



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2018

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forums in November
- 7 Romans & Christians Middle School Event
- 8 Operation Joy! (Sharing Tree)
- 11 15 Years of Christmas Dinners at St. John's
- 12 Advent Fair
- 14 ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at St. Dominic Church

St. John's will be gathering in worship together with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters on Thanksgiving Eve.

We will gather at St. Dominic's at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21, for worship with hymns, homily and prayers, and then gather in their fellowship hall for ice cream sundaes and bars. Our offering for the evening will benefit the Community Action Center of Northfield's food shelf.

St. John's is providing the ice cream for the festivities! Please sign up to contribute to the refreshments. You can sign up in the Commons starting Sunday, November 4 or online thru CCB or by contacting Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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

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

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

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

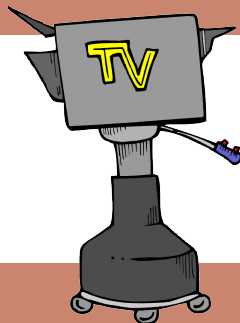


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



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."



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“How are you going to be raising your two boys in light of all of this?”

That is the question someone asked me recently, as we continue to hear more and more in our culture about the prevalence of sexual assault and the need for new clarity around what counts as consent and what does not.

What a great and important (and also daunting) question this is. It is a question that I, and my wife Lauren, take seriously and think about often. How are we going to raise our boys to know about good and healthy boundaries for themselves and their bodies and honoring the boundaries of others?

My quick answer was, “Carefully.” Meaning, full of care. I certainly do not have all of the answers of what this looks like as a parent, but I think that approaching such an important topic as this demands great care and thought.

The truth is that most of us did not have good modeling on how to talk about a healthy sexual life (and, most likely, neither did our parents, or their parents). It is hard to know how to have this conversation. For the sake of our children, we long to make being a sexual person simple and clear, free of pain and regret and heart break. But we can’t. Because we also know how complicated and difficult figuring out one’s life as a sexual being can be, especially when relationships and other people are involved.

How are we going to raise our children in light of what we know now? This is a really good question for families to be asking.

But I think this question belongs to the Church as well. I think schools and churches have a responsibility in providing education and wisdom, especially during this particular time in our culture.

I suspect that very few of us learned much about sex or romantic love in the context of church. As Bromleigh McCleneghan says in her book *Good Christian Sex*, “So many churches say and do nothing toward helping people form faithful understandings of what it means to be in relationship with others. We did get some sex ed at my church, but it was mostly biology. Thus, I had the logistics, but not the ethics; the information, but not the wisdom...’Don’t ask/don’t tell’ is a lousy strategy for making disciples.”

Most parents get a little squeamish at the thought of having “The Talk”, but perhaps the Church can be a place of safe vulnerability that aids families in talking about the things we don’t talk about, yet know we need to.

In November and January this year, our 7th and 8th grade confirmation students will spend 4-weeks on human sexuality. We will be talking about how our bodies are a good creation, made in the image of good, and deserving of respect. We will talk about how sex and physical intimacy are a good, enjoyable gift from God. We will affirm the complexities and diversities of being a human being with regards to sexual orientation and gender identity, and how all people are beloved and welcome in the kingdom of God. Finally, we will learn about

Continued on page 9

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



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

November 3, 2017
Wesley Pearson

November 18, 2017
Jessie Lindberg

Stephen Ministry: 10 Helps for Communicating with People with Dementia

In continuing education, St. John's Stephen Ministers have been learning about dementia. There are many types of dementia with various causes and prognoses but people with all types respond best when caregivers use techniques like these that offer dignity and grace.

1. Instead of arguing, agree and distract.
2. Instead of shaming, praise and divert.
3. Instead of saying "remember" say, "reminisce."
4. Instead of saying "you can't," say, "do what you can."
5. Instead of condescending, encourage and model.
6. Instead of lecturing, reassure.
7. Instead of saying "I told you," repeat patiently.
8. Instead of demanding, ask politely.
9. Instead of forcing, try music to invite participation.
10. Be open to joy and surprises as you journey together.

Organizations such as the Alzheimer's (<https://alzfdn.org/>) or the Dementia Care Foundation (<http://www.dementiacarefoundation.org>) are great sources of additional information. Local facilities such as Three Links and The Northfield Retirement Community also offer a range of care and support.

If you or a loved one are dealing with memory issues, St. John's has trained Stephen Ministers who are available to meet with you. Please contact one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) to learn more.

Veterans Day 2018

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY, St. John's is offering the ELCA Book of Prayer for the Armed Services for members and family members in active military service.

If you or a family member would like a prayer book, please contact one of the pastors or Leah Garlie before November 11.



St. John's Forums in November

November 4

Manna and Mercy: Large Group Edition - St. John's Hall

South African pastor and justice activist Alan Storey has created a video series called Manna and Mercy that asks and invites questions of faith on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. Many people have wanted to see these videos but have not been able to in the past. Join us in St. John's Hall as we watch and discuss the Manna and Mercy video titled "In love, by love, and for love," which talks about how the Biblical creation story was written to counteract the Babylonian creation story which featured many gods fighting each other.

November 11

Questions of Faith Panel Discussion - Sanctuary

Recently, many adults have been expressing their desire (and fear) to ask questions of faith. People long to be honest about their doubts and wonderings about God, Christianity, and faith, but too often people were told to not question and not doubt. Too often we are told to "just believe." In light of this, we want to make space to hear and wrestle with the deep question that are alive in our congregation. Join us for this ***Questions of Faith Panel Discussion*** where the pastors and a panel of St. John's members will read and discuss questions of faith. To help with this, we would love to know what questions you have always wanted to ask but never felt encouraged to do so. There is "Questions of Faith" Box in the Commons (see page 9) where we hope you will write down your questions of faith that will be used for this panel discussion.

November 18

A Teen's Experience with Climate Action and Why I Don't Cry About Climate Change (Every Day) - Sanctuary

Katie Schroeer cares a lot and knows a fair bit about climate change and somehow still hasn't succumbed to total despair. Come hear how she manages that and have a good conversation about climate pessimism, optimism, realism and, most importantly, climate action. Guaranteed sugarcoating-free forum (that still has some hope).

November 25

No Forum - Enjoy Fellowship Time!

Manna & Mercy Video Discussion Group Continues in November

On Sundays, November 11, 18 & 25, from 9:45-10:30 a.m., you are invited to join this discussion group in the Fireside Room, where a video will be shared followed by small group discussion. South African pastor and justice activist Alan Storey has created a video series that ask and invite questions of faith on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. The beauty of this time is that each video stands on its own and there is no experience necessary for each week – just show up on the Sundays that you can make it. You do not need to have attended the previous week.

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

October 7, 2018

Given by Ruth Anna and Van Miller in observance of the 20th anniversary of Teddy Anne Miller's death.

October 14, 2018

Given in memory of Millie Berg by Dallas Berg and Family.

October 21, 2018

Given in memory of Grace Madson who died on October 23, 2017, from her husband Marland.

October 28, 2018

Given by Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

November 4	Sunday School (Daylight Savings Time)
November 11	Sunday School Toddler Time
November 18	Sunday School
November 25	No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

November 7	
November 14	
November 21	No Programs (Thanksgiving Break)
November 28	

Breakfast, PJs, and Movie Morning

Monday, November 5 (No School Day)
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Theater

Advent Fair!

Wednesday, November 28, St. John's Hall
5:15-7:00 p.m.

Christmas Worship Service with Our Sunday School Kids

Sunday, December 9
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

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: Monday, November 5
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 contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Parent help is appreciated! Let Julie know if you can lend a hand.

Blessings and Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Spark Bibles in October!

Jonah Brownlee, Tegan DeGrego,
Michaela Gummow, Jacob King,
Wyatt Norrie, Trevor Volkert

The Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) and our preschool 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).

Our topic for November is "Thank You, God".



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

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

ROMANS & CHRISTIANS

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT

Friday,
November 30
7 - 10 p.m.



Bring friends
&
\$5 for pizza

Middle School Youth Group

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

- November 4: Can I be a Christian without going to church?
- November 11: Why do we go to church?
- November 18: Noise - Listening to God
- November 25: No Middle School Youth Group - Thanksgiving Break

Confirmation Wednesdays

This month's topics are:

- 6th Grade: Explore the Manna and Mercy Curriculum (Led by Pastor Pam in the Undercroft)
- 7th and 8th Grades: Discussion of Faith and Human Sexuality (Led by Pastor Jonathan in Fellowship Hall)

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. There will be a rotating schedule of thought provoking faith topics, service projects, "burning" question/answer sessions with a pastor, and a free night. Emerson Clay is present to guide activities and prayer. This month's topics are:

- November 7: Can I trust the Bible?
- November 14: Service Project Night
- November 21: No High School Youth Group - Thanksgiving Break
- November 28: Advent Fair

Children and Youth

Mentee
Mentor

9th grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

Sunday, November 4
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Meet in St. John's Hall

November High School Club



Sunday, November 18

2:00-4:00 p.m.

at the Home
of Peggy Hanson

News and Updates

Operation Joy! (Sharing Tree) Nov. 14 – Dec. 9

The Christmas Sharing Tree, with a new title “Operation Joy” is a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, and will be displayed in St. John’s Commons from **November 14 -December 9**.

The Sharing Tree is decorated with paper stars.

Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age, and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.

Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Sunday, **December 9**.

In addition, we will offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund.

Thank you in advance for your donations!



November 4 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.



Social Justice, Activism & the Church Thursday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. St. John's Hall

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Anthony Bateza, St. Olaf professor of Religion and Luther scholar, earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S., 2002), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017).

Dr. Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology and Christian ethics. His other scholarly interests include the broader Augustinian tradition, the impact of Luther’s thought on 19th century philosophy, and questions of race, identity, and social justice.

Refreshments. Open to the public.



Bus Tour to the American Swedish Institute Thursday, December 6

The bus will be on 3rd Street at St. John’s for boarding around 9:45 a.m., leaving at 10:00 a.m. We will tour the mansion around 11:30 a.m., eating after that (plate lunch from FIKA). There should be time to wander (there’s a gift shop) on your own. The bus should return to Northfield by 3:00 p.m. Duane Engstrom will be our tour leader. The Adult Education & Ministry Board is sponsoring this trip.

You can sign up on Sundays, November 18 & 25 and December 2, in the Commons. The cost is \$50 (due at sign up) and includes the bus ride and lunch.

You can find much information about the Institute online.

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

consent, relationships, and how we make decisions about physical intimacy.

But in order for any of this to make a difference, our children and youth need to be hearing this in other places in their life, especially at home. So in many ways, this is just scratching the surface of human sexuality and the education we all need. But we hope it will be the beginning of a broader conversation among parents and their youth around what it means to live a sexual human being.

These conversations are never easy. In fact, I'm a little nervous just typing this letter to you all. But it is really important that we begin having more open and honest conversations around the topic of sex, for the sake of a world that is different than the one we are seeing right now.

Peace and courage,

Pastor Jonathan

Creative Arts Group

The next creative arts group will be a Music & Arts Technology night on Wednesday, November 14 from 6-6:45 p.m. in the St. John's Library.

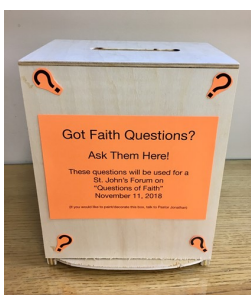


The group will be led by both LBSA's Art Specialist, Bridget Novak and Music Therapist, Jenny Solar. We'll have a variety of technology available including recording our own music and exploring making art using with iPads.

No experience is necessary- come willing to meet new people and try something new!

For questions or to volunteer, please email Bridget (Bridget.Novak@laurabaker.org) or Jenny (Jenny@laurabaker.org) or call and leave a message at 507-645-8866 x.144.

Got Questions of Faith?



Do you have a question about God, Christianity, faith, or the Bible that you have always wanted to ask but never felt you could?

Check out the Questions of Faith box in the Commons and submit a question! These questions will be used in the November 11 forum.

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, November 7
Chili

Wednesday, November 14
Tater Tot Pot Pie

Wednesday, November 21
No Meal - Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 28
Pulled Pork



Served from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall
All are welcome!

the **WOMEN'S** page



November Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Nov. 3, 4:30p
Jo Franklin's home
1001 Freedom Ct.

Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, Nov. 10, 8:30a
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Nov. 8, 1:30p
Marie Benson's home
1509 Water's Edge Cir.

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 9:00a
Coffee
10:00a Bible Study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, Nov. 9, 1:00p
Carol Benson's home
670 Green Meadows Ct.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Nov. 8, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Nov. 8 & 22
10:00a Fireside Room

Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Nov. 6 & 22 10:00a
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. Nov. 12 & Thu. Nov. 15
9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS SAVE THE DATE!

November 1, 7:00p -

Social Justice, Activism & the Church

Dr. Anthony Bateza, St. Olaf professor of Religion and Luther scholar, a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology and Christian ethics, will be our speaker. His other scholarly interests include questions of race, identity, and social justice.

November 7, 14, 6:00p -

Book Study:

"Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race" by Debby Irving

The second half of our book study.

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

GATHER BIBLE STUDY: FORGIVENESS

Dr. Samuel O. Lotegeluaki, leader

Lydia Circle is opening its monthly Bible Study to the community, all men and women are welcome.

Wednesday, November 7

9:00a Coffee

10:00a Study

St. John's member, Dr. Lotegeluaki, professor emeritas from Concordia University-Saint Paul, taught Psychology and Sociology from 2009-2018.

Dr. Lotegeluaki brings vitality and fresh perspective from his rich life journey and Tanzanian heritage as a member of the Maasai.

Visit our web page:

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



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

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

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA



December 2018 Marks 15 Years of Christmas Dinners at St. John's!

By Christy Hall-Holt

The annual kick-off planning meeting for St. John's city-wide Christmas Dinner took place last week. Bill and Char Carlson, Ted Peterson, Jeanette & Jon Rondestvedt, and Howard Thorsheim have the process working like a well-oiled machine.

"Has it always looked like this?" I asked, at which Char Carlson, who has risen through the ranks of Christmas Dinner volunteers, gave me a snapshot of its evolution. The dinner had been held for years at the Moravian Church downtown. In 2004, as the number of people attending grew too many for that space, St. John's was approached to host in the newly built St. John's Hall.

St. Dominic, St. John's, and the Moravian church worked together that year to provide funding, food, and volunteers. Patsy Ophaug served as St. John's point person to coordinate the dinner and, for funding the following year, applied for and received a grant from the locally grown *Over and Back* variety show. Since 2006, St. John's has designated funds in the annual budget to support the Christmas dinner. The number of dinners served has stabilized over the last few years to about 350. In 2017 this number included 25 meals delivered to homes, and about 25 that were picked up here to be shared off-site.

There are now at least two city-wide Christmas Dinners served on December 25 in Northfield. The Hideaway Coffeehouse and Wine Bar downtown has a complimentary Christmas dinner from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Owners Jim and Joan Spaulding schedule the time of their dinner to coordinate with that of St. John's which is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Congratulations and Thank You to all who have made 15 consecutive years of Christmas Dinners possible!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

These thank you'd were sent by Cheryl Mathison, teacher and work experience coordinator of the **Northfield Area Learning Center**, for the \$500 sent to support the weekend food backpacks for local school children. She wrote that St. John's continued support of this program "has been a big part of our ability to keep this program going. It is now 100% funded by outside donations and we are so appreciative of your congregation!!"

Thank you's were also sent by the **Lutheran Campus Center** at Winona and Mankato State Universities for the \$500 sent to support their ministries. Pastor Corrine Haulotte at the Winona campus wrote, "our ministry is an extension of yours, and research tells us that 89% of students who participate in Lutheran campus ministry plan to be active in a church upon graduation, as opposed to 48% of students who do not participate during their college years.

Shared Ministry

**You are invited
to be part of
St. John's
Christmas Dinner**

**December 25
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**



Immediately after Thanksgiving, we will be recruiting donations of food and labor from members of the Congregation. Signups will be in the Commons on Sundays between services.

Many workers are needed for various 1.5-2 hour shifts on December 24 and 25 and donations of food including salads, desserts, and potato bakes are also needed.

We will welcome your contribution.

News and Updates



St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday November 28

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 28, in St. John's Hall.

Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages.

We encourage you to bring friends.
The more the merrier!

Time:

5:15-6:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal
5:45-7:00 p.m.
Advent Fair Activities

Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner - set-up, serve or clean-up
- Help with crafts/shops
- Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treats

Fair trade sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate will be available.

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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

If you go to work in the dark and come home in the dark, if you feel nothing but contradictions in yourself and in the world around you, if you long for some spiritual sustenance on the days between Sundays, you might consider the following books (and others):

- **Journey of the Heart** by Gerhard Frost, about whom his daughter said “ - - - he never stopped listening for the Voice to guide his journeying.” These are poems, short prose, but always eloquent.
- **40-Day Journey with Parker J. Palmer**, edited by Henry F. French, a discipline of short scripture, reflecting and prayer.
- **Making All Things New, An Invitation to the Spiritual Life** by Henri J. M. Nouwen, for those who long for the active presence of God's Spirit in a frantic world.
- **Our Hearts Are Restless, The Prayer of St. Augustine**, by F. J. Sheed, Photographs by Catherine Hughes, a short, short history of a man large in Christian history, focusing on Augustine's words, “You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”
- **Best-Loved Passages of the Bible, a Devotional**, one-page writings based on Biblical texts, by authors of *Portals of Prayer*.
- **Prayer, Nurturing Your Relationship with God**, written by Richard J. Beckman (St. John's member) as assistance in praying.
- **Meditations/Now**, by Leslie Brandt with art by (Sister) Corita Kent, daily, dated devotions in clear, direct language.
- **Prayers by Robert Louis Stevenson**, in calligraphy by Hilda Scott, including a touching tribute by Stevenson's wife.

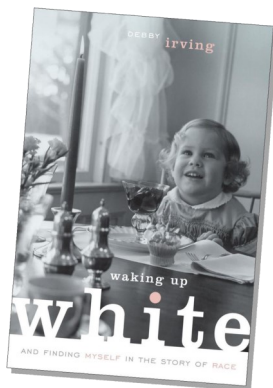
Also from the Library - - - each Sunday the preschoolers in Sunday School are given a book to take home, read (with a parent!), return and get another. Our children's library is a treasure needing to be shared.

SEMNs Synod Visit to Tanzania Seeking Applicants

Join Bishop Steven Delzer and Kathy Chatelaine, Director for Global Mission on a Spirit-led adventure to the Central Diocese of Tanzania, planned for next May or June. Visit congregations, schools and health care sites in the Central Diocese where our synod and church are partnered. The trip includes safaris in Ngorongoro and a premiere National Park. Length of visit is 12-14 days. Approximate cost is \$4000-\$5000, depending on airfare/safari accommodations. To apply, and for additional information, contact Kathy Chatelaine, at chatelaine@semnsynod.org.

"Waking Up White" Book Study

Wednesdays, October 17-November 14
6:00-7:00 p.m., Fireside Room



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

News and Updates

St. John's Sunday School Classes Lead Worship Sunday, December 9

Mark your calendars! St. John's children lead our 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 9, in St. John's Sanctuary.

It's been a tradition to have children open our program performing musical pieces, instrumental or vocal.

If your child is interested, contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or sign up on the bulletin board in either the lower or upper Commons area.



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 The Hideaway.
November 5
November 19

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.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

November is the month we celebrate in gratefulness and Thanksgiving for the bounty of the fall harvest. In Northfield we have watched harvesting of the fields of corn and soy beans and pumpkins. Many of us have the advantage of acquiring fresh produce from a local farmer through a CSA coop. We have a local food processing plant and a newly remodeled grocery store in our downtown. Fresh, delicious food is all around and abundant. In so many ways we are privileged and take our food and fresh water for granted.

But according to data from the World Food Bank and the United Nations, more than 11% of the world's population is not able to access enough food to live a healthy life and 766 million people live in extreme poverty, existing on less than \$1.90 per day. Drought, lack of clean water, and war have driven millions from their home to seek refuge in other countries where residents struggle to feed and house the refugees. Even in America over 41 million people are unsure where their next meal is coming from. The U.S. Census Bureau tells us 40.6 million Americans were living in poverty in 2016. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$24,563.

The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is a program of the church that attempts to deal with this need by fighting hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world. The program supports hunger relief projects in education, maintains health clinics, gives aid for family and communities to develop businesses in poor areas, works to improve farming practices to increase food production, provides farm animals to help people to improve their standard of living, gives assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response to victims of natural disasters around the world, builds new water wells, and helps develop innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger.

Our faith calls us to share from our abundance and to feed the hungry. Many approaches are needed to address the many needs of hunger in our communities in the U.S. and around the world, The ELCA church is one of the trustworthy vehicles reaching out to places and people who need what we have to share. There is an envelope in the St. John's packet marked for 'World Hunger' and we encourage members to make this donation in November. Write your check to St. John's with 'World Hunger' on the memo line. For those who use the on-line donation system, use account 302 - ELCA World Hunger. Our church in the past has consistently raised \$10,000 in our November appeals. Be generous. It is so important.

Bread for the World: Midterm Elections

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread for the World, its



members, and partners are working to make hunger, poverty, and opportunity a priority for candidates. The 2018 midterm elections are critical in our work. This year we can elect leaders who will pass laws, fund programs, and create policy to put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030.

We are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ to work for justice for people experiencing hunger in our country and around the world. We believe ending hunger by 2030 is a goal within reach and we are taking action because our children, our neighbors - real people - are suffering. We want candidates to know that we will vote to end hunger.

Bread for the World's network includes 2.5 million people, thousands of churches, and thousands of active grassroots leaders. As Christians, our participation in elections is an extension of our calling to "speak out for those who cannot speak... [and] defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9).

As you consider candidates in the 2018 election we welcome you to **read our policy platform** and learn what it will take to end hunger in the United States and around the world at **Bread-Election-Platform-2018**. We urge you to raise hunger-related issues with candidates and to give time, money and votes to candidates who will help to end hunger.

For encouragement to get involved in Bread's midterm election strategy and information about how to do so go online to **I Vote to End Hunger Campaign**. Hunger is not a partisan issue. That is why Bread works with our nation's leaders - whoever they may be - in a bipartisan manner. Bread does not endorse any candidate or political party.

Courageous Conversations Require the Ability to Hear



Please consider donating to St. John's hearing devices. \$120 for brand new. Lesser donations will be used to purchase batteries and ear pieces.

Make checks payable to: **WELCA**, with "hearing device" on the memo line.

Thank you for bringing everyone into the conversation!

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenschner

pfickenschner@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

caroldbenson@gmail.com

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

rejoiceringers@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Melissa Berthelsen

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Mary Kelvie

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Support Staff

Emerson Clay

Angie Gehring

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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

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

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

We are

*thankful to be...
Together again*

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service

November 21 - Worship - 7:00 p.m. AT ST. DOMINIC'S

& after the service ... fellowship ...



+



=



Can you bring a pail of ice cream? Sign up on the bulletin board by the office.