

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2025



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

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The 3 ELCA congregations of Northfield will again join together for worship on Wednesday, November 26.

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!

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

Join Us for Worship!

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



Radio Broadcasts

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



Video

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



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

At the end of this month, we celebrate a civic holiday – Thanksgiving – in church.

This is unusual, because in the Lutheran tradition we follow a calendar that marks the year differently from the secular world. Whether it's a civic national holiday or a Hallmark holiday, we don't prioritize the narratives of who we are based on our family, ethnic, or national identities. We gather first and foremost as followers of Jesus Christ, baptized into our identities as children of God.

We make an exception for Thanksgiving because while it is a civic holiday, its essence is gratitude to God – for the harvest and for the community in which we live. It is, you could say, a "first article" day, remembering that all have received has comes from the Creator. And we join with faith communities that are not Christian – Jews, Muslims, and others -- to give thanks for the harvest and peace we have to enjoy it.

We live in a confusing time when it comes to matters of faith and civic life. There are voices in our public life that want to claim privilege for some Christians in our country; they claim to speak for all Christians, but they do not. The separation of church and state is being threatened. These trends threaten the freedom we have as people of faith to define our discipleship of Jesus Christ on our own terms, not terms dictated by the state. I commend to you the social statement of the ELCA Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All passed at this year's Churchwide Assembly, which brings our theological perspective to this contentious issue.

The diversity of Christian views is one of the treasures of our heritage that separates church and state. For hundreds of years, this country has made room for enormous variety in Christian faith and practice; and that precious freedom of worship has attracted a host of people of other faiths to our shores too.

While the Trump administration is talking about *their* narrow definition of anti-Christian bias, Christian pastors have been arrested at the Capitol for praying for the poor who will suffer from budget cuts, Christian refugees in this country have been abruptly cut off from aid, Christians in other nations have lost lifesaving medicine, and Christian pastors have been tear-gassed for standing in peaceful protest of militarized ICE actions. While I don't believe Christians should receive more aid or help than any other religious group, this federal administration seems only concerned about particular Christians -- those who give unwavering loyalty to its policies.

When government leaders seek to define what "Christian" is, they usurp the role of Christian leaders AND the role of Christian believers.

This Thanksgiving, we will gather again with our ELCA siblings at St. Peter's Lutheran Church for a service of prayer and thanksgiving – and for fellowship over pie. It remains a great privilege of our country that we have the freedom to worship as we will, and to name our God according to our own faithful reading of Scripture. We pray that churches and other faith institutions will have the same freedom to articulate their various faiths, in their own words, for many years into the future.

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

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 or those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.







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

November 14, 2024
Paul Klinefelter

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

November 2 is All Saints Sunday

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

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



Lois Pearson, Paul Klinefelter, Joan Halvorson, John Ferguson, Donna James, Iva Dodson, Charles Houge, Jeanne Narum, Myrna Otte, Billi Failletaz, Jack Schwandt, Scott Quinnell, Erik Johnson, Kathy Vang

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

Ian Johnson, Samuel Shumway, Brenna Neuger, Rowena Luedtke, Valerie Kastner, Trey Bilderback, Valerie McGuire, Addison Monson, Olive Tennyson, Lee Tennyson, Kai Rifat Islehart, Madeline Ostertag, Andrew Ostertag, Aidan Thoma, Sigrid Cheadle Pearson

Advance Care Planning Open House Tuesday, November 25, 1:30-3:00 p.m. FiftyNorth 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Room 103

At this open house session, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive.

A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)



Adults of all ages are welcome. Feel free to bring your own blank or partially-completed health

care directive; blank documents will also be available. This event is free.

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective.

St. John's Forum - Fall 2025 Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change

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

The series continues with Professors Tim Eberhart, and Colleen Carpenter as they discuss biblical and theological resources for redefining our relationship and responsibility to the natural world and its creatures. Professor Jorgenson and her students, Addie Flesch and Paavo Rundman, bring the series to a close with reflections on our current situation: how, amid the anxiety of dealing with a rapidly changing environment, do we move forward with hope?

Christian Biblical and Theological Resources

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

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

Courage and Hope in the Present Moment

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

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

Life and Growth

Baptisms

October 26, 2025 Sigrid Lilje Cheadle Pearson

Weddings

October 4, 2025 Grant Sawyer and Ella Garry

Deaths

October 23, 2025 Kathy Vang







Radio Broadcasts

October 5, 2025 Given by friends of St. John's.

October 12, 2025

Given in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the formation of St. John's Lutheran's women's group and in thankfulness for all the service they have provided over the years.

October 19, 2025

Given in memory of Mary Beth Bremer by her family.

October 26, 2025

Given in honor of Dao Hella's birthday and 50th anniversary of her baptism by Karl Hella.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule
November 9, 16, 23
No Sunday School
Daylight Saving on November 2

Wednesday After School Schedule

November 5, 12, 19 No Wednesday Programs on November 26

PJ Movie Morning

Monday, November 3, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Details in the Article in Middle of the Page

Advent Fair

Wednesday, December 3, 5:15-7;00 p.m. Details in the Article at the top of the Page

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14 10:45 a.m. Worship Service



Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

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

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

When: Mon. November 3 – NO SCHOOL DAY!

Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429.

Parent help is appreciated. Let Julie know if you can lend a hand.



St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 14, at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The program is performed by children in preschool-grade 5. All children are welcome to be involved. Rehearsal are on Sunday mornings during Sunday School.

If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or email Julie Brehmer at children@St]ohnsNorthfield.org.



Come in Your

P.J.'s to ~

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 14.

We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. Please sign-up in the lower Commons or contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429 if your child is interested in participating.



Bowling - November 3

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

Who: Grades 6-12, Friends are always welcome! Where: Flaherty Northfield Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield When: Monday, November 3 - NO SCHOOL!

Time: 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12) 9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room

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

Tenth Graders Affirm their Baptism

On Sunday, September 28, the 10th graders retreated to Gustavus Adolphus for an afternoon to prepare for their affirmation of baptism. On Sunday, October 26, these 10th graders affirmed their baptism at the 10:45 a.m. service:

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

Children and Youth

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

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

Middle School Confirmation
(Grades 6-12)
Our theme this year,
we'll dwell on the parable of the
Good Samaritan and the many ways it plays
out in our community, in which we are all
neighbors with needs and gifts to share.

High School Youth Group

(Grades 9-12)

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

Note for All Youth

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

No programming November 26 for Thanksgiving Break.

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

omen's page

Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Nov. 8, 4:30-6:00 Joan Koester's home 2351 Division St. S. **Elizabeth Circle** Thursday, Nov. 13, 1:30pm St. John's Library Lydia & Paul Circle Wednesday, Nov 12,

St. John's Library

Mary Circle

Friday, Nov. 14, 1:00pm Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Nov 2, 6:30-8:00pm

St. John's Fireside Room

November

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

November 6, 2025 - 7:00pm

CREATING RESPONSIVE QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN **OUR COMMUNITY**

Northfield's HealthFinders Collaborative will share their model for community engagement around health care that is responsive to our local needs. Open to the public. Refreshments.



Charlie Mandile **Executive Director**



Daisy Sanchez Associate Director HealthFinders



Moderated by: Amy Ripley, MD

9:30 Coffee 10:00am Study



November 8, 2025 9:00-11:30 Mission Morning

December 13, 2025 9:00-11:00 Christmas Cookie Packing delivering to St. John's shut-ins

January 3, 2026 11:00-1:00 Women's "Little Christmas" Luncheon

C D L L A B O R A T I V E

Women's Breakfast Group Saturday, Nov. 8, 9-10:30 Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls) Thursdays, Nov. 6 & 20 10:00am St. John's Library

Evening Knitters Wednesday, Nov. 3 6:00pm, St. John's Library

Wellspring Craft & Conversation Wednesday, Nov. 19 5:30-7:30pm Fireside Room

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



...To the all the packers, grant writers, money and supply givers, and drivers to Lutheran World Relief warehouse; packing and shipping 250 school kits...

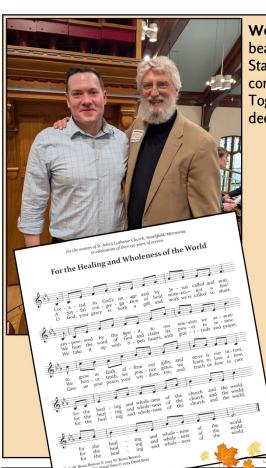




Like us & Friend us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns" @ Kvinner St. Johns

Web pages: www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact: women.stjohns500@gmail.com



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Bruce Benson for crafting the beautiful text of our new hymn, drawn so thoughtfully from the Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA. We also warmly thank David Sims for composing the inspiring musical score that brings these powerful words to life. Together, their gifts have created a hymn that will enrich our worship and deepen our shared mission in faith.

Created in God's image and by Jesus called and sent, empowered by the Spirit, to our mission we assent: to grew in faith, affirm our gifts, and serve is our intent, for the healing and wholeness of the church and the world, for the healing and wholeness of the world.

A joyful congregation of bold women-not a few! We hear the word of God and claim its power to renew. We honor truth, we practice grace, we learn to love anew, for the healing and wholeness of the church and the world, for the healing and wholeness of the world.

O God, your grace is both a gift and work we're called to share We take it up with open hearts, with gratitude and prayer. Give us your peace, your wisdom, too, and teach us how to care for the healing and wholeness of the church and the world, for the healing and wholeness of the world.





THANKS AND PRAISE

for the delightful
150th Birthday Bash
on the 11th and the
woman-focused
worshp service on
the 12th. More
photos of the
Birthday Bash can
be found on the
women's web
pages: Gallery

News and Updates

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

You have guided me on a journey that I didn't even know was happening; you have shown me God's grace in ways I didn't know was possible.

An excerpt from the sermon on Senior Sunday in June 2025 given by NHS Graduate Joran Peterson. The full sermon is printed in the Commons.

"Freely you have received; freely give."

Matthew 10:8

Wednesday Worship in November

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

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



Operation Joy

Operation Joy is a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center and is set to take place on December 10. 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
- 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 Friday, November 21.

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (December 2025 Edition):

November 15

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

Save the Date... Manna and Mercy Retreat with Rev. Alan Storey, April 24-25, 2026

South African pastor Alan Storey is returning to St. John's to lead a *Manna and Mercy Retreat* on Friday evening, April 24, through Saturday, April 25. Alan came to St. John's in the fall of 2016 to lead



this retreat, which had a lasting impact for many in our community. Alan is an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church of South Africa and is appointed to the Central Methodist Mission (CMM) in Cape Town.

His commitment to the peacemaking Jesus was tested early in life when he faced conscription into the apartheid regime's military. After spending a year of discernment working in Australia, he returned to South Africa, declaring

he would never fight in the apartheid army – or any army. He was arrested and faced trial with a six-year prison sentence as the likely outcome. Alan's trial was abandoned, and he became the last conscientious objector to be tried in apartheid South Africa.

The Bible is meant to be an instrument of God to enable abundant life for God's creation. Sadly, through the ages it has been read and interpreted in such a way that it has been used as an instrument of human domination and death—to cheer on the crusades, support slavery, advocate Apartheid, glorify genocide, sanction sexism, bless war and worship prosperity in the face of the poor, just to name just a few horrors of our human history. During the Manna and Mercy retreat, we will take a fresh look at scripture through the interpretive lens of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and God's overall call for each one of us to partner with God in mending this fractured world. The hope is that after we have done so, our interpretations and use of the scriptures will be truly liberating and life-enabling.

Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* (a book we use for Confirmation here at St. John's), Alan Storey will take us on a journey



from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two days, with sensitivity to the contexts in which the scriptures were written and of our present day. We hope you will join us for this event!

Alan will be leading and speaking at other events in Northfield that week, which may interest you.

Please **save these dates** and stay tuned for registration details in early 2026!

News and Updates

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

66 I give to St. John's because St. John's gives me a feeling of partnership with our fellow members in honoring our Lord and Savior. It gives me a sense of gratitude to see so many taking active roles in contributing to St. John's mission. Many have generously given before us, and now we must build on that legacy. 99

Anonymous

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 5 Chicken Wild Rice Casserole

Wednesday, November 12 Cheesy Ham & Swiss Casserole

Wednesday, November 19 Enchilada Bake

Wednesday, November 26 No Meal - Thanksgiving



For the Healing and Wholeness of the World

For the women of St. John's Lutheran Church Northfield, Minnesota

Discussion of the Hymn

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

- Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA

Many of them therefore believed . . . and not a few of the leading women.

- from Acts 17

"For the Healing and Wholeness of the World" was commissioned by the women of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota, in celebration of their 150 years of service. It was first sung at the WELCA birthday celebration at St. John's on October 11, 2025, and first sung in worship on October 12, 2025.

About the text: It's no secret that preachers regularly "borrow" language, imagery, and ideas from others. This hymn text is no exception. If you read the Purpose Statement of WELCA before reading the hymn text, you might well accuse me of blatantly stealing someone else's language. I prefer to think that what I did was harvest, not heist. The Purpose Statement was a field ripe for harvest. All I did was pick it, and make it rhyme.

- Bruce Benson

About the tune: This hymn had to be singable in a variety of settings: in the Sanctuary, in St. John's Hall, in the Library, in circle meetings, at homes, and with or without accompaniment in any of those places. I tried to craft something that would be durable in those circumstances and to find a melody that felt more like a folk song than a march. The lyrics repeated at the end of each stanza needed to have their own musical character, one that stopped a little longer on both the "church" and the "world" for which the women of St. John's have worked.

- David Sims

ISAIAH

A group of St. John's members have begun meeting to work with the state-wide advocacy group ISAIAH MN. ISAIAH is a multiracial group of faith communities in cities, suburbs, small towns, and rural areas throughout our state fighting for racial, economic, and climate justice in our nation and in Minnesota. Other issues of interest include affordable healthcare for all, housing, and upholding of democratic traditions and values.

We hope to find more St. John's members who want to join us in this faith based work. If that interests you and you would like to learn more about ISAIAH's plans and how you can become involved, either stop by our table between services or contact Rod Christensen or Ron Hebensperger.

St. John's 2025 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 Wednesday, December 3, 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 at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, or call the church office.

Shared Ministry is Collecting Potluck-Style Salad Recipes

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

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

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

It can be ANY type of salad: pasta, bean, potato, rice, quinoa, fruit, tomato, coleslaw, waldorf, etc. Whatever recipes you think others would enjoy that aren't overly complicated to make.

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

News and Updates

St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday December 3

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 3, 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.



News and Updates

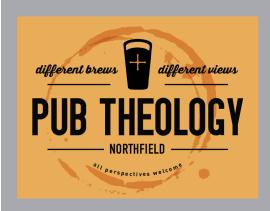
Pub Theology in November

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

We will meet Mondays,
November 3 and 17,
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice
for dates and locations.)

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list. If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan.

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



JustMOVE Racial Justice Training Wraps Up by Margie O'Loughlin

Eight months ago, a cohort of learners from across our Southern Minnesota Lutheran Synod met for an afternoon of racial justice training with presenters Joe Davis and Dave Scherer. Joe and Dave were able to do the unthinkable in that first meeting; they got a room full of Lutherans out of their chairs and up on their feet. We danced, sang, and started a meaningful conversation about race and culture that would continue for the next six months over monthly Zoom meetings.

St. John's was represented by Pastor Pam, Cheryl and Kristin Buck, Jo Franklin, Elaine and Scott Nesbitt, Maggie O'Dell, and myself. When we returned to The Good Earth Retreat Center in Spring Valley on Saturday, September 27, for our in-person closing session, Joe and Dave had us dancing again within minutes. Movement, singing, and poetry are at the heart of JustMOVE, the non-profit Joe and Dave co-founded to explore racial justice education through art. One of them is African American; the other is white, and the two work together seamlessly. They're young men well grounded in their seminary educations, full of energy and encouragement.

From the beginning, we were asked to respond in unison each time someone in the room shared a thought. The speaker would be called by name, and then received these words of blessing, "Beloved child of God, you matter." In a world full of distractions, it felt almost startling to be spoken to like that at first. I quickly grew to appreciate it, and enjoyed sharing those words with others.

Here are a few components that shaped our monthly conversations over the course of the summer:

- When you meet someone who's different than you, can you work on developing compassionate curiosity rather than forming judgments?
- Thoughtfully consider the community you've built around yourself: is it mono-cultural or multi-cultural?
- How comfortable are you sharing power with others in your professional and personal life?

Sometimes people say they're color blind when it comes to not noticing race and ethnicity. What do you think about the term color conscious instead of color blind?

As Joe and David reminded us all the time, there are only two ways to do the hard work of building racial justice: either imperfectly, or not at all. Consider trying a skill they called MRI; the translation of which is, what is the **M**ost **R**espectful **I**nterpretation you can make of any given situation?

Improving relationships across cultural differences takes practice, and it also takes also discernment—much like a dance. When do you step forward, when do you step back? When do you speed up, when do you slow down? Implicit in all of this work is a willingness to be

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JustMOVE Racial Justice Training

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changed. Those of us who participated in the training felt energized and encouraged by the content, and by the embodied approach of learning though movement. As Joe and Dave said in their goodbye, "There is no grace period now for taking on the urgency of racial

justice work. There is just grace. Period."



Thank you to Pastor Paul Graham of Ansgar's Lutheran Church in Cannon Falls for organizing this workshop, and to the Church Council of St. John's for making it possible for us to attend. We are grateful!

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

I apologize for our lapse in reporting on recent designations from the B&SC discretionary budget. For the time period from August thru October, we have donated money to the following organizations:

- Colombia Mission Partner, Kaitlynne Larson, through global missions
- · Green Elementary healthy snack cart
- CAC/ Food shelf
- CAC/ Neighbors helping Neighbors
- Ruth's House in Faribault
- Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota
- Lutheran World Federation

Thank you for supporting St. John's work of caring for those in need.

In gratitude,

Andrea Hoff Chair), Sara Bright, Wil Brosz, Andi Carlson, Kari Johnsrud, and Nan Winsell

Sing, Connect, and Enjoy!

We are thrilled to announce **Lifting Voices**, Northfield's exciting new choir!

Under the direction of Kristin Kivell, people living with dementia and their care partners will gather weekly to make music and build community. We will focus on singing familiar tunes to uplift spirits and create lasting connections.

Can't read music? Never sang in a choir? No problem! All are welcome –together we will make a joyful noise!

Join us on Mondays, starting on January 19, 2026, for a 90-minute rehearsal followed by a half-hour to connect and have fun.

Ready to share the joy? Pre-registration is available by contacting Michelle Brant at FiftyNorth 507-664-3707 or email Kristin Kivell at kristinkivell@gmail.com. On-site registration will also be available.

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