

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 10

DECEMBER 2019



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

Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Fair

Wednesday, December 4, from 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 11 and 18, at 6:15 p.m. Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship at 10:45 a.m. (see page 11 for additional information)

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, 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 - Wednesday, December 25

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

Sunday, December 29

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

LIVE BROADCASTS 8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM kymnradio.net TV BROADCASTS NTV Channel 187 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Mondays 1:00 p.m. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

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

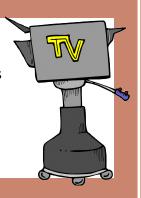
Live Broadcasts

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



TV Broadcasts

9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Mondays 12:00 a.m. Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Fridays NTV Channel 187



WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need; leave something when blessed."



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

From Our Pastors...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At the start of our journey toward this 150th anniversary year, we asked ourselves a lot of questions:

- How could we invite everyone into celebrating?
- What opportunities for connecting with the community could this landmark year bring?
- What changes in our space would make it more welcoming and more sustainable for the future?
- How could celebrating 150 years launch us into the future?

It was the latter question that drove our decisions around our capital appeal and the benevolence projects. We felt that a simple celebration of the past was not enough. If God is the God of the living, then any look to the past needed to have lessons for the future.

I'm so grateful for the many decisions by many different people that helped us on this journey. Knowing what we really intended this anniversary to be about helped us let go of some good ideas that finally would have added to our busy-ness, but not to our deeper purpose in celebrating Grace Overflowing.

And as we enter into the holiday season of 2019, I find myself asking similar questions. What is God calling us to do NOW with our beloved Christmas traditions and practices?

There is much to preserve and continue: singing together, creating crafts at the Advent Fair, celebrating the gifts of children in our community, reaching out to others in Northfield through Operation Joy and our annual Christmas Dinner, taking time in quiet and candlelight on Christmas Eve.

But then there's the loud, clanging demand of our culture that we turn this "holiday season" into a shopping season - the sense that every spirit of the season has to be materialized in a holiday purchase. In a planet groaning under our excesses, I find myself wondering how we might pursue LESS of the things that burden our planet and MORE of the things that really speak to the peace of Christ.

I challenge us all to take a moment - as soon as possible - to set an intention for the season ahead. What are the relationships that are most important to you? How can you honor them with things that have no price tag? What can you let go of because it no longer truly adds to your sense of the real gift of Christmas, God-with-us?

The peace of Christ, which truly passes all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds as we celebrate this holy season.

Blessings,

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9 3

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 2, 2018 Rodney Helgeson

December 8, 2018
Mary Gasho

December 9, 2018 **Bette Quinnell**

December 18, 2018 Clifford Gilomen

Stephen Ministry: A Simple, Powerful Way to Care for People Who Are Grieving

St. John's Stephen Ministry offers personal care giving for anyone who is going through a difficult time. But those who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one will receive a gift of Journeying through Grief books, whether or not they have established a personal care giver.

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books given at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one. Author Kenneth C. Haugk, Pastor and clinical psychologist, writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical understandings, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.

When a friend or family member loses a loved one, we want to show that we care. But we don't always know what to say or do. Journeying through Grief provides a practical, effective, comforting way to reach out in love and support. These books help grieving people understand their thoughts and feelings and provide them with a clear message of Christian hope. Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief - offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope.

Here are a few examples of the impact these books have had on others:

- "Each book came at just the right time and said just the right things. They reassured me that God was present even when I felt lost." Kathryn | South Dakota
- "The books are short and easy to read, and they've helped me see that what I'm thinking and feeling is normal during grief."

 lerry | South Carolina
- "I slept through the night for the first time after reading the first book.
 It was such a comfort!"
 Kate | Washington

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from these books or would like a Stephen Minister to walk alongside whatever difficulties you may



St. John's Forums in December

December 1:

Gratitude - What Science & The Bible Have To Say, led by Sue Krautkramer (Sanctuary)

Gratitude. Why your body and brain like it! And, what the Bible has to say about it! Have you ever wondered how your thoughts effect your physical, mental, and emotional health? God sure did. We'll take a look at what science tells us about how our thoughts impact our lives and align it with what the Bible tells us about how we are to live.

December 8:

Room at the Inn - Housing in Northfield with Scott Wapota (Sanctuary)

CAC is excited to include St. John's in the early stages of its vision for a community-based affordable housing response at the old Manger Inn site. What was once an idea is becoming a tangible project and St. John's investment through it's 150th anniversary gift has been an instrumental catalyst in making this possible. CAC Executive Director Scott Wopata will present on the status of the project, the vision for the future, and the evolving role of the church in taking action as a leader in the community.

December 15:

Daniel Rift and the ELCA Mission Fund (Sanctuary)

St. John's is one of the leading congregations in support of mission, especially the work of ELCA World Hunger. Rev. Daniel Rift, who has worked with hunger, health, and disaster programs of the church for over 30 years, has come from the ELCA offices in Chicago to say thanks and bring good news of what is occurring in our work together. Our Gospel lesson for December 15 includes this promise: "the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Dan will bring stories of how these words have guided the service of the church. He will tell about ways in which these promises have become real through the efforts we support, sharing in God's work.

Mark your calendars for an Intergenerational Event! Christmas Dinner Workshop Sunday, December 22, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Elves of all ages are needed to decorate placemats, make table decorations and roll napkins for our St. John's Community Christmas Day Dinner.



Come join in the Christmas spirit of helping others while enjoying some carols, cookies, and camaraderie.

Life and Growth

Deaths

October 27, 2019 Gloria Knutson

November 3, 2019 Robert Noreen

November 10, 2019 JoAnn Smith







Radio Broadcasts

November 3, 2019
Given by
friends of St. John's.

November 10, 2019
Given by

Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

November 17, 2019

Given in memory of Mary Virginia Shaw by Joe Shaw and daughters, Nancy, Betsy, Margaret, and Mary. Mary Virginia died on November 22, 2014.

November 24, 2019

Given by Duane and Marie Benson.

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.

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Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

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

December 1 NO Sunday School

(Thanksgiving Break)

December 8 Sunday School

Toddler Time

December 15 Sunday School
December 22 NO Sunday School

(Christmas Break)

December 29 NO Sunday School

(Christmas Break)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

December 4

December 11 December 18

December 25 NO Programming

(Christmas Day)

January 1 NO Programming

(New Year's Day)

Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 15

10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

4th and 5th Grade CATechism Resumes

Wednesday, January 8



Christmas Books Available

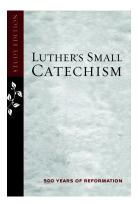
St. John's Library has many wonderful
Christmas and Advent books
and are available for
parents and children to check out some will be on display in the Library and
others will be downstairs by the Nursery.

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, short instrumental or vocal pieces for the Children's Christmas program on December 15.

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

Bowling Event for Kids Grades 2 - 5, January 27, NO SCHOOL DAY! Watch for more info!



Catechism for 4th and 5th Graders will resume on January 8

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 9/1/19) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

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



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

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

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!

Sunday Morning Youth Group

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

- December 1: No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Break)
- December 8: Did Jesus know he was God?
- December 15: If Jesus was God why did he die?
- December 22: No Youth Group (Christmas Break)
- December 29: No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

Confirmation for High School and Middle School Youth Groups

- December 4: Advent Fair
- December 11: Advent Vespers at 6:15 p.m. All are Invited
- December 18: Advent Vespers at 6:15 p.m. All are Invited
- December 25: No Groups (Christmas Dav)

The holiday break will be followed by a J-Term on January 8 that will be hosted at St. Johns, Bethel, and St. Peter's. Instead of the regular Wednesday youth programming, you be attending the classes you signed up for.

Registration for our 2020 High School and Middle School Mission Trips is Now Open

This year we are working with CSM and Serve Boldly mission partners to plan for two mission experiences in Denver. For more information, pick up a brochure in the Commons. The signup sheet is posted in the Commons and on the bulletin board by the Youth Room. For additional information contact Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Children and Youth



9th grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

Sunday, December 1 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 7 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 7, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where: Family Fare Supermarket

Sign-up sheets are in the Commons and outside the Youth Room or email Emmanuel at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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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

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.

Winter Book Read January, February, and March

Consider being part of a group reading and discussing a book a month during the winter season. The group will meet on the fourth Thursday in the Library at 1:00 p.m.: January 23, February 27, and March 26.

In January: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger. Virgil Wander is a curmudgeon owner of a movie theater in a small town on the north shore of Lake Superior - where a lot of living goes on!

In February: Dad's Maybe Book by Tim O'Brien, author of The Things They Carried about the Vietnam War. O'Brien, who became a father at 58, writes this nonfiction book to his young sons.

In March: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, is a story of four orphan children in an Indian boarding school in northern Minnesota in 1932 who escaped and canoed down the Mississippi River seeking a new home.

These books should be available in the local Northfield Library as well as at Content Bookstore and online.

Contact Genevieve Quarberg at <u>davidquarberg@hotmail.com</u> or talk with her or another member of the Library Committee (Anita Hellie or Merilyn Calcutt) to be part of the group.



Did something change?

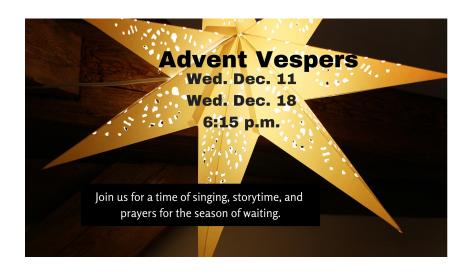
DID YOU MOVE?

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.



Community Christmas Dinner Alert

Thanksgiving is over and now it is time to look ahead to Christmas. Once again this year, St. John's will host a Community Christmas Dinner. And, once again, all members of the Northfield community will be welcome to attend. There is a saying ..."it takes a village"... and that phrase describes the Christmas dinner. We will need many workers for the dinner to be a success. We will also need contributions of food such as potato bakes, salads, and desserts.

We will begin recruiting volunteers for set-up, and for help in the kitchen and dining room as well as contributions of the food items on Sunday, December 1, and continue each Sunday until Christmas. Please look for our "sign-up" table in the Commons between services and consider being a part of this extraordinary event. Thank you in advance for your help!

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Sexuality Program for High Schoolers

In early 2020, we will be offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality program for high schoolers. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for High Schoolers. Sign-ups will begin in early January (with priority given to older high schoolers, should space be limited), and parents will be expected to attend at 2-hour parent session prior to the start of O.W.L. More info will be coming out in the near future, but for now, if you are interested, please save the following dates for O.W.L.:

- February 22: Morning/Afternoon Retreat
- February 26: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- March 4: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- March 11: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- March 18: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- April 1: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- April 25: Morning/Afternoon Retreat

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 4
Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Salads

Wednesday, December 11
Tater Tot Hotdish

Wednesday, December 18
Pizza Burgers

Wednesday, December 25 No Meal - Christmas Day



D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

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.



History of the Resurrection Window

The following excerpt is from a talk given by Jeffrey M. Sauve and Joseph M. Shaw on October 26, 2019, in honor of the St. John's 150th Anniversary. Sauve touched upon the Resurrection Window and its history. The window lovingly restored as part of the sesquicentennial campaign, "Grace Overflowing," is now permanently displayed in St. John's Hall.

Who Suggested the Resurrection Window?

In 1912, the Rev. John Nathan Kildahl, who at the time was the president of St. Olaf College and the interim pastor at St. John's, suggested the subject matter and sought the help of 37-year-old Andreas Larsen, a fellow Norwegian, and head of the stained glass department at the Minneapolis firm known as Forman, Ford and Co.

Larsen was born in 1876 in the county of Hedmark, Norway. He trained as an interior designer, and later moved to Nuremberg, Germany, to study painting, drawing, and design. Larsen also lived for a period in France before moving to New York in 1903. In 1909, he was hired by Forman, Ford & Co.

Larsen derived his design inspiration from the famous altarpiece painting "Easter Morning" by Norwegian artist Axel Ender. The 1887 work was installed in the newly erected wooden church in Molde, Norway, (at the time a city of fishermen near the Arctic Circle).

- As a matter of note: Ender's "Easter Morning" painting was rescued from the flames when the church caught fire in April 1940 due to the extensive bombing of Molde by Nazi Germany. In 1957 the Molde Cathedral was rebuilt, and within it today you will find Ender's work of art.

Who originally gifted the Resurrection Window?

At a cost of \$400, the Resurrection Window was given as a gift to St. John's by its Luther League. This organization for the young people of the congregation met every Sunday night at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. At those meetings, programs, consisting of talks, readings and musical numbers, were rendered.

And every month the Luther League held a social. Cost to attend the social was 10 cents. The net income from collections taken at the Sunday night meetings and monthly socials amounted to \$100 annually.

As a gesture to St. John's, in 1916 the Luther League assumed an additional \$500 debt held by the church and paid off the balance of The Good Shepherd Window (behind the choir loft). All total, the Luther League assisted St. John's to the tune of at least \$900 (or the equivalent of \$20,806 in today's money).

What was the plan to unveil the Resurrection Window?

The original intent of St. John's was to dedicate the new church on Easter Sunday, March 23, 1913. Construction crews worked feverishly to meet the deadline.

History of the Resurrection Window

Continued from page 10

The Resurrection Window was completed by the first week of March and placed on display in the offices at Forman, Ford and Co. According to a newspaper account the Resurrection Window was "viewed and admired by many with artistic interests." The newspaper also exclaimed, "There is no doubt that it will become the most artistically executed window in any Norwegian church in America."

But Easter came and went, and St. John's was still under construction. A Northfield News account of March 29, read: "Doors and windows have now been installed in the new St. John's Lutheran Church and the work of the carpenters was completed yesterday. The large window in the rear shows three scenes of the Resurrection and is copied from a painting which is in the church at Molde, Norway."

The old St. John's Church at Fourth and Washington was used for the last time on April 13. The dedication of the new church took place three weeks later on May 4. The old church was sold to the Northfield Seed Co. for storage.

Why was the Resurrection Window removed?

In the early 1960s, St. John's underwent a major renovation, including the removal of the Resurrection Window. The Northfield architectural Firm of Sovik, Mathre, and Madson, explained the window change:

"The deep red chancel window was intended to give a strong direct color experience that might make it more appropriate as a Resurrection Window for our time than the more literal "Open Tomb" portrayed in the previous glass window.

- Jeffrey Sauve





St. John's 150th Anniversary

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

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

The program, "Christmas Everywhere", is performed by children in preschool-grade5. If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429.

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

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



DECEMBER 2019

December Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Dec 7, 4:30-6:00pm Julie Zdenek's home 2121 Ontario Ln

Breakfast Women's Group Saturday, Dec 14, 8:30am St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Dec 5, Noon potluck Jo Klebers' home 616 Meldahl Lane

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Dec 11, 10:00am Study and Luncheon Anita Hellie's home 1129 Heritage Dr.

Mary Circle

Friday, Dec 13, 1:00pm Jo Olson's home 516 Southbridge Dr.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Dec 12, 9:30am Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls) Thursday, Dec 12 10:00am Room 19

Knitters (World Vision) Tuesday, Dec 10, 10am Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. Dec 16 & Thu. Dec 19 8:30am - noon, Social Hall



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS BOLD WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

December 12, 1:00pm

Parkview West, Northfield Retirement Community Theater and Fireside Room

Join us as we view the film "From Our Mothers' Arms," — historical perspectives of our founding Mothers, and the profound impact of women on the church in the 20th century, through interviews of St. John's women. We'll be treated to some stories about our foremothers, as told by Edna Hong from "The Book of a Century," and partake of holiday treats.



Delightful music, led by Carol Benson, and delicious food are always the fare at our annual post-Christmas luncheon. Reservations needed. Sign up at the St. John's Women bulletin board or call Julie Thorsheim 612.384.4872. Carpool from St. John's parking lot at 11:00. Bus from NRC at 11:00. Cost is \$15.

A GOOD HOME FOR YOUR LOOSE CHANGE

Fellowship of the Least Coin is an opportunity to drop your loose change into a jar with prayers for women around the globe. Saved throughout the year and collected each May, these coins are used for grants to fund projects for women throughout the world through this global, ecumenical prayer movement linking prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation with "least coins." These prayer jars will be



FELLOWS

of the

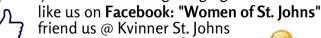
available in the Commons, for those who want to participate, dropping your loose change into a jar with prayers for women around the globe.

KNITTERS CORRECTION NOTICE

Please make a note in your 2019-2020 yearbook: World Vision Knitters meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Not the first and third.

Visit our web page:

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



(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" (7)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com



Library Words...From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

In December, the Library will showcase some Christmas books and several new books. It is our hope that many of you will come into the Library and check out one or more books. Merry Christmas!

Sensible Shoes, A Story About the Spiritual Journey by Sharon Garlough Brown is a novel with a most apt cover. A girl-child wearing sturdy boots and holding a doll is sitting on a strong piece of luggage. In this story the reader is quickly introduced to four women in their 20's to 50's who will be together at a spiritual retreat. Their lives and the spiritual practices of the retreat are woven together, threading the reader into both story and practice. So much so, you will want to continue reading the three following books in the series to see what happens to those women: Two Steps Forward, Barefoot, and An Extra Mile. For the four of them, as for us, life gets messy, complicated, and challenging.

Rachel Held Evans book *Inspired*, Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again examines and retells Bible stories through memoir, short stories, soliloquies, and a short play, giving words to doubts and questions and understanding.

Teachers continue learning not only what they teach but from the students they teach. Barbara Brown Taylor writes of that in *Holy Envy*, Finding God in the Faith of Others, her memoir of years of teaching Religions of the World at Piedmont College in the foothills of the Appalachians.

The novel *The Plover* (a small boat) is written by Brian Doyle, a language gymnast whose faith is grounded even on the Pacific Ocean. The narrator wants to get away, and is on a small boat alone. However, he meets other intriguing people as well as birds and storms. There is a map indicating the voyage of *The Plover*, but somehow the story takes place in some other-defined world. Delightful and provocative!

A suggestion: Among Brian Doyle's many wonderful writings, he wrote A Book of uncommon Prayer, 100 Celebrations of the Miracle and Muddle of the Ordinary. It would be a great Christmas-stocking gift.



News and Updates

Operation Joy! (Sharing Tree) Nov. 17 - Dec. 8

The Christmas Sharing Tree, with now titled "Operation Joy" is a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, and will be displayed in St. John's Commons from November 17 - December 8.

The Sharing Tree is decorated with paper ornaments.
Each ornament 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, under the tree by Sunday, **December 8.**

Thank you in advance for your donations!



DECEMBER 2019

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, 2020, to direct any remaining 2019 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to <u>Thrivent.com/thriventchoice</u> 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).



Alice Hanson Church Music Interns

In 2013, St. John's received an exceedingly generous bequest from the estate of Dr. Alice Hanson, Professor of Music at St. Olaf College and long-time member of St. John's Chorale. Some of these funds were used to establish a Church Music Internship program, bringing students from St. Olaf down the hill for real world experience in leading church music.

Each year, these interns have sung with the St. John's Chorale, accompanied the choir and congregation, worked with our children's choirs, and enhanced our worship with their own vocal and instrumental skills. After graduation many of them have gone on to music leadership in congregations like St. John's.

Since they spend much of Sunday morning in the balcony, you may not be familiar with their faces. Here is the 2019-2020 class of Alice Hanson interns:

St. John's Chorale

- Soprano: Amanda Goldberg, junior, hometown Pompano Beach, FI
- Alto: Emily Chmielewski, senior, hometown Hales Corners, WI
- Tenors: Noah Han, junior, hometown Staples, MN Richard Spahn, sophomore, hometown DeKalb, IL
- Bass: Eugene Sandel, sophomore, hometown Brown Mills, NJ

Children's Choir Intern - 2019-2020

Jenna Leonard, junior, hometown Jordan. MN

Handbell Choir Intern 2019-2020

• Eric Kvasnicka, senior, hometown Mahtomedi, MN

Richard Spahn

Eugene Sandel



Emily Chmielewski



Noah Han

Save the Date! Children and Youth Fun-Raiser Pancake Breakfast!

Sunday, February 9

This breakfast will be served between worship services by the children and youth programs, as a way to serve our church community and raise extra money for programming and summer trips.

Look for more details to come in future editions of The Voice.



From the Peace & Justice Group

On December 10, people around the world will mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Do you know what these rights (your rights) are? If not, check out the UN's website: https://www.un.org/en/events/ humanrightsday/index.shtml

Learn about the women who shaped the universal declaration of human rights. An article about these women is posted on the Peace & Justice bulletin board in the Commons.

Download an illustrated copy of the declaration.

Universal human rights apply to each and every one of us....

"Where, after all,
do universal human rights begin?
In small places,
close to home - so close and
so small that they cannot be seen
on any maps of the world.
[...] Unless these rights have meaning there,
they have little meaning anywhere.
Without concerted citizen action to uphold
them close to home, we shall look in vain for
progress in the larger world."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Connect with Rice County Habitat for Humanity: Using our Faith to build Affordable Housing by Brent Nystrom

As a member of St. John's and also the board president of the Rice County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, I have experienced the many ways members of the St. John's congregation have supported our local Habitat. I know many of you have given your time and expertise on build sites around the county, have provided food for volunteers on the build sites, and also given donations with direct gifts to the cause. Thank you! Our church annually allocates a portion of their budgeted benevolence dollars to Habitat, and you may remember that recently \$20,000 of our one time 150th Anniversary benevolence for local nonprofits was allocated to Habitat.

But of course there is always more to be done: there are many, many ways to help Habitat with your volunteer time! I wanted to share with you below several specific opportunities for you to participate in the coming year to help the organization.

- 1. Volunteer on a Build Site: Believe it or not, we are currently building two houses in Faribault and will be doing so through the winter. St. John's has registered to provide 4 Build Volunteers and a Lunch Provider on Thursday, December 12. You will find opportunities to fill these roles in coming weeks via the news blast and in with in person sign-up sheets in the Commons between services. Construction knowledge is not necessary, and Habitat will provide all the tools and materials along with a skilled construction manager to guide you through the day. Must be 18 and older to work on the site. And though we are responsible for lunch on our day, the sites are always looking for meals paper products and beverages always provided.
- 2. Volunteer to be a 'Faith Builder' for St. John's: There are a small group of members (Jerry Kipp, Christy Hall-Holt, Chuck Houge, and Brent Nystrom) that will be gathering regularly to advocate for and provide information and opportunities about our Habitat Rice County chapter to St. John's members. We're just one of the churches across Rice County that have Faith Builder teams. Please contact any one of us in church or see the contact information below if you have interest in joining us and helping spread the word for Habitat.
 - **Donate:** The easiest way to contribute dollars is by visiting the Habitat website at www.habitatricecounty.org and finding the 'Donate' tab. Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is also a possibility if you are a Thrivent Member. Every dollar counts! Consider participating in our "Buy a Foot Campaign." For \$133.93 you can "buy" a square foot of one of our houses. Your donation is tax deductible and will directly impact our 2020 build season.
 - Be on the lookout for information on our 'Faith Build.' Spurred by St. John's own 150th gift, Habitat is planning to build a home in Northfield in 2020 with resources coming exclusively from faith communities in Rice County. Churches will provide both the dol-

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The ELCA's AMMPARO Program

As Christmas draws near and we ponder what the birth of the Christ means to us and for our world, our thoughts turn to those around the globe who seek the hope, love and peace that the Christmas story promises, yet do not find in their daily life experiences. Around our world women, children, and families live lives full of desperation, hatred, violence, and poverty. This is especially true in the Central American countries of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Many from these countries make the painful decision to leave the only community that they have known and loved, leaving everything behind, to start the arduous journey toward the United States to claim legal asylum.

In 2014 a surge of immigration from Central America began. During the next few years the rise of children traveling alone to cross the U.S. border caused many agencies to sound an alarm. In January 2017, as part of the ELCA global ministry and in response to the ever growing numbers of immigrants migrating from Central America, the ELCA initiated the AMMPARO program to guide congregations in their response to this crisis.

According to the ELCA website, the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities) program was established to answer the call to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many vulnerable communities, to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children, to advocate for these children and their families, and to accompany them through their journey.

The word "amparo" in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA's AMMPARO strategy was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children, and now families, who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic and systemic violence, extreme poverty, environmental displacement, and lack of opportunities. Due to the ELCA connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children and their families are protected.

As the numbers of immigrants continues to increase, ELCA churches are being invited to join the AMMPARO network. In response to an invitation from our SE MN Synod to become part of the ELCA Welcoming Congregations Network of AMMPARO, an advisory committee formed, members include: Kathy Schuurman, Jo Franklin, Dawn Tommerdahl, Kristi Wermager, Jon Kerr, and Eric Sponheim.

Committee members have committed to do the following for and with the congregation:

1) provide regularly scheduled adult educational opportunities, 2) submit weekly congregational prayers for immigrants and refugees, 3) write articles about immigration, and report any updates on advocacy and policy changes through the church newsletter and News Blast, 4) discern what our Northfield immigrant community members need,

News and Updates

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

Tai Chi Chih is a simpler version of the many forms of Tai Chi.

It is a mix of meditation and movements which are easy to learn and are suited for all ages and physical abilities.

The twenty soft, flowing movements are designed to improve balance, concentration, flexibility, and promote calm.

This practice can be done either standing or seated.

To learn more contact Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169 or redduncang36@gmail.com.

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



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DECEMBER 2019

Pub Theology Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

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

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

December 2

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

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

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



Connect with Rice County Habitat for Humanity: Using our Faith to build Affordable Housing

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lars (our 150th gift is the LEAD gift for this project) and the volunteer hours needed to build what is planned as a 'quad home' that will provide housing for four families in Northfield. This is exciting news and we will need all the help we can get on this one, so stay tuned for more information as the planning moves forward.

Please feel free to contact me at brent.nystrom@gmail.com or 507-581-6715 if you would like more information on Habitat or any of the ways above to Volunteer, Donate, and Advocate.

The ELCA's AMMPARO Program

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advocate for those needs and seek spiritual and possible financial support from the congregation, 5) explore the possibility of a group immersion and service opportunity at the southern border with our partner organization, the Border Servant Corp based in Las Cruses, New Mexico through the SE MN AMMPARO group, and 6) to attend local and national AMMPARO meetings.

At their October meeting, the St. John's church council approved the motion proposed by the advisory committee to become part of the Welcoming Congregations of the AMMPARO Network.

Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, SE MN Synod writes, "Joining the Welcoming Congregation Network of AMMPARO provides the congregation with a concrete and feasible strategy for connecting local and global mission while increasing their witness and capacity for ministry to the immigrant community."

Through education and prayer may we as a congregation discern our calling and our response, so that we may meet the needs of our sisters and brothers in the immigrant community, and truly bring "joy to the world" in this Christmas season and in the months and years ahead.

For more information about the AMMPARO initiative visit: https://www.elca.org/AMMPARO

In Christ,

Kathy Schuurman, Chair, AMMPARO Advisory Committee

From Bread for the World

An Advocacy Impact Story from Bread for the World's 2019 Report: Young Evangelicals for Climate Action



Kyle Meyaard-Schaap is the national organizer and spokesperson for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (YECA). YECA was founded in 2012 by a handful of college students and young professionals who were frustrated with what they saw as a blanket portrayal of

all evangelicals as not "believing' in climate change or caring about its impacts. Its goals are both to change this image and to mobilize other young evangelicals and senior leaders to support activities to help slow climate change. YECA connects issues such as hunger and poverty with the values of discipleship taught in churches the young grew up in.

YECA recognizes that evangelicals are more likely to trust other evangelicals to give them information about climate change. Fellow evangelicals can explain how climate relates to their faith. "In a lot of these communities, climate change was not something taken seriously, and that was the belief young people absorbed," says Meyaard-Schaap. "At best, they were told that if this is something you care about, keep it separate from the church, it doesn't relate to church or faith."

Meyaard-Schaap first became aware of climate change when he was in high school and his older brother returned home from a study abroad program on faith-based ecology. He began to make his own connections between his Christian faith and environmentalism knowing that the Bible teaches that God wants us to care for creation. When he moved on to Calvin College and began to interact with professors and other students, Kyle grew in his conviction that, as a Christian, it was no longer possible for him to ignore the effects of climate change. The people most affected by climate change are our neighbors around the world.

Testimonies play a prominent role when YECA reaches out to other evangelicals. One of YECA's most significant advocacy achievements hinges on a testimony. In late 2014, YECA launched a campaign to encourage the board of directors of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) to adopt an official resolution on climate change. The NAE represents millions of Americans from nearly 40 denominations. YECA favored a resolution that recognized not only that climate change is real, but also that human activity is causing it. One of the board's more influential members was not yet convinced. It was a video testimony by a student at Ohio State University that moved the board member to reconsider and then to support the resolution.

In 2017, with the support of NAE, YECA held a lobby day. More than a hundred young evangelicals descended on Capitol Hill to alert their elected representatives that they care deeply about climate change and intend to hold leaders accountable for taking positive action.

Find the full Bread for the World 2019 Report at www.bread.org.

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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 13.

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 20*.

Please get the reports in on time!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26.