered with his friend John Sinning, a local businessman and United States Army veteran, and they founded Believet Canine Service Partners to provide service dogs, free of charge, to American military veterans with PTSD, MST, and other disabilities.

Register for this event by emailing outnabouto22@gmail.com or calling 507-301-9094. Cost is \$15 for speakers and refreshments or \$20 for speakers, refreshments, and lunch. This is payable the day of the event (cash or check only).



Annual Fall Church Yard Clean Up

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.

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 7
Chicken Pot Pie

Wednesday, October 14
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 21
Mostaccioli

Wednesday, October 28
Chicken Wild Rice Casserole

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



St. John's
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9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

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