



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018



Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 28, from 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 2 - First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19, at 6:15 p.m.
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship at 10:45 a.m.
(see page 9 for additional information)

Sunday, December 16 - Third Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Music from Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria*

Sunday, December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - Monday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (especially for families and children)
Christmas Vespers with Candlelight at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Dinner for All from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Are you interested in a Bible 101 Class?
- 7 Service Project Event for Middle and High School Families
- 9 Advent Storytime and Vespers
- 11 Hospitality Needs for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services
- 12 Free Legal Clinic to Open in December

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!

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

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.

Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

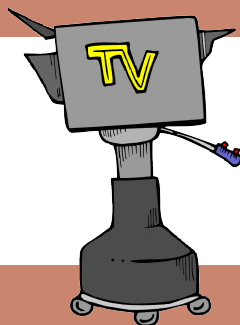


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 180



Blessing Box at St. John's

“Take something if in need;
leave something when blessed.”



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year of grace.

I don't recall when it was exactly, but some time during my first month at St. John's in 2014 it dawned on me that 2019 would be a special year in the life of the congregation. From that moment until now, 2019 has been a focal point in thinking about how to give thanks for what has been and look forward to what God is calling us to next.

Like most ministry efforts, it has been a winding road, and there are still many things yet to be determined about how we will mark this 150th anniversary. But thanks to all of you, we can anticipate the coming year with joy.

In 2018, many, many people stepped up to ensure that our sesquicentennial year will be special. The Grace Overflowing Campaign team worked for months to invite the congregation into our capital appeal and raised funds beyond our expectations. The Properties & Grounds Board has worked tirelessly to identify, promote, and oversee much needed improvements and maintenance of our facility. The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board identified and launched five new partnerships with local agencies to deepen our commitment to the community. Four different celebration committees are working to create special events for 2019. Composers are working on new works. Artists are creating logos. Sunday School planners are thinking about how to share our history with our kids. And your Church Council and staff have tried to keep track of it all even as we carry out the normal cycle of a year of worship, education, welcome, and service.

We invite you to **mark your calendars now** for these special events:



Sunday, January 13: We will welcome the St. Olaf Choir in worship and celebrate the historic and ongoing relationship between St. John's and the St. Olaf Choir with a special forum and reception between services.

Sunday, April 28: We will continue our Easter celebrations with a special focus on local composers and local visual artists.

Sunday, July 14: We will get outdoors together and celebrate with a family friendly social event.

October 26-28 : Our **Capstone Event** will include something for everyone - kids, neighbors, history buffs, and people who just love to get together, share food, and celebrate.

Between now and 2019 we give thanks that God is WITH US NOW, celebrating Christ's birth among us in an ever-changing and challenging world. God's deepest blessings to you as we celebrate God's greatest gift.

Pastor Pam

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.



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

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

December 8, 2017
Gert Brosz

December 13, 2017
Wilbur Christensen

December 14, 2017
Edward Lindell

December 26, 2017
Larry Christenson

Stephen Ministry: Season of Surprises

Lights to position, flights to book, weather to monitor, a guest room to prep. All of these require time and energy; many of them assume a hefty budget as well. And that doesn't include the once-a-year foods we set out and just-right gifts we wrap! These may seem to be the ingredients of the Christmas surprises anticipated by family and friends.

Whether we travel or host, such a season of surprises is also a season of expectations - the expectations others put on us and those we put on ourselves and our families. How can we manage expectations and surprises while keeping the focus on the gift of being together? Here are some tips:

- Establish priorities and make sure they are clear to everyone. Strive to balance excitement and calm, group activities, and personal space.
- Simplify whenever possible. Provide options (don't make demands) and allow plenty of free time (don't over-schedule). Focus on the basics of nourishment and rest for both guests and hosts.
- Let love shape an openness to all kinds of surprises - weather that causes slowdowns, an unexpected beloved at the door, a favorite hymn sung by Christmas Eve's candlelight.

But there will be empty calendars and souls living lonely holidays. The heavenly peace that sounds soothing to the stressed may feel empty to them. Still, the season's sweetest surprise is for all - the infant God comes to a lonely place in a hostile world, not to a festive, meticulously prepared "divine" party.

If you or someone you care about will face the season with more stressful expectations or hurts than love and joy, consider connecting with one of St. John's Stephen Ministers. Learn more from one of the pastors at 507-645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445.



Did something change?

DID YOU MOVE?
DID YOUR PHONE NUMBER CHANGE?
DID YOU REMOVE YOUR LANDLINE?
DID YOUR PRIMARY EMAIL SWITCH?

Do we know?

PLEASE UPDATE CCB OR NOTIFY THE OFFICE TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION.

St. John's Forums in December

December 2

Back to Confirmation:

***Am I Really Supposed to Believe Mary was a Virgin?* - Sanctuary**

During this Advent season, let's go back to Confirmation and ask a question that many of us think about but rarely talk about. *Was Mary really a virgin?* Have you ever asked that question? Using a Confirmation curriculum called Re:Form, we will wrestle with this question of faith together.

December 9

***Call the Midwife: A Perspective on Birth and Christmas* - Sanctuary**

St. John's member Tamara Jackman will be reflecting a bit on her experience as a nurse midwife and the story of Christ's birth. Tamara is a Certified Nurse Midwife, in practice serving a diverse community at West Side Community Health Services in St Paul since 2004.

Are you interested in a Bible 101 Class?

The St. John's Forum team is considering offering a 4-week Bible 101 class on Sunday mornings this winter or spring season. This would not replace the St. John's Forum, but would be an additional educational opportunity. Before deciding to do this, we wanted to know how many people might be interested. If you would be interested in this being offered, please contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org, or put your name on the sign-up on Pastor Jonathan's door.

Manna & Mercy Video Discussion Group Continues in December

On **Sundays, December 2, 9 & 16, from 9:45-10:30 a.m.**, you are invited to join this discussion group in the Fireside Room, where a video will be shared followed by small group discussion. South African pastor and justice activist Alan Storey has created a video series that ask and invite questions of faith on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. The beauty of this time is that each video stands on its own and there is no experience necessary for each week – just show up on the Sundays that you can make it. You do not need to have attended the previous week.

New Bible Study... Manna and Mercy Text Study

On Mondays, from 12:00-1:00 p.m., the Manna and Mercy group that gathers in the Fireside Room will now become a weekly text study for the upcoming Scripture readings in worship. This is a great opportunity to read through and discuss the Bible texts before they are read and preached on Sunday morning. It is also a great opportunity to meet other people and grow in faith. We hope you will consider joining us!

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

November 4, 2018

Given in memory of Della Gunderson by family and friends.

November 11, 2018

Given in memory of Joyce Schrader by family and friends.

November 18, 2018

Given in memory of Mary Virginia Shaw by her family. She died on November 22, 2014.

November 25, 2018

Given in memory of Orwin Marks by family and friends.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

December 2	Sunday School
December 9	Sunday School Toddler Time
December 16	Sunday School
December 23	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
December 30	No Sunday School (Christmas Break)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

December 5	ROCK
December 12	ROCK
December 19	No Programs (Christmas Break)
December 26	No Programs (Christmas Break)

Christmas Worship Service with Our Sunday School Kids

Sunday, December 9
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, St. John's Hall

4th and 5th Grade CATechism Resumes on January 2, 2019

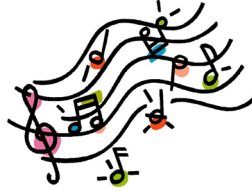


Christmas Books Available

St. John's Library has many wonderful Christmas and Advent books and are available for parents and children to check out - some will be on display in the Library and others will be downstairs by the Nursery.

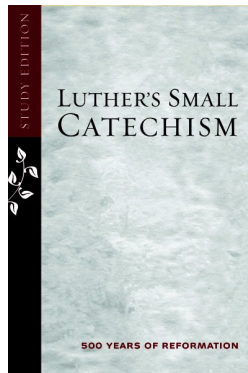
Kids! Would you like to Perform a Solo or Ensemble for the Children's Christmas Program?

Children are welcome to perform a solo or ensemble for the Children's Christmas program on December 9.



Please sign-up in the Commons or contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are interested in participating.

Bowling Event for Kids Grades 2 - 5, January 21, NO SCHOOL DAY! Watch for more info!



Catechism for 4th and 5th Graders will resume on January 2

CAT classes meet downstairs, 4th grade in Room 20 and 5th grade in the Undercroft, from 4:00-4:45 p.m. Let Julie know if your child would like to ride the Wednesday afterschool bus to CAT!

Remember to bring your CAT book!

Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).

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



Here is the schedule for the year:
December 9, January 13, February 10,
March 10, April 14, and May 5.

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

Get Involved in Worship!

St. John's always encourages middle school and high school youth to assist with worship service in a variety of ways (singing or playing music, reading scripture or prayers, serving communion, greeting, ushering, designing art for the bulletin cover, etc.). We love to have a mix of generations involved in our services. Just let us know anytime what you would like to do!

Middle School Youth Group

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

- December 2: Advent Wreath Making
- December 9: Am I Really Suppose to Believe Mary Was A Virgin?
- December 16: Does God Still Create Stuff Today?
- December 23: *No Middle School Youth Group - Christmas Break*
- December 30: *No Middle School Youth Group - New Year's Break*

Sunday Middle School Youth Group will resume after the holiday break on January 6, 2019.

Confirmation for Grades 6-8 and High School Youth Group

- **December 5:** All age groups gather for Advent Vespers in the Sanctuary at 6:15 p.m. Immediately following Vespers, grades 6-8 will find their small group guides, and go to a quiet place to do highs and lows and have discussion time. High School Youth Group will meet with Emerson in the Youth Room for discussion and activities, concluding at 7:30 p.m.
- **December 12:** Advent Vespers at 6:15 p.m., followed immediately by small group time (same as previous week).
- **December 19:** All are invited to Advent Vespers, but **no small group or youth group gatherings**
- **December 26:** *Christmas break*

Regular Wednesday youth programming will resume again after the holiday break on **January 2, 2019**

High School Club

On **December 2**, the High School Club will meet at Peggy Hanson's house from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** Enjoy delicious treats and the opportunity to work on a quilt for the homeless youth of Northfield! Friends are invited!

Children and Youth



9th grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

**Sunday, December 2
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.**

Find each other between services for faith discussion time.

Note:

The Pay It Forward Service Project Event on December 8 could be a good project for mentors and mentees to participate in together. See details below!



Service Project Event for Middle and High School Families

Pay It Forward!

Help bag customer groceries AND hand the customer \$5 to "pay it forward".

\$5 bill will be supplied by St. John's.

Those receiving the \$5 can do with it whatever they choose (donate it to a charity, keep it, give it to someone else in need, etc.)

When:

Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where:

Family Fare Grocery Store

Sign-up sheets are in the Commons and outside the Youth Room or email Sue Hagen at susanehagen@gmail.com.

News and Updates

Christmas with Copper Street Brass



There is no better time for brass than the holidays!

Minneapolis-based Copper Street Brass (CSB) represents a new direction in brass chamber music. Combining classical music with jazz, pop and rock music, the CSB brings their popular holiday concert “Christmas on Copper Street” to St. John’s on Sunday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m.

They will play music from traditional carols to funk and rock holiday tunes. This year’s concert features music of favorite movies and TV specials *The Nutcracker*, *The Snowman*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *The Grinch*.

Tickets are on sale now- \$20 or \$25 at the door and \$10 for students.

For more information go to www.copperstreetbrass.org



2019 Summer Trips for Youth

High School Youth Summer Trip: Camp Christikon July 20-28

Don't miss out on this truly awesome experience backpacking through the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Montana!



Middle School Youth Summer Trip: Camp Amnicon Flambeau River Ramble June 23-28

Experience this exciting camping and white water canoe adventure along the beautiful scenery of the Flambeau River near Lake Superior in northern Wisconsin!



You can get the information you need for both trips from the brochures available on the Youth Ministry board near the Sacristy. Brochures are also available on the bulletin boards outside of the Youth Room and by the southwest steps.

If you are interested in going on either trip, please email Angie Gehring: youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

*Friends are welcome!

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias between services on Sundays and on Wednesdays during the Wednesday Night Meal.

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, stop in the Commons on the above referenced dates. The order form will also be available in the church office and on the website.



The last day to have your order form in is Sunday, December 16.

The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

St. John's Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 9



Mark your calendars!

St. John's children will be participating in our 10:45 a.m. worship service in the St. John's Hall.

The program, "Carriers of the Light" is performed by children in preschool-grade 5. If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429.

Advent Storytime and Vespers

This Advent, our vespers time will center on imagination. Christmas more than any other biblical story has been the seed for countless imaginative renderings in art and story. This December 5, 12, and 19 we will use three children's books to center our own imaginations in how Jesus' birth brings forgiveness, compassion and new hope to birth. Join us at 6:15 p.m. for a 30 minute storytime and service of prayer.

Creative Arts Group

The next creative arts group will be a Christmas Carols & Crafts night on Wednesday, December 19, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the St. John's Library. The group will be led by both LBSA's Art Specialist, Bridget Novak and Music Therapist, Jenny Solar. Bring your favorite Christmas carols to sing as a group, and we'll also be making holiday snow globes! No experience is necessary - come willing to meet new people and try something new! For questions or to volunteer, please email Bridget (Bridget.Novak@laurabaker.org) or Jenny (jenny@laurabaker.org) or call and leave a message at 645-8866 x144.

Christmas Services

DECEMBER 24

3:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M.
11:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 25

10 A.M.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO SPREAD THE CHEER BY GREETING OR DOING COMMUNION PREP / CLEAN UP AT ONE OF THESE SERVICES.



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, December 5
Campfire Casserole

Wednesday, December 12
Zuppa Toscana Soup

Wednesday, December 19
Wild Rice Casserole

Wednesday, December 26
No Meal - Christmas Break



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

News and Updates

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

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

The Sharing Tree is decorated with paper stars.

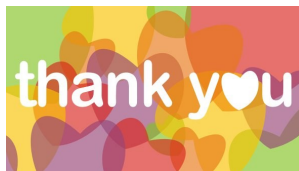
Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age, and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.

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

Thank you in advance for your donations!



Nursery Thank You!



Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who offer their time on Sunday morning to care for children in the Nursery during worship services!

Special thank to Amy McBroom for preparing the schedule of volunteers and to our St Olaf student, Hannah Wenzel.

It is truly appreciated!

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

From St. John’s Library at the beginning of the church year...

Advent may continue to be a “waiting time” for those who have been changing the appearance of the library. The long cabinet containing children’s books has been cut and placed back to back by the desk area. The shelves that were in that area have been repurposed over against the wall where the children’s books were. This has been a large labor task!

We wanted to make the books more accessible and the room more open and available for more types of small groups, as well as a place for parents to be with restless little ones. To do that, we had to make major changes in shelving the books. That meant an initial cooperation between the Adult Ministry & Education Board and the Property & Grounds Board. It meant packing boxes and boxes of books. It meant a lot of moving and carpentry. It meant that the Library Committee and Bill Carlson, Gordon Mickelsen, and Char Carlson (plus other helpers) put in hours of labor to create what look like new shelves. And now it means unpacking and evaluating those boxes and boxes of books.

Thank you to all who have lived the connection of our sense of the *Church being the people* - who need a place to meet, hence the necessity of taking care of that place. The library is a part of that place, where all ages can find books that may meet a particular need or enjoyment. We will put Christmas books on the display shelves for you to enjoy during Advent.

If, when you read a book from the library, you come across a particularly short, concise passage that you think others might enjoy, make a note of that in the book when you return it. Perhaps we can create a place to display those wise words.

Books can be checked out for two weeks (make a note to yourself of the date). Please put last name and telephone number or email on the card and leave in basket on desk. Books can be returned through the slot in the desk.

St. John's 150th Anniversary Oral History Project from November 2018-December 2019

As part of the celebration of St. John's Lutheran Church 150th anniversary, the Evangelism & Communications Board will be conducting oral history interviews that will help to preserve the history of the Church and the experiences of our long-time members.

In some cases, the interviews may involve video. For example, if a church member has contributed visual art or has particular artifacts that need to be documented visually, the interview can help to document that visual art.

The oral interviews will be digitally archived at St. John's and in the Northfield History Collaborative archive. Excerpts from oral interviews will be available on the St. John's website beginning in Spring 2019. Excerpts will not be posted on the St. John's site unless the interviewee provides written permission for sharing of the interview.

The interviews will be conducted at the convenience of the interviewee. We anticipate that most of the interviews will take place on Sunday morning between services. An interview will likely be 20 to 30 minutes long.

The interview will not require preparation. Questions will be general, with a focus on the particular interests and experiences of the church member. If you would like to contribute your oral history to the project, please send a note to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Mark Gleason, mjg6601@gmail.com, chair of the Evangelism & Communications Board.

You're Invited! Be a Hospitality Volunteer for Special Christmas Services

Our whole congregation is responsible for finding volunteers to serve at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services (four total). Please sign up in the Commons or online to:

- Greet at the Southwest and Commons Doors and attend the Welcome Desk
- Prepare and Cleanup from Communion

The December Hospitality group is responsible for the FIVE (not the usual four) Sundays in December! Since we have fixed membership in hospitality groups we do not ask group members to take care of the special services we have this month.

Questions? Contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Shared Ministry

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

**December 25
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**



Sign-ups for the Community Christmas Dinner are underway in the Commons between services and during the Wednesday Night Meals for donations of food and labor from members of the congregation.

Workers are needed to help with set-up on the 24th. Then on the 25th, many more helpers from the church are needed in the kitchen and in the dining room.

Also needed:
Donations of food, including salads, desserts, and potato bakes.

Come see us and sign up!

We welcome your contribution!

the **WOMEN'S** page

December Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Taking December off
Enjoy your family

Breakfast Women's Group

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

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Dec. 13, 1:30p
Jo Kleber's home
616 Meldahl Lane

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:00a
Anita Hellie's Home
1129 Heritage Drive

Mary Circle

Friday, Dec. 14, 1:00p
Jo Olson's home
516 Southbridge Dr.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Dec. 13, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Dec. 13
10:00a Fireside Room

Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Dec. 4 & 18 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. Dec. 17 & Thu. Dec. 20
8:30a - noon, Fellowship Hall



ANNUAL KINGS ROOM LUNCHEON

Carols in the Commons

Delightful Music, Delicious Food

Thursday, January 3, 11:30, \$15

RSVP: Sign up at the Women's bulletin board, or call, or

email Mary Holleque (218.290.1204/
holleque40@hotmail.com) before Dec. 30

Car pool from St. John's at 11:00 and bus from NRC

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BABY KITS

27 layettes were packed and delivered on Oct. 31st. Thanks to Angie Gehring.

Remaining inventory:

0 diapers	24 large pajamas
0 large t-shirts	49 small pajamas
4 small t-shirts	58 diaper pins
4 bars of soap	76 jackets/sweaters with matching caps
several pairs socks	114 hand towels
123 blankets	
77 extra sweaters in need of caps (size 24 months)	



Drop donations in the bin under the Women's bulletin board.

Visit our web page:

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

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

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

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

Free Legal Clinic to Open in December

This summer, realizing that our capital campaign was exceeding our original goals, the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board selected a fifth project to support in the Northfield community. We had a proposal from the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota to provide regular legal aid in Northfield for low-income people needing legal advice in immigration matters.

Serendipitously, the Community Action Center was at the same time working with the Volunteer Legal Network to expand free legal aid in Rice County. These efforts came together as three congregations - St. John's, St. Dominic's, and Northfield United Methodist Church, committed to support a free legal clinic. St. John's grant from our Grace Overflowing Campaign will provide staffing from the Immigration Law Center, St. Dominic's is providing space, and NUMC will be the hub for volunteers to assist the clinic.

The clinic is opening one afternoon a month starting in December. On Thursday, December 11, there will be a service of blessing and public opening of the clinic bringing together the congregations and the agencies. All are invited! Join us **Thursday, December 11, at 1:00 p.m.** at St. Dominic's Church.

Thank You St. John's Quilters!

Eloise Arnold, a 12 year old Northfielder, decided a year ago that she wanted to do something to help homeless people in Northfield. She put up some hand printed signs around asking for quilts and other donations. St. John's quilter, Kathy Vang, saw a sign posted at Hogan Brothers Café. Kathy had 4 quilts she had recently made and Jane Rinehart delivered them to the Arnold home. A few weeks later, Kathy had another quilt ready for Eloise.

Peggy Hanson, another St. John's quilter, is assisting with making more quilts.

Eloise is working with the CAC and the Key to distribute her gifts to the homeless. She hopes to have 20 gift bags, each with a quilt and needed personal items, to distribute in December.

A collection box is still up at Hogan Brothers Café.



Dear quilters of St. John's,
Thank you so much for
the awesome quilts for
my homeless project.
I really appreciate them.
Sincerely,
Eloise Arnold



Eloise Arnold and her mother, Katie.

News and Updates



Pub Theology Moves to Fall Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

It is conversation led by

Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate.

Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (location TBD).

December 3

December 17

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.

News and Updates

It's Easy! Direct a Holiday Gift to St. John's!

If you are an eligible member of Thrivent Financial, don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program is directed to our ministry among youth and to the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2019, to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Don't let Choice Dollars expire. (Note: Eligibility is based upon premiums and contract values - not all members of Thrivent are eligible).



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**
Connecting faith & finances for good.

Christmas Cards that Help End Hunger

Bread for the World sells Christmas Cards, and the proceeds support their work to end hunger. The new 2018 card features "the Holy Family," an illustration created by Doug Puller, senior design and art manager at Bread for the World. A sample card and order forms are on display at the Welcome Desk in the Commons.

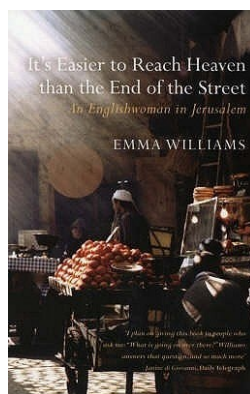
Ten cards and envelopes cost \$15 (includes shipping). You may order cards by writing a \$15 check to Bread for the World (Design A for the Holy Family card) and mailing to 425 3rd St. SW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20024. For faster processing and delivery, or to pay by credit card, shop online at bread.org/store. You can view other card designs online. Card can also be ordered by calling 800-822-7323.



To ensure delivery in time for Christmas, order by December 7.

Book Group Read Account Continues on Palestine/Israel

Learn the true and shocking consequences of the conflict between Israel and Palestine at a community book discussion that will be held at St. John's on Tuesday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.



We will be reading Emma Williams book: *It's Easier To Reach Heaven Than The Other Side Of The Street.*

No previous knowledge of the subject surrounding Palestine and Israel is necessary. If you are not able to read the book you are still welcome. You are responsible for purchasing your book.

For more information contact Darlene Hand at 507-645-5078.

From Bread for the World

Recently the Trump administration released a proposed rule that could deny green cards (permanent residency) to legal immigrants who have used, or might use, safety-net programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid. This new rule could also penalize low-income immigrants, families with more than two children, people who have health conditions and anyone over the age of 61 and under 18. If this public charge rule is adopted, millions of immigrant families could be forced to make the impossible choice: use SNAP benefits to put food on the table and risk the chance of getting deported, or not accept help and suffer for lack of food or medical care.

The administration's rule could affect millions of legal residents in the U.S. - including children. Nearly one quarter of children in the U.S. have at least one immigrant parent and 9 in 10 of these children who would be most impacted are citizens. Immigrants are among those most in need of the programs targeted under the public charge rule as they experience hunger at twice the rate of other Americans. This would mean more immigrant families falling deeper into hunger.

The chilling effect is real. We are seeing more and more immigrant families afraid to use safety-net programs, even if eligible, for fear of deportation. Penalizing hardworking immigrant families and their children for using safety-net programs undermines our future workforce and weakens the economy.

Throughout scripture God calls us to act with hospitality for the stranger. Now more than ever we must stand with immigrant families who fear that despite their hard work they might still be deported just because they need a helping hand.

We can register opposition to the public charge rule by submitting a comment urging the Department of Homeland Security to withdraw this harmful rule. Go to <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org>. Scroll down and fill out the "submit a comment" form. Draft your comment or use the sample comments provided. Click "Submit Comment." (Your comment will automatically be submitted to the public register.) Using social media, urge others to act.



Mark your calendars...
**St. Olaf Choir
Breakfast**
January 13, 2019
Can you help?
Contact
sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

carolbenson@gmail.com

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

rejoiceringers@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Melissa Berthelsen

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Mary Kelvie

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Support Staff

Emerson Clay

Angie Gehring

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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

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

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Early Deadline for the Voice!

With the holiday season upon us and a need to keep communication flowing - the deadline for the January Voice is EARLY!

*The deadline for January's Voice is
Friday, December 7.*

Please get submissions in by the deadline. If articles are not in, they will not appear in the January edition of the Voice.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Annual Meeting Reports!

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - the due date for reports is **Friday, December 14.**

Please get the reports in on time!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 20.