



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2024



## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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### Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The 3 ELCA congregations of Northfield will again join together for worship on Wednesday, November 27. We will gather at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. for a service of the word.

Our joint offerings will benefit Ruth's House of Hope.

A pop-up choir will sing two pieces. Any singers are welcome to join in by coming at 5:30 p.m. to rehearse together.

Pie fellowship will follow the service. Come Ye Thankful People Come!

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

**LIVESTREAM**  
8:30 a.m.

[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
8:30 Sundays

**KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM**  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)

**TV BROADCASTS**  
NTV Channel 187

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

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



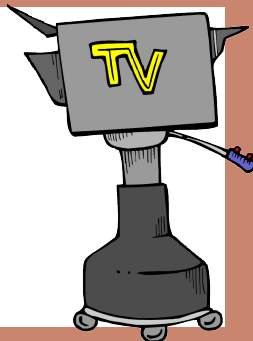
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7:30 p.m. Mondays  
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays  
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays  
NTV Channel 187



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://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

Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483. He was baptized on November 11 and named Martin in honor of Martin of Tours, a saint honored in Germany to this day. As the days grow shorter in the northern hemisphere, St. Martin's Day celebrations involve community parades with handmade lanterns. The community gathers to light lamps and illuminate the night.

Martin of Tours was known for his generosity. The legend goes that as a Roman soldier he saw a poor old beggar at the city gate shivering in the cold. Having nothing else to give him, he took his own cloak, cut it in half with his sword, and gave half to the man to wrap himself in. The next time Martin dreamed of Christ wearing his half-cloak and saying "Martin, has covered me with his cloak."

Eventually Martin's faith led him to leave military service since he was no longer willing to kill. He became the patron saint of conscientious objectors and of France. As a bishop during the height of early theological controversies, he opposed capital punishment for those condemned of heresy.

Martin's legacy of peacemaking and generosity continue to inspire. How might we take a page from Martin's practice of dividing the cloak in our own lives? Consider some ways to honor this spirit of giving. This year, as ELCA World Hunger celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, perhaps we could take a page and offer 50% of something we have in abundance.

- Track what you spend on your family's Thanksgiving turkey
- Track what you spend on your veterinary bills
- If you have the luxury of traveling to see family, think about 50% of those costs.
- Going out for a holiday happy hour? Collect those receipts and consider a 50% donation.

On Sunday, November 24, we will be highlighting ELCA World Hunger. St. John's has typically been a leader in its generosity to this fund that serves both U.S. and international hunger projects. The Benevolence Board is challenging us to collect at least \$5,000 this year. Think about how you can give from your abundance in thanksgiving. When you do it for others, you do it for Jesus himself.

## 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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 507-663-1097.

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



*The following St. John's members  
died in these months last year.*

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

November 10, 2023  
**Lyla Arneson Paulson**

November 13, 2023  
**Andrew Nelson**

November 28, 2023  
**Judith Stoutland**

## November 5 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.



Lyla Paulson  
Judith Stoutland  
Van Miller  
Paul Peterson  
Dalton Distad  
Wendy Scholz  
Elaine Hope  
Connie Gunderson  
Pamela Nerhus  
Carol Solid  
Joanne Dahlin  
Richard Kleber  
Jeanne Narum  
Andrew Nelson  
Rose Youngquist  
Jerry Anderson  
Shirley Anderson  
Jane Gelle  
Elouise Quinnell  
Karin Norgaard  
Winnifred Alberg  
Patricia Halsor  
H. B. "Bernie" Renander  
Wayne Eddy  
Lois Pearson

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

Logan Kuehn  
Leo Mader  
Ian Johnson

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

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

- Nov. 10: *Tamar and the Forgotten Ones* Pastor Pam Fickenscher
- Nov. 17: *Joseph - One Big Happy Family?* Pastor Jonathan Davis

## Reflections from Pastor Pam's Trip to Columbia November 24, Sanctuary, 9:45 a.m.

In October, Pastor Pam embarked on a trip to Columbia, accompanied by other ELCA members from across the United States. Their purpose was to build connections with the Lutheran church in Columbia, as well as to visit and gain insights into various ministry sites. At this forum, Pastor Pam will share personal stories and reflections from her time in Columbia.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

October 23, 2024  
*Jeanne Narum*

October 25, 2024  
*Lois Pearson*



### Radio Broadcasts in September

October 6, 2024  
Given in memory of Erik Moe  
by David and Martha Brown.

October 13, 2024  
Given by in memory of Allan Nelson  
by Imogene Nelson and family.

October 20, 2024  
Given in memory of Mary Beth Bremer  
by John Bremer.

October 27, 2024  
Given by friends of St. John's.

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](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule  
November 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesday After School Schedule  
November 6, 13, 20  
*No Wednesday Programs*  
November 27 - Thanksgiving Break

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

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

Sunday School Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 15, 10:45 a.m. Service



### Toddler Time

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

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

Here is the schedule for October: October 13

## Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

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

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

**When:** Mon. Nov. 4 – NO SCHOOL DAY!

**Time:** 9:00–11:00 a.m.

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



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

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

### Wednesday afternoons:

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

### Sunday Mornings:

- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

Please contact Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Thanks!



## Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, November 4, is a **NO SCHOOL DAY** so we're heading to the bowling alley!

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

**Where:** Flaherty Northfield Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

**When:** Monday, November 4 - **NO SCHOOL!**

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

## Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

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

### Wednesday nights

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

### Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping out? Please contact Kristin Partlo at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. Thanks!

## Children and Youth

### St. John's Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 15

St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 15, at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The program, "The Christmas Gift" is performed by children in preschool–grade 5.

If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or email Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

### Solos or Ensembles for the Christmas Program

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in providing music during the offering for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 15.

We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. Please sign-up in the lower Commons or email Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) if your child is interested in participating.



# the WOMEN'S page

2024  
hello  
November

## November Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Nov. 2, 4:30-6:00pm  
Jennifer Edwins' home  
106 Nevada St.

### Women's Breakfast Group

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

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Nov. 14, 1:30pm  
St. John's Library

### Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 9:30am  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Library

### Mary Circle

Friday, Nov. 8, 1:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Room

### Wellspring (GenXers)

Tuesday Nov. 11, 6:30-8:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Room

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

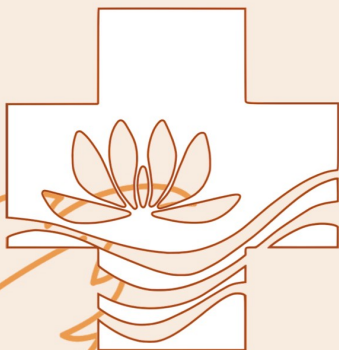
2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00am St. John's Library

### Night Knitters!

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

### Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00am - noon,  
Fellowship Hall

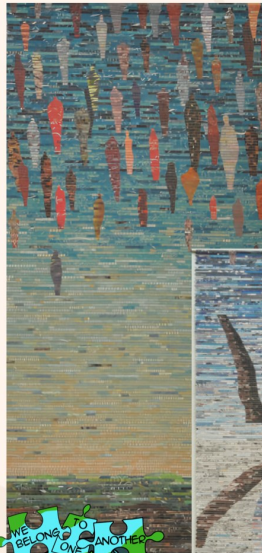


## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS November 7, 2024

### "The INTERCONNECTEDNESS of EVERYTHING"

Heidi Goldberg, printmaker and fiber artist, emeriti professor of Art, Concordia

College, will share the transformative process of her creative visual work, rooted in nature and our current world. Goldberg's art combines mixed-media to explore "that which heals" through making and connection. Several of her large-scale panels will be on-view. Through a fusion of printmaking, weaving and a deep reverence for nature, she invites viewers into a world of beauty and introspection.



## Saturday, Dec. 14 - Christmas Cheer Tripled!

Three fun events in 1 morning - participate in one or all of them. Christmas music will be in the air & plenty of coffee & hot cider!

**9:00 - 10:30** Make Christmas cards (materials supplied) & assemble cookie boxes

**11:00 - Noon** Stuff cookies boxes with goodies

**Noon - ??** Deliver cookie boxes to home-bound

Sign up after church on Dec 1 & 8. To get a link to sign up online, email: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)



## Saturday, January 4 11:00-1:00 "WISEWOMEN"

Our annual Christmas Carol luncheon will kick off the 150th anniversary of St. John's Women. Our luncheon's theme will be "Women's Christmas" which is celebrated on Epiphany in different countries, but this year we'll focus on Ireland's "Nooaig na mBam". Get your tastebuds ready for Irish fare, ears ready for Irish tunes and so much more! Look for sign-ups in December.



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

Web pages:

[www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women)

Contact:

[women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)





### SUCCESSFUL MISSION MORNING

Kim Dickey, Communications Director for Global Health Ministries (GHM), began the morning with a riveting presentation. About 30 women completed: 50 Newborn kits, 60 Hospice kits, 50 Personal care kits, 233 rolled bandages, 2 Quilts, and received \$200 in cash donations.



### Hands-on Service & Fellowship Opportunity

Were you inspired by the Global Health Ministries (GHM) presentation during Mission Morning in September? Do you want to see their operation in action? Join us to volunteer our hands at GHM in Fridley on Tuesday, November 19th. We will spend 3 hours working at various tasks to help fulfill the mission of GHM, then have lunch together at a restaurant on the way back to Northfield. Meet at St Johns at 8:30am, returning to Northfield around 2:30pm. For details and registration, send an email to Sara Bright at [sbright8318@gmail.com](mailto:sbright8318@gmail.com). Last day to register is Sunday, November 17th.



### STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT

ST. JOHN'S KIDS are starting off on the right foot supporting missions in order to help kids around the globe start off on the right foot in school. Thirty school children, grades k-5, helped pack 230 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thankyou to all who donated school supplies and cash to assist with this project! A Thrivent Action grant also supported the purchase of the school bags. The St. John's children were enthused about being able to help other children in countries where school supplies are needed.



## 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](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## Pastor Pam Travels to Colombia

October 12-19, Pastor Fickenscher traveled with a group from around the ELCA to visit the Lutheran Church of Colombia (known as IELCO). The group was led by two churchwide staff for ELCA World Hunger, Kaitlyne Larson, our missionary who visited St. John's in August, and Jaime Dubon the ELCA head of the Latin American desk of Global Mission.

The delegation came from several synods of the ELCA, including one synod council member from Southeastern Minnesota. The whole group spent significant time in the capital city of Bogota, including Sunday morning worship and visits at the IELCO church offices. Then the group divided for two days into two smaller delegations in the Llanos region. Pam's group traveled to Bucaramanga and Giron in the state of Santander, to visit congregations and missions there.

The Lutheran church in Colombia is quite small: a mere 1800 members. But what they do with small numbers is amazing: ministry among the disabled, among seniors, among migrants from Venezuela are all accomplished with just a few resources. In addition, IELCO has a national reputation for its peacemaking work in the wake of the civil war. Our delegation learned about how ELCA funds for mission support, World Hunger, and Disaster Response all contribute to the impact that IELCO has through its congregations, missions, and special projects.

Pastor Pam will be sharing more of her experiences in an adult forum on Sunday, November 24.



## Thank you to Julie and Sally!

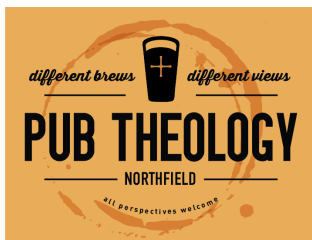
November marks work anniversaries for Julie Brehmer, 20 years as Director of Ministry with Children and Families, and Sally Lindell, 5 years as our Parish Nurse.

Julie has led the littlest among us through the St John's children's education programs with patience and grace. She is the longest-serving member of our current staff, and brings her wealth of experience to planning every Sunday and every Wednesday afterschool program with our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

Sally provides care and guidance through home visits, supporting caregivers, and working with the Faith and Health committee. She has coordinated many blood drives with the Red Cross and makes sure that our staff and ushers are prepared for medical emergencies.

On Sunday November 24, between services we will take time to recognize their work with coffee, cake and words of thanks. The Church Council will be providing a congregational gift, but you are invited to bring or send a card to express your own gratitude. Thanks be to God!

## Pub Theology in November



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

We will meet on Mondays, November 18, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow.

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

## News and Updates

### Operation Joy

Operation Joy is a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center and is set to take place on December 11. CAC's goal is to provide a joyful holiday experience for all children in our community.

The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations.

Donations are used to purchase gift cards so families can select gifts their children will enjoy the most.

In keeping with tradition, families will receive a blanket.

Children will also receive a new book, donated generously by Content Bookstore and their customers.

If you would like to support Operation Joy, donations can be made by:

Going online at [communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy](http://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy)

or

Send a check directly to:

Community Action Center  
c/o Operation Joy  
1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Donations are appreciated by November 15.**



## News and Updates



### A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

*With gratitude*

There is a chill in the air, and the mornings are dark. We venture out from multiple places and join together for worship here on Sundays. Who are we? We are musicians, readers, ushers and greeters. We are coffee brewers and treat bakers. We are Reconciling In Christ welcome-ers. We are radio listeners and livestream watchers. We are handbells, choirs, the organ and the Altar Guild. We are beautiful services and thoughtful sermons.

*We are St. John's*

## Sustaining Grace Supports Mobile Home Energy Improvements

When St. John's began the Sustaining Grace campaign, we reached out to Northfield nonprofits about how our campaign might also assist their efforts toward sustainability and ecological justice. The Healthy Community Initiative responded with a proposal to help fund their work with mobile home weatherization.

Mobile home residents typically own their homes, but not the land it sits on. Rising assessments from the mobile home parks can make it difficult for residents to continue living there, and the age of many units means they are generally not well weatherized.

HCI is providing ongoing consulting and assistance to local mobile home residents so that they can make needed improvements. Often these efforts pay for themselves over time with lower energy bills. To date the project has helped 120 households and provided 35 professional assessments for plumbing, electrical and other needs.

St. John's second grant from Sustaining Grace was sent in September. HCI received \$20,000 towards its mobile home recovery fund.



## Advance Care Planning: What ACP Is & Why It Matters to All Adults

Did you know that Advance Care Planning is a valuable process, not only for those in the later stages of life or those with a serious illness, but for adults of any health condition and any age? Are you aware that completing a health care directive is more about identifying your own personal values than about specifying specific medical treatments you do or do not want? How do you decide who is the best person to make decisions on your behalf, in the event you are ever unable to make them for yourself? In this forum, Advance Care Planning – a process of reflection, conversation and communication, and one that many adults recognize as important, but have not completed – will be described and demystified. Whether you would like information for yourself or for someone in your life, please join us to learn about how Advance Care Planning can provide peace of mind, knowing that your family and your care team are aware of your values and wishes, and will be able to honor your choices.

Two identical sessions, led by Susan Lohmann, will be offered, Sunday, December 8th at 9:45 and Wednesday, January 8th at 6:15, both in St. John's Hall.

Susan Lohmann is a recently retired clinical social worker, and a member of St. John's, who practiced in the areas of hospice, hospital, long term care, oncology and private practice counseling. She has been active in providing community education and guidance about health care directives, and is a certified Advance Care Planning facilitator.

## Reading Partners Tutor Needs

Make a difference this year by volunteering to become a one-on-one literacy tutor for elementary students in Faribault. No prior experience needed. Give as little as one hour a week - serve individually or with friends. Everything you need to be successful is provided: an easy-to-follow, evidence-based curriculum, training, and ongoing support from an on-site staff member. Please call Susan at 612-474-4292, email [volunteermn@readingpartners.org](mailto:volunteermn@readingpartners.org), or visit [readingpartners.org/volunteer-in-minnesota](http://readingpartners.org/volunteer-in-minnesota) to empower a child in Faribault starting today.

## News and Updates

### St. John's 2024 Community Christmas Day Dinner is Around the Corner!

The planning process for the Community Christmas Day Dinner event hosted by St. John's has begun!

To help make this wonderful dinner that is free and open to all successful, many volunteers and food donations will be needed.

**Watch for opportunities to sign-up beginning December 4** at the Advent Fair, continuing until Christmas.

**Thrivent Members:** If you are a Thrivent member, consider helping by applying for a Thrivent Action Grant that can be used to help pay for the turkeys and other expenses. Anything will be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office.



## 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**  
Chicken Wild Rice Casserole

**Wednesday, November 13**  
Pizza Burgers

**Wednesday, November 20**  
Ham & Swiss Casserole

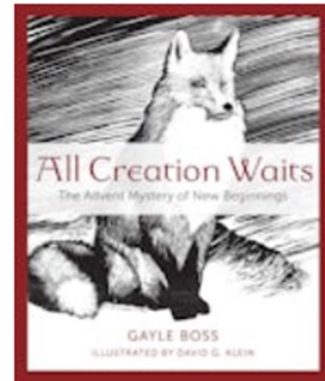
**Wednesday, November 27**  
No Meal - Thanksgiving Break



## Advent Book Read: All Creation Waits

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

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



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

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

## Tenth Graders Affirm their Baptism

On Sunday, September 29, the 10<sup>th</sup> graders retreated to Gustavus Adolphus for an afternoon to prepare for their affirmation of baptism. On Sunday, October 29, these 10<sup>th</sup> graders affirmed their baptism at the 10:45 a.m. service.

Pictured above are, from top left, Pastor Pam, Braden Van Sickle, Dyson McBroom, Anna Bash, John Tracy III, Will McLaughlin, Pastor Jonathan, Kristin Partlo, Mya Haak, Genevieve Knutson, Isabelle Paulson, Ella Skoglund, Saycia Johnson.



## News and Updates

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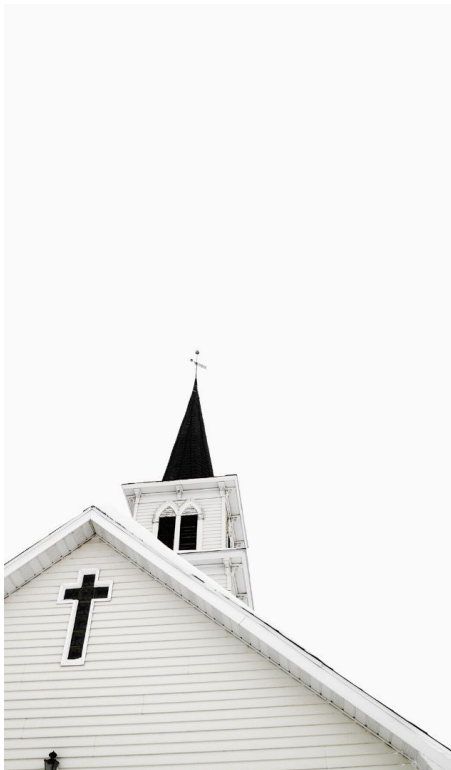
## WEBSITE

[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

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

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



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