



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2024

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

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

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 11, at 6:15 p.m.
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary
with Holden Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship
with Holy Communion at 10:45 a.m.
(see page 12 for additional information)

Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 18, at 6:15 p.m.

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)
with glow sticks and Holy Communion
Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day — Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Dinner for All from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 29

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

LIVESTREAM

8:30 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

8:30 Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

7:30 p.m. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.

12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



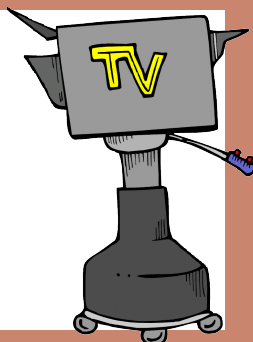
Radio Broadcasts

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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:13-14

Dear friends in Christ,

These concluding lines from Psalm 27 have been a favorite of mine for a long time now. They remind me over and over again that God is here, God is in this place, God is in the midst of the city (Psalm 46), even when we cannot see it just yet. Sometimes we just have to wait for the Lord. This is not waiting for the Lord to *show up* (even though it can feel like it at times), but rather it is waiting for our eyes to adjust in just such a way that we can see the God who is, who was, and who will be here with us now *in the land of the living*.

As some of you know, my family and I have been doing a lot of waiting this fall. In October, my mom, Barbara, was hit by a car while walking through a parking lot. She spent three weeks in the Neuro ICU and two weeks in rehab with a severe brain injury and a broken pelvis. This meant a lot of waiting rooms, a lot of waiting for the doctors to report back on the latest scan, and a lot of waiting to see if my mom would recover.

In many ways, it felt like the season of Advent in the hospital as we waited. Advent is a season of waiting. Expectant waiting. Waiting for Jesus to be born. Waiting for God's love to be born in and among us again today. Advent is the heart of hope and to hope is to wait.

Waiting has a way of slowing us down and urging us to focus simply on what is right in front of us. It has its own way of adjusting our eyesight to see more than we might normally notice. I found myself in awe of the little things. Like the extra gentle way a nurse washed and combed my mother's hair for 45 minutes. Or the old chaplain friend of mine who showed up not just for me, but also for my dad - more than once. Or the way a personal care assistant, who had been with my mom for the past 12 hours, said goodbye for the night, and tears of gratitude unexpectedly welled up within me.

Those moments felt like finally seeing the God for whom I was waiting. Which made the hospital feel a like Christmas too. not a sparkly Christmas but one that is as fragile and precious as a new baby wrapped in rags. In those five weeks, the hospital was its own kind of manger, where Christ was being born over and over again. In the faces of other loved ones waiting and in the countless acts of care, it felt like angels proclaiming, "God is here."

It has been a profound experience, journeying with my mom and family through this unexpected and unwanted time. In many ways, I'm still trying to make sense of it.

Now, though, I am delighted to share with you that she has been home for about two weeks. There is still recovery and healing to be done, but the fact that I could have a Thanksgiving meal with my mom this year is somewhat unimaginable from where we were in October.

Continued on page 5

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 these months last year.

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

December 17, 2023
Rose Youngquist

December 25, 2023
Van Miller

12 Things to Say to a Grieving Friend Instead of "Happy Holidays!"

I'm thinking of you during this season.

I'm here for you if you need to talk or just be together.

It's okay to remember and honor [deceased's name] during the holidays. I'm thinking of them too.

I know this season can be tough; I'm here to support you.

You don't have to put on a brave/merry face for me.

It's okay to grieve, no matter how long it's been.

Take it one day at a time. I'll keep checking in.

Your feelings are valid, and I'm here to listen.

If you need a break from the holiday rush, I'm here to help.

I'm lighting a candle/hanging an ornament/baking cookies this year in memory of [deceased's name].

I can run errands or help wrap gifts if you need.

If you'd like, we can adjust our plans to make this holiday more low-key and peaceful.



help TEXTS

#12DaysofGriefmas

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias again this year. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, the order form will be available in the church office and on the website. Plants are \$20.

The last day to place your order is Wednesday, December 18.



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

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

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

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

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

There was one thing I did not have to wait for, however, in all of this: your care. People of St. John's, I am beyond words for all of the compassion and love we have received from you all. The prayers, the cards, the meals, the check-ins - it has all been just right and just what we needed. Thank you, from the deepest chamber of my heart, for walking alongside us through this. Thank you for being the Church. I will not forget it.

So don't hesitate to send a card, make a meal, or check-in on someone this season. If you've ever wondered if those small acts make a difference, know that they do - more than you can imagine.

I look forward to waiting *with you* now, in the season of Advent - waiting for God to be born once again among us, in our hearts and in the world.

Peace and love,
Pastor Jonathan

Life and Growth

Baptisms

November 24, 2024
Samuel Walker Shumway
son of Brittany and Aaron Shumway

Deaths

November 14, 2024
Paul Klinefelter



Radio Broadcasts in November

November 3, 2024
Given in memory of
parents Louis & Lucille
and siblings Harold & Lana
by Kathy Vang.

November 10, 2024
Given by Karl Jacobson's family
in appreciation for the prayers of
St. John's congregation for Karl
for the past two years.

November 17, 2024
Given in memory of Bob Scholz
by Cora Scholz and family.

November 24, 2024
Given by Audrey and Bruce Moe
in memory of their daughter
Carolyn Moe Buzza.

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

December 8, 15

No Sunday School

December 22, 29 - Christmas Break

Wednesday After School Schedule

December 4, 11, 18

No Wednesday Programs

December 25 and January 1 - Christmas Break

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15, 10:45 a.m.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat
on Holy Communion

Saturday, January 25, 9:00-11:00 a.m.



Toddler Time

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

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

Here is the schedule for December:
December 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.



Blessings and Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who Received their Spark Bibles this Year

3rd Grade Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Memorial Bible fund.

Christopher Cox, Claire Gallagher Anders Loy,
Zemirah Smith, Noah Tacheney, Ozzie Taggart,
Jameson Taubel, Rily Welck, Emma Wilson

Third Grade Catechism Retreat Saturday, January 25

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Saturday, January 25, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at St. John's.

If you are unable to attend, please email Julie Brehmer at 501-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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

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

Wednesday afternoons:

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

Sunday Mornings:

- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Thanks!

Why do we do this?
"To care for each other as we learn to
live Christian lives together"
Wednesday Night Programming
Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 p.m.

All Youth: Middle School Confirmation and High School Youth Group

December 4	Advent Fair
December 11	Advent Vespers - Community Ministry
December 18	Advent Vespers - Caroling
December 25	No Programming - Christmas Break

Wednesdays in January
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Middle School Confirmation J-Term
(Grades 6-8)

In collaboration with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, and First UCC, four Northfield churches will once again hold a collaborative J-Term. The month of January will be a chance for Lutheran & UCC youth in Northfield to come together and explore a variety of topics through the lens of faith. Use the QR code to sign up online.



- January 8, 15, & 29 (February 5th held as a snow day)
- January 22 J-Term Fun Day, Details TBA

High School Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)

High school meets with Pastor Jonathan during the month of January in the Youth Room.

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 practice telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

- No Youth Group December 1, 22, & 29 and January 19

Children and Youth

Mentor & Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a meaningful experience that we take seriously.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as a Mentor/Mentee Sunday. If necessary, mentoring pairs can make arrangements that fit their schedule.

Service Project Events are also meant to put our faith into action and to enhance the Mentor/Mentee relationship. Opportunities for community events will be in the E-Voice, The Voice, and on the St. John's website.

Mentor/Mentee Sundays Coming Up
December 1
January 5



the WOMEN'S page



December Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Dec. 7

4:30-6:00pm

Lori Skoglund's home
2001 Michigan Dr.

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Nov. 14

1:30pm

St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Dec. 11

10:00am

St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, Dec. 13

1:00pm

Jo Olson's home
516 Southbridge Dr.

Wellspring

(GenXers)

Tuesday Dec. 3

6:30-8:00pm

St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Dec. 14

9:00-10:30am

St. John's Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday

10:00am St. John's Library

Night Knitters!

1st & 3rd Wednesday

6:00pm, St. John's Library

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays

9:00am - noon

Fellowship Hall

from the kitchen of: St. John's Women

Recipe: Christmas Cheer - Triple recipe

Date: Saturday, December 14, 2024

Ingredients:

- baked cookies
- candies
- tissue paper
- boxes
- ribbon
- tape
- coffee/tea/cider
- women
- laughter
- Christmas music

Directions

9:00-10:30 Make Christmas cards and assemble boxes (materials provided). Bring 3 dozen cookies to St. John's Hall before 11:00.

11:00-12:00 Stuff boxes with goodies and cards

12:00-?? Help deliver goodies to St. John's shut-ins

Yield: 60+ boxes & cards

Please sign up to 1. help in person, to 2. donate cookies, or 3. help deliver to shut ins. Or make a whole morning out of it! Sign up Sundays, December 1 & 8, between services, or online: Log in to St. John's CCB website, on the home page, scroll down the right side, choose "WELCA Event Needs," choose "Christmas Cheer Tripled," or contact a WELCA board member or email women.stjohns500@gmail.com.



A GIFT OF MUSIC

Christmas 2020 found us still homebound because of the pandemic, but our fearless worship director tickled our ears with delicious treats of our favorite Advent and Christmas music via live-stream. WELCA recorded many of those performances and created a gift for you of

Nathan's preludes and postludes of the Advent/Christmas season 2020. Take some time this holiday season to tune in to the sounds of the season. Find the link on our website by Googling: StJohnsNorthfield.org/Programs. Choose the first site and enjoy! (if you can't find it, email Women.StJohns500@gmail.com and we'll send you the link)





Women's Little Christmas Celebration Saturday, January 4 - 11:30 - 1:30 St. John's Hall

Nollaig na mBan (*Women's Little Christmas*) is celebrated on Epiphany in Ireland and elsewhere offering an opportunity at the end of the holiday season to celebrate with friends and to gather ourselves before diving into the year ahead. This day invites us to pause, to rest, to reflect. It will be a time to enjoy traditional Irish food, Irish carols, camaraderie and more. Sign up in the Commons before or after church services in December. Tickets are \$15 each.



Volunteers needed:

If you'd like to help make this a celebration to remember please sign up online. Log in to St. John's CCB website, on the home page, scroll down the right side, choose "WELCA Event Needs," choose "Women's Little Christmas," or contact a WELCA board member or email women.stjohns500@gmail.com. We will keep the tasks small & not too time-consuming (a little chopping, baking, decorating). We also need about 10 crock pots. Please contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli if you have a crockpot we can borrow for 2 days.

Beginning in 2025, the St. John's WELCA will collect the annual Thank Offering at the January luncheon, rather than in November. The Thank Offering is given to the church-wide WELCA to support their ministries that include ground-breaking racial justice advocacy, award-winning publications, scholarships, and so much more. Bring your offering to the Women's Little Christmas in January, or, if you are not able to attend, please use the Thank Offering envelopes in the basket on the shelf by the Women's bulletin board in the Commons.



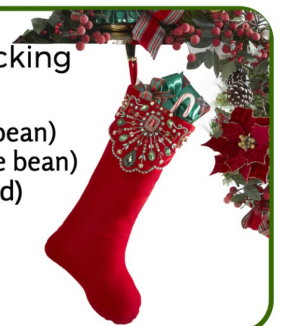
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IDEAS!

WELCA is selling body products from Thistle Farms, in the St. John's Commons, between services Dec. 1st, or through Dawn Tommerdahl (dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com, (507) 301-3625). Your purchase supports the Thistle Farms community, providing relief to women survivors of abuse.



Pick up Fair Trade stocking stuffers:

- Decaf coffee (ground/whole bean)
- Regular coffee (ground/whole bean)
- Flavored coffee (caffeinated)
- Tea
- Hot chocolate
- Chocolate bars



When you invest in women, entire communities heal.

Our social enterprise provides women survivors with free housing, healthcare, counseling, job readiness training, and employment for two years. Together we stand as a living testament that community is the oldest form of healing in the world.



News and Updates

Pub Theology in December

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

We will meet on Monday, December 16, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow.

The topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and an email list.

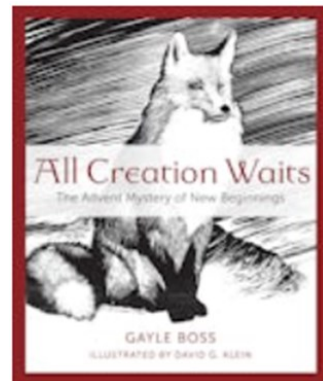
Contact Pastor Jonathan
(jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)
to add your name to the email list.



Advent Book Read: All Creation Waits

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

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



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

All Creation Waits Walk

As we ponder God's creatures in winter with the Advent Book Read, you're invited to a winter contemplative walk on Sunday, December 22, at 2:00 p.m.

Minnesota Master Naturalists Debra Miller and Pastor Pam Fickenschier will guide us through a sensory experience of noticing nature's ways. We will gather at the entrance to Hauberg Woods, near the intersection of Thye Parkway and Lockwood Drive.

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



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

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

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

St. Olaf Choir Scheduled to Sing at St. John's on Sunday, January 19

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 19.

They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in our worship services.

This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

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

Wednesday nights

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

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping out? Please contact Kristin Partlo at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks!

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, 2025, to direct any remaining 2024 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://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.

News and Updates



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

With gratitude

It is the season of giving and we have an abundance. How do we share? We always plan for benevolence. We donate locally and globally. We give in support of housing, health services and ELCA missions. We make food donations, stock the blessing box and deliver Meals-On-Wheels. We are college scholarships and a pastor's emergency fund. We are a Christmas dinner for the whole community. We are generous. We are blessed.

We are St. John's

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Information Session Sunday, January 12 10:00-10:30 a.m., Undercroft

This winter/spring, St. John's is offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality and relationship program for 10th-12th grade high schoolers. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality and relationships. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for High Schoolers. For parents and high schoolers looking for more information, Pastor Jonathan and Tamara will be leading an information session on January 12, in the Undercroft (downstairs) from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Here is what one youth has said, *"Although the conversations can be uncomfortable, I never regretted being part of them. I grew from my time in OWL and wish I could've had more of it. Don't waste this opportunity!"* Oden Hoff, St. John's High School, Class of 2022.

Tentative Schedule:

January 12 – OWL Information Session, 10:00am -10:30am
Feb 23 – Parents Only Session – *Required*, 12pm-2pm
March 1 – Opening OWL Retreat, TBD
March 5 – OWL Session, 7:30pm -9pm
March 12 – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
March 19 – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
April 2 – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
April 9 – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
April 14 – Closing OWL Retreat, TBD

If you have questions or if your high schooler is interested and ready to sign up, please email Pastor Jonathan at 507-645-4429 or jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



Wrapping up the Fall

Thank you so much to all the parents and to all the volunteers who supported the youth this fall in their events and milestones. In the last couple of months, we have celebrated with the 10th grade students as they affirmed their baptism and launched the 9th grade students into their mentor/mentee relationships.

Wednesday nights have been full of learning and exploration and fun. Both the middle school and high school students have been exploring themes of relationships in the Old Testament that are familiar to us today. So far, we've talked about rivalries and lies and forgiveness in the stories of Genesis. Additionally, we've learned about different ways to read the Bible and to look for what it tells us about who God is and who we are.

A small group of us went bowling on November 4th. On November 13th, we joined with the other ELCA churches in town (Bethel and St. Peter's) and First UCC, for a fun night with Pastor Steve Thomason – a.k.a. the Art Pastor – to learn a spiritual practice of doodling while listening for God. The event was a lead up to our collaborative “J-Term” confirmation during the month of January, whose theme is spiritual practices. Each week, Amy Rudser, Suzy Taggart, Steve Taggart, Anna Smith, Tony Brown and Louise Welbaum have been providing amazing adult presence and guidance for our small groups, reinforcing the message that we grow in faith in community. Tamara Jackman and Martin Thorsheim have also pitched in when we've been short-handed.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, support of, and greetings to these young folks. It is truly a gift to work and learn with them.
~Kristin

Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outside portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2024 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Online gifts can be given by December 26 via our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

News and Updates

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, or call the church office.



St. John's Advent Fair 2024

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.

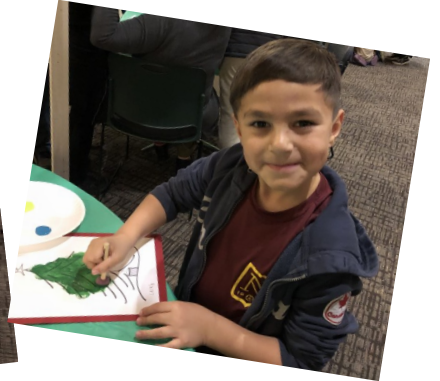
Free will offering appreciated!

Wednesday, December 4
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, December 11
Enchilada Bake

Wednesday, December 18
Chicken Noodle Cordon Bleu

Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day Dinner



Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a great way to support the on-going ministry of St. Johns, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at (507) 645-4429, or by email: office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. "I give electronically" cards are available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.



Sunday Hospitality

Who doesn't enjoy having a treat while visiting with friends, fellow church members, and guests?

If you can share a dozen or so treats, or would like to help with the serving or clean-up on any particular Sunday, you can either sign-up in CCB (a direct sign-up link can be found in the weekly E-Voice) or contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

It's a fun way to help foster connections among people and provide a welcoming atmosphere!

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (January 2025 Edition):

December 15

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

News and Updates

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Kristin Partlo

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and

Early Childhood Specialist

arielleloy@gmail.com

David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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Congregation President

Dan Franklin

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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
Wednesday, December 11.*

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, February 2.