



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2025



## Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

**Sunday, December 7 — Second Sunday of Advent**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 10, at 6:15 p.m.  
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 14 — 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 6 for additional information)

### Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 17, at 6:15 p.m.  
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, December 21 — Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### Christmas Eve — Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day — Thursday, December 25

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

### Sunday, December 28

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
with Holy Communion

## Inside this issue:

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**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
*Sundays*

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

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
*8:30 a.m. Sundays*

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

**LIVESTREAM**  
*Sundays*

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

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Livestream

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



### Radio Broadcasts

8:30 a.m. Sunday  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)



### Video

St. John's YouTube Channel  
[www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield](http://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield)



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

### WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

## From Our Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is that time of year again in the Davis Household. Just a few days after Thanksgiving, a beloved tradition begins - our kids start to argue over who gets to light the Advent Candles nearly every night at dinner time.

What is it about candles? During our Wednesday Vespers service for All Saints, we intended to have a moment during the short service where people could light candles in memory or honor of a saint in their life. But people just couldn't wait that long – some snuck up before the service to light one. During a community candle light service, it was planned to have a moment of lighting candles, but those who arrived ahead of time just couldn't wait. So, candles were lit early and just a stub of wax remained in their hand at the end. Candles have a way of bringing out the 8-year-old in all of us. People – young and old – just can't wait to light candles. Is it because it feels *a little* dangerous to play with that kind of fire? Is it because there is so much passivity in our culture that getting to *do something* – by your own hand – feels so good? Is it because there is such mystery in the flame itself that draws us in?

Throughout Christian tradition, candles have been used as a sign of God's presence, a sign of prayer, and a sign of hope. Modern day mystic, Cynthia Bourgeault, says that candles reveal the secret of our existence. She says, "In its outer, sensible form a candle is an object consisting of tallow and wick. But the real secret of the candle reveals itself only when the match is struck and the candle begins to burn. It gives of the materials of its outer form in order to release the heat and fragrance within. Only then do we see what a candle really is: its outer life is tallow and wick; its inner life is flame." The invisible becomes visible. This mirrors our human life, she says. Our outer life is flesh and blood and our inner life is spirit. Our purpose is to make the invisible visible - to spark a flame of aliveness within ourselves and within each other and in doing so we become midwives of the Spirit, releasing the energy and beauty of our divine aliveness to the outer world.

Meister Eckhart, a 14<sup>th</sup> Century mystic, once said, "What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God, and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture?...God is always needing to be born."

The candles we light during the season of Advent represent hope, peace, joy, and love. As you light these candles in the coming weeks, as you light candles at home among family or friends, as you hold a candle and sing "Silent Night", may you see the inner secret and may you feel a deeper awe – that the light of God has come into the world and into our lives. May that promise give birth to hope, peace, joy, and love within you and to those around you.

Blessed Advent and Christmas to each one of you,

*Pastor Jonathan*

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**

## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: [macisar@gmail.com](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 507-663-1097.

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



## 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.



## Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted many American Red Cross blood drives in the past few years, just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

### Upcoming Blood Drive

Monday, January 12, 12:00-6:00 p.m., in St. John's Hall.

You can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767.



## **St. John's Forum: Youth, Parents, and Screens with Michelle Martin Sunday, December 7, 9:45 a.m.**

Are you a parent or a grandparent who wonders about the effects of screens on your kids and grandkids? Are you worried about the effect of screens on our relationships with each other?

Michelle Martin, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Prairie Creek Community School and Minnesota Council for Social Studies 2018 Teacher of the Year, will present and lead a conversation around the role screens play in the lives of young people and our relationships with them. Join us for this conversation and you will leave with actionable ideas to help your children build healthy tech habits.

## **Welcoming Our Newest Members to St. John's**

Sunday, November 9, participants of our fall Accompany group engaged in the "Rite of Welcome" during our early worship service.

The Rite of Welcome is a special blessing for our newcomers led by the pastor with the participation of their sponsors. The congregation witnesses this and welcomes them into our church community with joy! We welcome:

*Trey Bilderback, Larry and Pam Enfield, Deb Erickson,  
David Nelson, Grant and Ella Sawyer, and Matt Svestka*

We are happy to have these beloved people among us! Thank you to their wonderful sponsors for supporting them: Michael Berger, Mike Bull, Chuck and Julie Cannon, Mary Hoff, Marty and Ashley Gallagher, and John Nelson.



## **Life and Growth**

### **Baptisms**

**November 16, 2025**

*Cameron Arthur Berthelsen  
Son of Joy and Erik Berthelsen*

### **Deaths**

**October 26, 2025**

*Joann Bell*

**November 1, 2025**

*Patrice Nordstrand*



### **Radio Broadcasts**

**November 2, 2025**

Given in memory of Guenther Moesler  
by Allene Moesler.

**November 9, 2025**

Given by David and Martha Brown  
in honor of Nathan Proctor  
and the music at St. John's.

**November 16, 2025**

Given by Sandra and Bob Nyvall in memory  
of and with gratitude for all our veterans.

**November 23, 2025**

Given in memory of Paul Klinefelter  
on his birthday from his family.

**November 30, 2025**

Given in loving memory  
of Carolyn Moe Buzza by  
Audrey and Bruce Moe.

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

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember

#### Sunday School Schedule

December 7, 14

No Sunday School on December 21, 28

#### Wednesday After School Schedule

December 3, 10, 17

No Wednesday Programs on December 24, 31

#### Advent Fair

Wednesday, December 3, 5:15-7:00 p.m.

#### Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Catechism Retreat on Holy Communion

Sunday, January 11, Noon-2:00 p.m.  
St. John's Hall



**Sunday, January 18**

**Pajama and Movie  
Morning during  
Sunday School!**

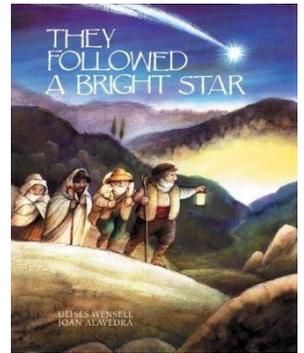
**Watch for more  
information!**

## Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 14

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

The program, "They Followed the Bright Star", is performed by children in preschool – grade 5.

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



### Kids! Would you like to be part of the Sunday School Christmas Program Offering Music?

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in providing music during the offering for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 14.

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

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders who Received their Spark Bibles this Year

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Memorial Bible fund.

*James Bennett, Etta Dimick, McKenzie Erickson,  
Frances Kaiser, Cora Nelson, Eloise Paulsen, William Toov*

## Why do we do this?

*"To care for each other as we learn to live Christian lives together"*

### Wednesday Night Programming

December - Wednesdays, 6:10-7:30 p.m.

All Youth: Middle School Confirmation and High School Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

- December 3 Advent Fair
- December 10 Advent Vespers Followed by Preparation for LOFTY and Caroling
- December 17 Advent Vespers Followed by Caroling (Drivers Wanted!)
- December 24 No Programming - Christmas Break

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

Middle School Confirmation J-Term

(Grades 6-8)

January 7, 14, and 28 (February 4 held as a Snow Day)



In collaboration with St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church, the three Northfield ELCA congregations will once again hold a collaborative J-Term. The month of January will be a chance for Lutheran 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.

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**

No Youth Group December 21 and 28.

- December 7 Youth Christmas Party!
- December 14 We'll support the Children's Christmas Program by Arranging Cookie Trays

### Third Grade Catechism Retreat Sunday, January 11

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Sunday, January 11, at St. John's. If you are unable to attend, please email Julie Brehmer at 501-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth



### Christmas Party!

All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to a Christmas party on Sunday, December 7, from 9:45-10:30 a.m. (the education hour).

Come for crafts, games, cookies, and fun time together.



### 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 7  
January 4

# the WOMEN'S page

2025  
December



## December Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Dec. 6, 4:30-6:00  
Rhonda Reece's home  
1009 Freedom Ct. N'fld

### Elizabeth Circle\*

Thursday, Dec. 11, Noon  
Potluck Lunch  
Jo Kleber's home  
616 Meldahl Ln, N'fld

### Lydia & Paul Circle\*

Wednesday, Dec. 10,  
10:00am - noon  
Bible study/Potluck  
St. John's Library

### Mary Circle\*

Friday, Dec. 12, 1:00pm  
Fireside Room

### Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Dec. 2, 6:30-8:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Room

### Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Dec. 13, 9-10:30  
Fireside Room

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)\*

Thursday, Dec. 11, 10:00am  
St. John's Library

### Evening Knitters

Wednesday, Dec. 3  
6:00pm, St. John's Library

### Wellspring Craft & Conversation

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 5:30-7:30pm  
Fireside Room

### Quilters & Bandage Rollers\*

Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18  
9:00am - noon  
Fellowship Hall

\*Please note changes in some  
December gatherings\*



from the kitchen of: St. John's Women

**Recipe:** Christmas Cheer

**Date:** Saturday,  
December 13, 2025

### Ingredients:

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

### Directions:

9:00 Bring 3 dozen cookies  
to St. John's Hall  
9:30-11:00 Stuff boxes with  
goodies and cards  
11:00 Help deliver goodies  
to St. John's shut-ins

**Yield:** 60+ boxes & cards

**Final Day to sign up:** Dec. 6

## LWR HONORS ST. JOHN'S WOMEN WITH A BRICK IN THE QUILT PLAZA AT LWR HEADQUARTERS



ST JOHN'S WOMEN  
1875-2025  
NORTHFIELD, MN

Thank you for reaching  
out as God's hand  
through this ministry.  
Through your gift, you  
bring comfort and  
hope to God's people.

## Annual Christmas Carol luncheon

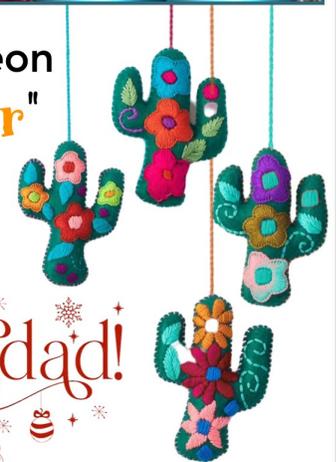
# "South-of-the-Border"

Saturday, January 3, 2026  
11:00am-1:00pm

Get your taste buds ready for a little  
spice and your ears ready for a  
few Spanish-influenced  
pieces of music.

# ¡Feliz Navidad!

Look for sign-ups in December.



Ruth's  House

## Urgent Supply Drive

Help us care for our shelter residents during difficult times

### Items needed:

#### Health:

Sippy Cups  
Diaper Rash Cream  
Reusable bibs  
OTC Ibuprofen  
Allergy Medication  
Pepto Bismol  
Chewy Tums

#### Cleaning supplies:

Bottle Brushes  
Laundry detergent  
Hand soap  
Toilet Cleaner  
Sponges and Steel Wool  
New Toilet Brushes  
Dish soap  
Disinfectant wipes & spray  
Fabuloso floor cleaner  
Gallon Freezer Bags

#### House goods:

Paper Plates  
Paper cups  
Toilet Paper  
Tissues  
Plastic Silverware



Collecting donations 11/10-12/08 at  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
1321 North Ave, Northfield, MN

## OUR CHANGE MAKES CHANGE



Don't forget to throw your spare change into your Cherish All Children mug! We'll have a fun event in the future when we all turn our mugs in and count the change! One mug has been filled to the tune of \$57.61! Our change can help make a change. (if you couldn't make it to the Birthday Bash & Hotdish Hoe Down you can get a mug directly below the Women's bulletin board in The Commons).



Thank you to all who helped at  
Mission Morning in November!  
Next Mission Morning:  
April '26

**Lutheran World Relief:**  
50 Baby Care Kits  
60 Personal Care Kits  
3 Quilts Tied

**Global Health Ministries:**  
119 Bandages Rolled  
80 Hospice Kits  
100 Infant Kits



## News and Updates

### VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

#### On Giving & Receiving

“ It is with a grateful spirit of abundance that we embrace generous giving in our own lives. And we know that same spirit is alive and well at St. John's, where, through God's grace, our gifts are multiplied and shared abundantly...so that all may one day have enough. ”

Anonymous

## Work for Justice with ISIAAH

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25: 35-36.

ISIAAH MN is an interfaith organization working for economic, racial, and climate justice for all Minnesotans. We believe we are called by faith not only to personal acts of kindness, but also to help build a society and government that cares for all its people. ISIAAH MN is working with similar organizations across the country to preserve and protect a strong democracy, so that we can continue building toward justice for all God's children and all the Earth.



On December 13, dozens of St. John's members will travel by bus to the Minneapolis Convention Center to gather with thousands of people from across Minnesota at "A Light in the Storm." Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths or no faith will be there. Child care providers, Black business people, and manufactured home residents will be there. Urban and rural residents, the young and the old will rally together. We will learn details about the specific legislation ISIAAH MN will promote, and how to help. We will learn about opportunities to resist authoritarianism together. We will be inspired to be part of a great cloud of witnesses, working together in faith and hope.

What can one person do? Join with others on December 13 and find your part to play. Scan the QR code, or contact one of us. Invite a friend – all are welcome, whether or not they attend St. John's.



“...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8.

ISIAAH at St. John's: Rod Christensen, Ron Hebensperger, Carrie Dauner, Dan Dauner, Elise Helland, Erik Holleque, Kristi Wermager

## St. Olaf Choir Scheduled to Sing at St. John's on Sunday, January 18

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 18.

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.



ST. OLAF  
CHOIR

## Save the Date...

### **Manna and Mercy Retreat with Rev. Alan Storey, April 24-25, 2026**

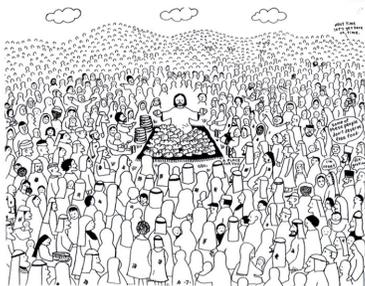
South African pastor Alan Storey is returning to St. John's to lead a *Manna and Mercy Retreat* on Friday evening, April 24, through Saturday, April 25. Alan came to St. John's in the fall of 2016 to lead this retreat, which had a lasting impact for many in our community. Alan is an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church of South Africa and is appointed to the Central Methodist Mission (CMM) in Cape Town.



His commitment to the peacemaking Jesus was tested early in life when he faced conscription into the apartheid regime's military. After spending a year of discernment working in Australia, he returned to South Africa, declaring he would never fight in the apartheid army – or any army. He was arrested and faced trial with a six-year prison sentence as the likely outcome. Alan's trial was abandoned, and he became the last conscientious objector to be tried in apartheid South Africa.

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

Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* (a book we use for Confirmation here at St. John's), Alan Storey will take us on a journey from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two days, with sensitivity to the contexts in which the scriptures were written and of our present day. We hope you will join us for this event!



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

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

## News and Updates

### **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, 2026, to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars.

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

### 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 3**  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

**Wednesday, December 10**  
Chicken Noodle Cordon Bleu

**Wednesday, December 17**  
Pizza Burgers

**Wednesday, December 24**  
No Meal - Christmas Break

**Wednesday, December 31**  
No Meal - Christmas Break

**WEDNESDAY**  
*Night Meals*  
Come share a meal!  
Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.  
St. John's Hall

## Sing with us! Join the Lifting Voices Choir!

Become a part of a vibrant, supportive community choir that understands and values your journey.

**Who can join?** People living with dementia and their care partners who join as a "duo" and also individual community volunteer singers. No singing or music reading experience required!

**What is rehearsal like?** Weekly 90 minute rehearsals with warmups, familiar songs, new music, and social time.

**Do we perform?** Yes! Each season ends with a community concert.

Join us weekly on Mondays starting January 19 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Fifty North, 1651 Jefferson Parkway.

Pre registration is available by contacting Michelle Brant at FiftyNorth at 507-664-3707 or email Kristin Kivell or registration forms are available on the Faith & Health Bulletin Board in the Commons. You are welcome to attend the first rehearsal on January 19 to check it out and register at that time as well.

Scholarships available to assist with the suggested \$50 donation/registration per singing duo. Please reach out to Sally Lindell (612-382-5292) or Susan Lohmann (507-271-3005) with questions about registration and/or scholarship.

## Lights Out for the Youth - LOFTY Two Dates to Note December 11 and December 21

Every night, 15 to 30 Northfield youth between the ages of 16-24 face housing insecurity. They find shelter with friends, neighbors, or... not at all. As a way to draw attention to this issue, please turn off any non-essential lights (especially outside) on December 21 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Consider a donation to the LOFTY project, which hopes to raise \$36,500, the amount needed for the Wallflower Project to support one youth for a year. Youth will help spread the word during Winter Walk on December 11.

**Help Out:** December 11  
Winter Walk – Spread the Word

**Lights Out:** December 21, 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Turn off any non-essential lights, especially those outside, to help direct attention to youth housing insecurity in Northfield.

Use this QR Code to donate to LOFTY or go to [lightsoutfortheyouth.org](https://lightsoutfortheyouth.org).



**Lights Out  
For the Youth**

## St. John's 2025 Community Christmas Day Dinner is Around the Corner!

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



To help make this wonderful dinner that is free and open to all successful, many volunteers and food donations will be needed. Watch for opportunities to sign-up beginning Wednesday, December 3, at the Advent Fair, continuing until Christmas.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Angie at 507-645-4429 or [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office.



### Share a Favorite Cold Salad Recipe

Ideas:

pasta, bean, potato, quinoa, rice, Mediterranean, fruit, Waldorf, etc.

Place a copy of your recipe in the designated box at the Welcome Desk.

We'll make copies of your recipe available for the taking at the Christmas Dinner sign-up table for those donating a non-leafy salad, looking for ideas.

Thank you!

### Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2025 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](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

## News and Updates

### St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday December 3

Celebrate the start of the Advent Season at St. John's Advent Fair!

Enjoy the Wednesday Night Meal along with Advent activities for all ages.

Feel free to bring friends and family!

**Time:**

5:15-6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Night Meal  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

5:45-7:00 p.m.

Advent Fair Activities, Crafts,  
Food Demo, Campfires and Smores

Fair trade sales of coffee, tea,  
and chocolate will be available.

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in December

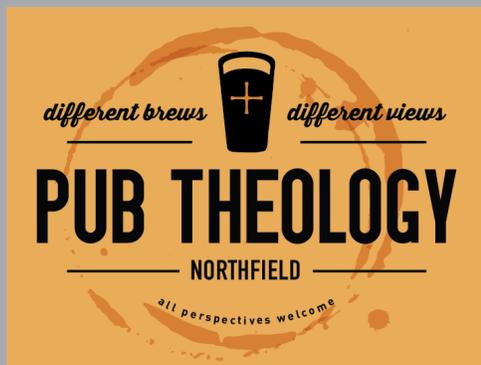
What is Pub Theology?

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

We will meet Monday,  
December 15,  
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice  
for location.)

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

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



## From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board thanks those who offered their ideas for ways to make a meaningful impact in our Northfield community. We want you to know, we are thoughtfully tracking your concerns and deciding the best steps forward.

One exciting project that B&SC Board members have been cultivating this past year is coming to fruition!

Recognizing the need for affordable housing in Northfield, St John's, through the generous support of the St. John's Foundation and additional money from the benevolence portion of the Capital Campaign, is providing the means for remodeling a Habitat for Humanity house right in our neighborhood, 315 Poplar St.



Habitat for Humanity purchased 315 Poplar St. last month and is taking action to make it ready for a new family soon. St. John's is already committed to financial support of the remodeling project, but we also hope to provide help on a physical level – “God's work, our hands” type of support. If you like to paint walls, lay floors, dig dirt or cheer people on who do these things, we have a spot for you. Keep your eyes and heart open for opportunities to offer acts of service in the coming months.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about how to apply for a Habitat for Humanity house, visit the Rice County Habitat for Humanity website.

<https://www.habitatricecounty.org/homeownership>

B&SC designations from our discretionary budget for October and November include the following organizations: Community Action Center (Food Shelf, Operation Joy, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors), Ruth's House, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Federation, Laura Baker, Northfield Union of Youth, and Clean River Partners.

In gratitude for your contributions,  
*The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board*  
*Andrea Hoff (Chair), Sara Bright, Wil Brosz, Andi Carlson, Kari Johnsrud and Nan Winsell*



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, on the website, or by scanning the QR code. Plants are \$20.



The last day to place your order is Wednesday, December 17.



## **Congratulations 2025 Confirmands!**

Wishing blessings and congratulations to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade youth who affirmed their baptisms on October 26, (from left to right):

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

## **St. John's Staff**

### **Senior Pastor**

*Pam Fickenscher*

[pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Associate Pastor**

*Jonathan Davis*

[jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Director of Children's Ministry**

*Julie Brehmer*

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

### **Director of Ministry with Youth & Families**

*Kristin Partlo*

[youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Music Ministry**

*Nathan Proctor*

[music@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:music@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Music Staff**

[jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

*Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist*

[arielleloy@gmail.com](mailto:arielleloy@gmail.com)

*David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers*

### **Office Manager / Finance Manager**

*Leah H. Garlie*

[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Parish Nurse**

*Sally Lindell*

[parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Shared Ministry Coordinator**

*Angie Gehring*

[sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Custodian Associate**

*Arturo Rosas*

### **Facility Manager**

*Steve Harner*

[facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### **Congregation President**

*Michelle Kramer-Prevost*

[mmko404@gmail.com](mailto:mmko404@gmail.com)



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**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 Wednesday, December 10.*

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 19.**

Please get the reports in on time!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25.