



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 2019

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at All Saints Episcopal

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

We will gather at All Saints Episcopal Church at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 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 3 or online thru CCB or by contacting Angie Gehring 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 180
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

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

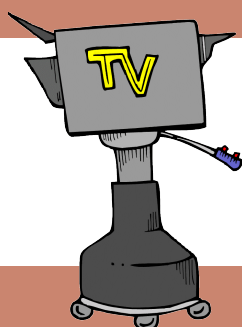
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7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 180



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 God,

In mid-October, I got the opportunity to check something off my “bucket list:” I was a guest lecturer at St. Olaf College. Years before discerning my call to pastoral ministry, I often dreamed about teaching in higher education, and so the opportunity to live that old dream (even for just 55 minutes) was too exciting to pass up when Dr. Lisa Moore invited me to speak on “Religion and Sexuality” for her *Human Sexuality Class*.

As some of you may know, the topic of religion, faith, and sexuality has been an area of interest and study for me for quite some time. When I was a youth director in 2004, I helped developed an 8th Grade Human Sexuality Retreat. In seminary, I wrote my thesis on the topic of “Sex and the Church.” Most recently, St. John’s member Tamara Jackman and I attended Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) training in August.

O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality. It encompasses seven age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9, grades 10-12, young adults, adults, and (new this year) older adults. As you can see, this curriculum recognizes that human sexuality is part of our *whole* life.

Last year, the Youth Board set the goal of sending two people from St. John’s to be trained in O.W.L. so that we can offer this important learning to our youth. For this purpose, Tamara and I were trained in the curriculum for grades 7-9 and grades 10-12.

The O.W.L. Program:

- Helps youth make informed, responsible decisions about relationships, health, and behavior.
- Equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information regarding human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, society, and culture.
- Provides facts about anatomy and human development. It helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

It was enlightening, inspiring, and hopeful to join other clergy, youth directors, social workers, therapists, and community members from all over Minnesota and Iowa to learn together about educating and supporting youth in the beautiful and confusing world of sexuality.

While I believe that human sexuality should be taught at home and at school, I especially believe that it should be taught *in the church*. First of all, all people are sexual beings from the time they are born to the time they die. Sexuality is part of God’s good creation and part of what it means to be human. It is a gift. How we live out our sexual life is incredibly important, because sexual behavior can be used in life-giving ways and life-degrading ways. In Scripture, we hear that God longs for abundant life for God’s people, and so how we use this gift given to us matters to God.

Continued on page 4

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.

Stephen Ministry: Coping with the Holidays

We like to think of holidays as a festive time with family and friends. However for those who have suffered a loss, holidays can be difficult. For those who are mourning, gathering around a table for a meal, putting up a Christmas tree, or sending Christmas cards can be painful reminders of loss.

The Northfield Grief Support Coalition and Northfield Hospice invite you to attend the Coping with the Holidays event on Monday, November 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Naomi Mandsager Bartley, licensed professional clinical counselor and member of NGSC, will provide valuable information about the nature of grief and loss, stressors associated with traditional holiday expectations, and tools and coping strategies for the season. Participants will also be able to benefit from telling their story and receiving support from others. This event is free of charge. Please contact Sara Lippert, 507-646-1456, for more information.

Working through grief is a process that almost always benefits from the support of others. If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they work through the grief process, call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Secondly, in my opinion, the Church has not done a very good job in guiding people toward healthy, open, and faithful decision-making when it comes to our sexual lives. In his book, *Forbidden Fruit*, Mark Regnerus says, "the only message that most religious youth are getting is, 'Don't do it until you're married.' And this message doesn't go far toward shaping sexual decision making." This is such an important part of who we are at any age, whether we are single or in a committed relationship, or somewhere in-between, and yet too often this topic lives under a veil of secrecy and shame.

In light of all this, in the spring of 2020, we plan to pilot our first O.W.L. program for high schoolers. This will be a voluntary, opt-in program for high schoolers who are interested in this educational opportunity. Parents will be expected to attend a parent orientation workshop that will be offered prior to the program starting.

I am grateful for the leadership of the Youth Board in encouraging us to bring the O.W.L. Program to St. John's, and I am grateful for Tamara Jackman's willingness to give of her time and talents to help walk alongside our youth with this topic.

If you have any questions about O.W.L., or if you have any concerns regarding your own sexual behavior or the health of your relationship, please free to reach out to me or Pastor Pam.

Peace and courage,

Pastor Jonathan

St. John's Forums in November

November 3:

Creation Care - Kristi Pursell & the Cannon River Watershed Partnership (Sanctuary)

The Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) is your local partner in clean water. Founded in 1990, CRWP has tackled a lot of projects over the years, but what are they up to today and how can you help maintain this critical resource? This interactive session with Kristi Achor Pursell, CRWP's Executive Director, will be focused on the current status of water bodies in the Cannon River Watershed, what CRWP is doing currently, as well as our plans to achieve a future of cleaner water.

November 10:

St. John's Heath Fair (Commons)

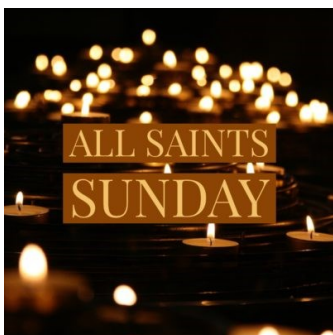
See page 10 for more information.

November 17 and November 24:

Creation and Suffering - A Study of the Book of Job with Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker (Sanctuary)

Why do bad things happen to good people? Where is God when such things happen? How do we think theologically about "acts of God," or natural disasters? These are questions that people of faith have wrestled with for millennia. The book of Job also wrestles with such questions of suffering in a profound way, even as it explores creation and humanity's place in creation. Join us for a two-part series with Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker, Old Testament Professor from Luther Seminary, where she will talk about the book of Job, the problem of evil, and creation theology.

November 3 is All Saints Sunday



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

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

Life and Growth

Deaths

September 27, 2019

Linda Beckman

October 12, 2019

Ester Hustvedt

October 16, 2019

Robert "BJ" Johnson

October 23, 2019

Karen Swenson



Radio Broadcasts

October 6, 2019

Given by

Ruth Anna and Van Miller

in memory of Teddy Ann Miller.

October 13, 2019

Given in memory of

Steve Swanson

by his family.

October 20, 2019

Given by

Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

October 27, 2019

Given in celebration of

St. John's 150th Anniversary.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

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

| | |
|-------------|--|
| November 3 | Sunday School (Daylight Savings Time) |
| November 10 | Sunday School Toddler Time |
| November 17 | Sunday School |
| November 24 | Sunday School |
| December 1 | NO Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break) |

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

| | |
|-------------|--|
| November 6 | |
| November 13 | |
| November 20 | |
| November 27 | NO Programming (Thanksgiving Break) |

PJ and Movie Morning

Monday, November 4 - NO School Day!

3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with Parents

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

Advent Fair

Wednesday, December 4, St. John's Hall

Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 15
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 4
NO SCHOOL DAY!

Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

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

3rd Grader Bible Retreat

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, November 16, from 9:00–11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word - An Introduction to the Bible.

This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their own Spark Bibles at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, November 17. Those 3rd graders are:

*Jacent Almen, Otto Bash, Violet Froehle,
Eleanor Godfrey, Teyten Johnson, Wyatt Nelson,
Luke Nelson, Beau Paulson, Edie Pellinen,
Luke Thorsheim, Lucas Van Sickle, Gabriel Zempel*



Please call or email Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/19) 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).



Here is the schedule for the year:
Nov. 10, Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8,
April 5, and May 3.

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

Sunday Morning Youth Group

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

- November 3: Re:Form - Is the Bible true?
- November 10: Re:Form - Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?
- November 17: Re:Form - Can it be proven that God exists?
- November 24: Re:Form - Did God create the devil?

Wednesday Confirmation

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

Grade 6: Meets in the Undercroft

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

- November 6: We Want a King
- November 13: Yahweh Sends Prophets
- November 20: By the Waters of Babylon/Home Again
- November 27: No Confirmation - Thanksgiving Break

Grades 7-8: Meets in Fellowship Hall

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

- November 6: Ethics & Justice
- November 13: Ethics & Justice
- November 20: Ethics & Justice
- November 27: No Confirmation - Thanksgiving Break

High School Youth Group

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

- November 6: Service Project Night
- November 13: Bible - A Book Like No Other
- November 20: Church - An Imperfect Family
- November 27: No Youth Group - Thanksgiving Break

Children and Youth

Summer Youth Trip Informational Meeting

All youth (grades 6-12) and parents are invited to join us on Sunday, November 17, at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for an informational meeting on the summer youth trips for 2020.

Pizza and beverages will be provided.

Upcoming Middle School Event! Romans and Christians Game Night AND Potluck Dinner for parents and siblings of middle schoolers prior to the game! Get to know other families of middle school youth!

When: Friday, November 8

Time: Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Bring a dish to share and visit with other parents of middle schoolers!
Parents are welcome to stay as long as they would like, or leave when they wish.

R & C game for the middle schoolers starts at 7:30 p.m. and finishes by 10:00 p.m.

Signups are now available!
Friends are welcome!

High School Lock-In for Grades 9-12

Friday, November 22

Watch your email for further information!

News and Updates



St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday December 4

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 4, 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.

Introducing St. John's New Parish Nurse

Hi, I'm Sally Lindell, St. John's new Parish Nurse. I have been a member of St. John's since my family - Erik and our two children, Siri (a first year at St. Olaf) and Peder (a junior in high school) moved to Northfield in 2005. I feel so privileged to be able to serve the members of our church in this way and look forward to getting to know you all better!

What is a Parish Nurse? A parish nurse, also called a **Faith Community Nurse**, is an RN with specialized training in health ministries. A Parish Nurse focuses on the health of the "whole" person - body, mind, and spirit, and is intentional about the spiritual aspects of health. The Parish Nurse works closely with the pastors and the Faith & Health Board to identify and meet the "wholistic" health needs of the congregation across all ages.

What does a Parish Nurse do? While parish nurses vary widely in their practice, we may:

- Provide health education individually or in groups promoting wellness and illness prevention.
- Serve as a resource and advocate for members of all ages with health issues.
- Offer community resources and make referrals as needed.
- Offer confidential guidance to persons struggling with spiritual needs in the midst of health crises.
- Visit members at home, hospital, rehab, or long term care.

What can't a Parish Nurse do? Parish nurses are not allowed to provide treatments prescribed by a health care provider such as giving medication, dressing changes, or home health care nursing.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about my role or other concerns. You can reach me at St. John's at 507-645-4429 or by email at parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Blessings,
Sally Lindell



Rooted and Grounded: Stewardship Appeal 2020

In this year of anniversary celebrations, we're approaching the annual Stewardship campaign. As a congregation, St. John's lives joyously and gives generously in so many ways:

- The beloved fruit Sundays celebrate the generosity of the growing season and the baking talents of our congregation.
- We feed our bodies and spirits on Wednesday evenings by sharing a meal.
- We shepherd our children and youth with VBS and trips that offer spiritual growth.
- We share our financial gifts through offerings that are dropped in the offering plate, through online giving, and through estate planning.
- We share our love of Christ in the way that we care for one another and our community.

150 years of life in Northfield has given St. John's a rich history and an inspiring future. That future will offer opportunities to engage in the supervision, or care-taking of our youth, our environment, and our congregation & community. Like an oak tree that sprouts from an acorn, and becomes a mighty source of shade and beauty, St. John's is a source of amazing talent and resources. You will be seeing images of an oak tree designed by our own Willa Kmoch as we share plans with you for this Stewardship campaign.

As Ephesians 3:17 notes, being rooted and grounded in love, we are going to challenge St. John's to think holistically about taking care of our youth, our environment, our congregation, and our community. We have a new Director with Youth & Family Ministries who will help us engage with the youth in new, exciting ways. We initiated composting in the St. John's kitchen to help care for our environment in a meaningful way. We encourage you to look around, ask questions, and think about how you would like to lend a hand and sustain the good work that happens here at St. John's every day!

If you already pledge your financial support to St. John's, we thank you and urge you to continue your support. We also urge you to consider increasing your existing pledge. If you haven't pledged before, we urge you to consider making a first-time pledge; writing down a goal helps make it happen! If you haven't volunteered to get involved in the amazing work that happens here at St. John's, think about what you might like to know more about, and what you might want to be involved with. Your time and talent have so much value to St. John's.

You'll be hearing more about the vibrant and exciting stewardship opportunities this fall. Rooted and grounded in love, we're excited to share more with you!

Your Stewardship Board

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 6
Monte Cristo Bake

Wednesday, November 13
Lasagna

Wednesday, November 20
Meatball Stroganoff

Wednesday, November 27
No Meal - Thanksgiving Eve



News and Updates

Usher and Greeter Information and First Responder Training November 10

Interested in learning about being an Usher or a Greeter at St. John's? Visit our information table at the Health Fair between services. Attend the training following the second service the same day.

Usher & Greeter Training: St. John's Hall - 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (After Second Service)

- Facilitated by Lynette Marks, Nurse and AED/CPR Trainer, and Doug Child, Usher Captain
- Open Discussion of what to do in Emergencies
- CPR/AED Instruction with Trainers



St. John's Health Fair Sunday, November 10 Between Services in St. John's Hall

There will be something for everyone, information and professional personal available to answer questions. The following is a list of opportunities:

- Northfield Hospital & Clinics Services and Programs
- Health Finders
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Advanced Funeral Planning
- AED Training
- Healthy Community Initiative
- Hospice/Home Health Care
- Advance Care Planning
- Mental Health Services
- Stephen Ministers
- Acupuncture
- SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life)
- Long-Term Care Health Insurance
- Opioid Epidemic
- Rehab Services
- Sleep Study
- YMCA
- 50 North



How Are "Church Chores" Linked to the Warm Welcome at St. John's?

Everyone at St. John's belongs to a "Sunday Hospitality Group" that does "church chores" during one month of the programming year. When your group is "on deck" you will get an email (or call) asking you to sign up to serve 3 times in one of the following:

- Greet at the Entrances and Staff the Welcome Desk
- Communion Prep and Clean Up
- Coffee Service and Refreshments

What does this warm welcome look like?

- A smile and outstretched hand in greeting as we enter this place.
- A call to remember who we are in Christ through the wine and bread.
- An invitation to connect with each other over a warm drink and a treat during fellowship/education time.

Thank you in advance for signing up to do the "church chores" when your month comes around! Questions? Talk with Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator, at 507-645-4429 or email at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

In November as we prepare for Thanksgiving and feel grateful for the bounty of food so easily available to us, we also remember those less fortunate for whom healthy food and clean water are daily challenges. These needs become more widespread and serious with the increase in devastating floods and hurricanes brought on by climate change. People in the U.S. and around the world need our help with growing and distributing sufficient food and procuring clean water. We can provide that help through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Working with and through our congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas, and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Hunger facts:

- 821 million people around the world - that's more than 1 in 10 - can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. According to the most recent estimates, 736 million people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. That's 10% of the world's population.
- At some point in 2017 (the most recent year available), more than 40 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from.
- 39.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2017. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$25,094.

Your support makes a difference. Please consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger during the November appeal. Use the specially marked envelope in your packet or use St. John's online donation system. Make checks payable to St. John's, noting ELCA Hunger Appeal on the memo line. Thank you.

St. John's 150th Anniversary

St. John's Sunday School Classes Lead Worship Sunday, December 15

Mark your calendars! St. John's children lead our 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 15, 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.



the WOMEN'S page

co-sponsored with
Rotary
Club of Northfield



**COURAGEOUS
CONVERSATIONS**

BOLD ACTIONS



November Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Nov 2, 4:30-6:00pm
Kathy Shea's home
6070 320th St. W.

Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, Nov 9, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Nov 14, 1:30p
Barbara Walters' home
12-4 Woodland Trail

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Nov 13
Fellowship 9:00am
Bible Study 10:00am
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, Nov 8, 1:00pm
Mary Holleque's home
1501 Waters Edge Circle

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Nov 14, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Nov 14
10:00am Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Nov 12 & 26 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. Nov 18 & Thu. Nov 21
8:30am - noon, Social Hall

Thursday, November 7th, 7:00pm

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RICE COUNTY

Mollie Kolb

Safe Harbor Navigator

Panel:

Erica Staab-Absher

Faribault HOPE Center

Anika Rychner

Community Action Center

Emily Fulton-Foley

Northfield Union of Youth

Monte Nelson

Northfield Police



PRAYERS FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND RECONCILIATION

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a world-wide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice, and reconciliation. Through this movement Christian women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciled and forgiving

life with others. Beginning November, pick up your prayer jar in St. John's Commons, and pray as you deposit your coins. Saved throughout the year and collected in May, these coins are used for grants to fund projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, relief and awareness-building among women around the world.

www.flc.net.ph

THANK OFFERINGS

will be received at our
November program.

Mobilizing women to act boldly
on their faith

Providing for WELCA
and women worldwide.

**JUST
LOVE**

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

Powerful worship/Inspirational speakers

"Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ."

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020, is \$325. After that, registration is \$375.

Questions: Mary Hoff (763) 688-4516

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



November



Library Words...

From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

By Genevieve Quarberg

Libraries. Books. Order. For over two years we (the Library Committee appointed by the Adult Ministry & Education Board and many helpers) have been trying to refine the kind and number of books on the shelves in the room we call the Library. Now we are at last at a place where we have a room that is inviting for both individual browsing and small group meetings and new, open shelves of books. We have a new computer with a new program for cataloguing books. However, before we have a user-friendly computer for people to search for books, people will need to use the card catalogue. (Card catalogue is not updated.) Remember you can look for a book by title, author, or subject, all alphabetized together. Or just look on the shelves, using the call numbers as a guide. Chart of call number designations is on the wall behind the desk. You may put any books you cannot shelve face-down on the nearest shelf.

There is a roving cart of free books removed from the shelves because they had never or seldom been checked out for over 30 years, or are outdated in issue or language or are in poor condition. But, someone among you may want that book - please take it.

Winter is such a good time to find a good book to read - look on our shelves for books suitable for reading a portion each day for meditation, or for another person's adventure or overcoming adversity - or for inspiration for writing a psalm focusing on our natural world, our part in it, and God's part in it. You could submit that psalm to Genevieve Quarberg (davidquarberg@hotmail.com) to be considered for publication in *The Voice* after the New Year. It's a way to Add Your Voice to our ongoing conversation about our changing climate.

Winter Read will be held in the library in the months of January, February, and March, during the day on a weekday. It is meant for people who love to read and talk about that with others who may have a different perspective. Look for information about titles chosen and time in the December Voice.



News and Updates

Operation Joy! (Sharing Tree) Nov. 17 - Dec. 9

The Christmas Sharing Tree, with now titled "Operation Joy" is a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, and will be displayed in St. John's Commons from **November 17 - 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**.

Thank you in advance for your donations!



News and Updates

Pub Theology Fall Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

It is conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Froggy Bottoms.

November 4

November 18

December 2

Feel free to invite family and friends, neighbors, and strangers.

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan
(jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)
to add your name to the email list.



New Bible Study for the Congregation

The Lydia and Paul Circles are a monthly Bible Study, meeting on Wednesday mornings with guest Bible teachers. It begins with coffee, treats, and conversation between 9:00-10:00 a.m. The study begins at 10:00 and is taken from the Gather Magazine. The study is led by a retired pastor or religion professor. We invite anyone, men and women, to join us. Copies of the lesson are provided.

The fall study goes from September to November, 3 sessions, and the winter study goes from January to April, 4 sessions.

Our next study is Wednesday, November 13, in St. John's Hall.

The group is open to everyone.

Fair Trade Spotlight

Your purchases of Thistle Farms natural bath and body products support the Community of Magdalene, founded in 1997 by Rev. Becca Stevens in Nashville, Tennessee. Magdalene provides housing, food, medical and dental care, therapy, education, and job training free of charge for up to two years to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, and addiction.

The social enterprise Thistle Farms has provided employment for the women of Magdalene since 2001. Magdalene's core belief is "in the end love is the most powerful force for change." <http://thistlefarms.org/> Look for Thistle Farms products at WELCA's Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More table on the first and second Sundays of the month!



Tai Chi Chih Practice Being Held at St. John's

Tai Chi Chih is a simpler version of the many forms of Tai Chi. It is a mix of meditation and movements which are easy to learn and are suited for all ages and physical abilities. The twenty soft, flowing movements are designed to improve balance, concentration, flexibility, and promote calm. This practice can be done either standing or seated. To learn more contact Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169 or redduccang936@gmail.com.



Tai Chi Chih is held on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

From Bread for the World

Much of the progress against hunger in the United States over the past 50 years is due to government programs such as the Supplemental



Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the earned income tax credit (EITC). These programs are indispensable, but they cannot eliminate hunger on their own. A strong job market, sufficient wages, and work supports are needed to end hunger. The Raise the

Wage Act currently before congress (S.150 and H.R. 582) would raise the federal minimum wage over the next 5 years to \$15.00 per hour. After 2024 the minimum wage would adjust each year to keep pace with inflation. If passed, the bill would phase out the tipped minimum wage and sunset the ability of employers to pay workers with disabilities a sub minimum wage. The bill would also phase out the sub minimum wage for workers under the age of twenty.

The federal minimum wage has not been raised since 2009. When adjusted for inflation it is worth 27 per cent less than it was 50 years ago. Passage of the Raise the Wage Act would deliver long overdue raises for 27 million workers. The workers who would experience wage increases are working adults. Ninety per cent are age 20 or above. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour reduces income inequality. The bill would reduce the number of people living in poverty by 1.3 million. Nearly half would be children.

The majority of low-paid working people who would benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$15 are women, particularly women of color, who are over represented in low-paying jobs. Raising the minimum wage will not only help reduce poverty and inequality but will also reduce the gender and racial wage gap.

Bread for the World urges all members of Congress to pass the Raise the Wage Act of 2019. Read more at bread.org/background and analysis.

Write a Psalm

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

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

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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



**Rooted and Grounded:
Stewardship Appeal 2020**

- Sunday, November 10: Encourage Full Participation
- Sunday, November 17: Caring for Creation
- Sunday, November 24: Commitment Sunday
Bring Your Pledge Card