The Voice
OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2026



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Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Sunday, December 6 — Second Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers
Wednesday, December 9, at 6:15 p.m.
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 13 — Third Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers
Wednesday, December 16, at 6:15 p.m.
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 20 — Fourth 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)

Christmas Eve — Thursday, December 24
Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day — Friday, December 25
Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Dinner for All from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

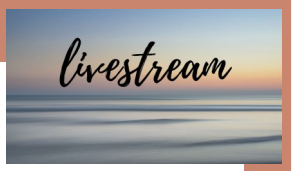
Sundays, December 27 and January 3
One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream



8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Radio Broadcasts



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

Video



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

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,

Every Advent and Christmas season, I get excited about listening to Christmas music. This year, there are new Christmas albums to check out from the St. Olaf Choir, John Rutter, Alanis Morissette, and Sufjan Stevens. Now, my wife, Lauren, is really good at making sure a variety of Christmas music is always on. I, however, am not. And too often, at the end of the Christmas season, I almost always think to myself, "Shoot. I missed it. I didn't listen to very much Christmas music this year."

To be honest, sometimes it's not just the music of the season that I fear I missed – but the whole season all together. Life doesn't stop happening for the holidays – loved ones still get sick, families still argue, and the unexpected shows up. Somewhere in the midst of the busyness of school concerts, work meetings, hurried and harried shopping and wrapping, cleaning the house and hosting guests, addressing and mailing out Christmas cards, packing the suitcase and the car to travel, it is too easy to forget to *pause, breathe, and take in the joy, the wonder, and the tenderness of this season. The season moves so quickly that if you blink – it seems like you miss it.*

This isn't all that different from the Christmas Story itself. In the gospels, we hear about Mary and Joseph and the journey to Bethlehem, and the shepherds and angels out in the field. We hear about King Herod and the Wise Ones and the star that led them. But when it comes to the actual birth of Jesus the Christ Child, the Bible only dedicates half of a verse to the moment. *"And she gave birth to her firstborn son..." That's it. That's the moment of the incarnation – of God born into this world in Jesus – Immanuel – God with us. If you blink – yep – you can miss it.*

I long to be surrounded by the music of the season – even while in the thick of all the things that still need to get done. It helps me to keep front of mind (and front of heart) the promise that God longs for nothing more than to be with us, and God chooses to be born into this world in the least likely, the tiny and easily missed and overlooked, and the ordinary places of this world.

To help me (and you!) listen to more Christmas music this season, I have asked each member of our staff to share two of their favorite songs to listen to in the Advent and Christmas season. From this list, we have created a St. John's Staff Christmas 2026 Playlist on Spotify and Apple Music for all of us to enjoy this season. You can find this playlist by using the QR codes below or by visiting our webpage.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, and happy listening, dear people of God.

With love,
Pastor Jonathan

XMas (Spotify)

XMas (Apple)

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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

✝ ✝ ✝

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

December 3, 2025
Josephine Alsaker

December 4, 2025
Lois Houge

December 21, 2025
Robert Flaten

December 25, 2025
Lynn Matta

December 28, 2025
Lila Prehall

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

HIPPA and Pastoral Care

A new ruling from the Minnesota Supreme Court may affect how our pastors and parish nurse are able to provide care for you when you are hospitalized. The ruling will prevent hospitals from sharing the room number of any patient, even if a visitor knows their name and that they are in that facility. If the patient is able to consent to this information being shared, hospital staff may be able to direct visitors; but if explicit consent has not been given, caregivers may not be directed to the patients' room.

Please be aware of this and have conversations with your family members about what information you want shared with the pastors in case of an emergency – and be aware that if you are hospitalized, you will need to communicate as directly as you can with your loved ones on your whereabouts.

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 11, from 12:00-6:00 p.m., in St. John's Hall.

You can sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

Sunday Evening Gatherings 5:00-5:30 p.m., First UCC

Please join us on Sunday evenings for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and Communion.

The Evening Gathering is facilitated by lay people in Northfield. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare for the coming week.



Questions can be emailed to theeveninggathering@gmail.com.

St. John's Forum: *Reflections from Rwanda and Their School for the Blind*

During the forum on Sunday, December 13, Jenny Pelletier will share her recent experience working at a school for the blind in Musanze, Rwanda.



She and Barbara Bennett, a former missionary in Rwanda, created connections through fellowship, music, and teaching orientation and mobility skills to their blind and low vision students. Come learn about a bit about Rwandan culture, the people, and the exiting future opportunities to engage with this school.

Jenny's trip was partially funded by a grant from the St. John's Foundation

Welcoming Our Newest Members to St. John's

Sunday, November 15, 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:

Kathryn Lohre and her children, Bob & Anne Forrest Prim,
Jessica Olson, Drew & Angel Yackel and their children

We are happy to have these beloved people among us! Thank you to their wonderful sponsors for supporting them: Beret Froehle, Ron Hebensperger, Eden Kaiser, Daniel & Jennifer Klaers, Maggie Odell

Life and Growth

Births

Noman Kastner
son of Emily and Colton Kastner

Baptisms

November 22, 2026
Rilynnd Welck
daughter of Rebecca and Brian Welck

Deaths

October 30, 2026
Curt Swenson

November 19, 2026
Barb Knaak

✝ ✝ ✝

Radio Broadcasts

November 1, 2026
Given in honor of Nathan Proctor and the music at St. John's by David and Martha Brown.

November 8, 2026
Given by Bob and Sandra Nyvall in memory of and with gratitude for all our veterans.

November 15, 2026
Given in memory of Bob Scholz and Wendy Scholz by Cora Scholz

November 22, 2026
Given in memory of Paul Klinefelter by his family.

November 29 2026
Given in 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.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule
December 6, 13, 20
January 10, 17, 31

Wednesday After School Schedule
December 2, 9, 16
January 6, 13, 20, 27

Christmas Break
No Wednesday Programming
December 27, January 3
No Sunday School
December 23, 30

Advent Fair
Wednesday, December 2, in St. John's Hall

Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 20
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat on Holy Communion
Sunday, January 10, Noon-2:00 pm.,
in St. John's Hall

Blessings and Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Spark Bibles in October!

Holden Ayers-Olson, Quinn Erickson, Caleb Hassanally, Jaymes Hauser, Isaac Loy, Hazel Pierson, Isaac Randall, Maggie Yackel

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

St. John's Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 20

St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 20, at the 10:45 a.m. service.



The program, *"That Starry Night"*, is performed by children in preschool–grade 5. All children are welcome to be involved. Rehearsal are on Sunday mornings during Sunday School.

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

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

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in providing music during the offering for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 20.

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

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.





Third Grade Catechism Retreat
Sunday, January 10

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Sunday, January 10, at St. John's.

If you are unable to attend, please contact Julie at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!
Monday, January 18

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

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

When: Monday, January 18 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**

Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the lower or upper Commons or email Julie at Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Parent help is appreciated. Let Julie know if you can lend a hand.

Good Earth Village
"Northfield Week" Summer Camp
is June 20-25, 2027!

Summer camp at Good Earth Village (GEV) offers more than just a break from routine - it's a place where kids and families experience adventure, spiritual growth, and lasting friendships in a safe and welcoming environment.

- Sign up on December 6 and receive 40% OFF TIER ONE pricing - Use Code: IMAGINE2027
- Sign up before February 27 and receive 20% OFF TIER ONE pricing - Use Code: EARLY2027

St. John's also gives each camper $100 towards their registration fee. Make sure to use codes NORTHFIELD27FULL when registering for week-long camps or NORTHFIELD27HALF and receive $50 off NON-week-long camps. Check out the camp options at www.goodearthvillage.org.

Children and Youth

Wednesday Night Youth Programming

Wednesdays
6:15-7:30 p.m.

Middle School Confirmation
(Grades 6-12)
We begin in Fellowship Hall and then break into small groups.

High School Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)
High school starts out with confirmation again this year and then separates to meet in the Youth Room.

Note for All Youth
No programming December 27 and 30 for Christmas Break.

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

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion.

Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

No Sunday Morning Youth Group on December 27 and January 3.

the WOMEN'S page



2026
December

December Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Dec. 5, 4:00-5:30*
Deb Erickson's home
1404 Blue Flag Ct, N'field

Lydia & Paul Circle
Wednesday, Dec. 9,
10:00am - noon
Bible study/Potluck lunch
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle
Friday, Dec. 11, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring
(GenXers & Millennials)
Tuesday Dec. 8, 6:30-8:00pm
Supper @ 6:00
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group
Saturday, Dec. 19, 9-10:30
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
2nd & 4th Thursdays
10:00am Youth Room

Quilters & Bandage Rollers
Thursdays
Dec. 3, 10, & 17
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



Recipe from the kitchen of: St. John's Women

Christmas Cheer Saturday, December 12



Ingredients:
coffee/tea/cider
women's chatter
Christmas music
Lots of laughter

Yield: 60+ boxes

Directions:
9:00 Bring 3 dozen cookies to St. John's Hall; stuff boxes with goodies and cards
10:00 Help deliver goodies to St. John's shut-ins

Help spread Christmas joy to our congregants that are home-bound, are experiencing the loss of a loved one this last year or who can no longer bake in their home. We need volunteers to help pack boxes of home-baked goodies and/or deliver these boxes of cheer. Cookie packing will commence at 9am and boxes can start being delivered between 10 - 11 am. Sign up in the Commons between church services, sign up on the CCB, or contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

Annual Christmas Carol Luncheon
from Katie Luther's Kitchen
a feast of German food and carols




Martin & Katie Luther

Saturday
January 9, 2027
11am - 1pm
St. John's Hall



Tickets $15 in advance $20 at the door
Sign-ups in the Commons between services: Dec 13 - Jan 3

Our theme this year will be based on our Lutheran heritage with a feast of German food and carols. Plus, each attendee will also take home a gift for their own Christmas tree, hand-made by the WELCA "Sip & Snippers!" And, don't forget to bring your ThankOffering. You don't want to miss out on this event. Tickets will be $15 in advance and $20 at the door. Look for sign-ups in the Commons between services Dec 13 - Jan 3. Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli for any sign-up after Jan 3.

THANKOFFERINGS



Every January, St. John's Women collect an offering for the national WELCA.

Thankofferings are our expression of gratitude for God's blessings and are an important and tangible way to do so.

All Thankoffering gifts are sent to the national WELCA for the support of their world-wide ministries. You can give by picking up a blue envelope by the WELCA bulletin board in the Commons and turn it into the office.

Or bring it to the Christmas Luncheon on January 9, 2027

OUR CHANGE MAKES CHANGE



Don't forget to return your "Cherish All Children" jars filled with coins. Please leave them in the church office.











Mission Morning

Thank you to Thrivent, St. John's Foundation & our congregants for their support of this outreach ministry.

310 kits packed (a record number) = 80 each of Personal Care and Hospice kits. 50 Baby kits and 100 Infant kits.

In addition - 89 bandages were rolled and sent with another 168 = 277 bandages to Global Health Ministries.

All these items have been delivered to GHM and LWR.

A special local offering included numerous hygiene items donated to the Northfield Youth Center - The Key.







Hymn 315, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.
3 Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.
4 Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

Inspired by the words of the above hymn, "How good, Lord, to be here!", the Stewardship Board invites you to reflect on the goodness of being here at St John's and here in God's world, living in the light of Christ.

I love the change of seasons, and how each season brings renewal and excitement to the year. This is also true of the church year. Liturgically, we have just moved from Pentecost to Advent, the four weeks of waiting and contemplation before Christmas. As we approach the shortest day of the year, the hymn reminds us "Your Glory Fills the Night." *How good, Lord, to be here!*

Advent is my favorite season of the liturgical year. I look forward to seeing our sanctuary adorned with the beautiful pomegranate banners designed by Judy Swanson, the blue paraments woven by Anne Ditmanson, and the impressive advent wreath designed by Ed Sovik – all were members of St. John's who used their gifts to enhance our Advent worship season.

I love the hymns of Advent – *O Come, O, Come Immanuel and Comfort, Comfort Ye my People* as well as the well-chosen anthems the choir shares. I listen carefully to the meaningful sermons by our Pastors that emphasize the contemplative meaning of this season.

Outside of the church with the busy-ness of this season and the emphasis on what comes next - Christmas, I appreciate this church season of calm and reflection. My Advent experience at church centers my life and focus inwardly on prayer and meditation.

This is also a season of giving as many of us are thinking about end of year donations we can make. I hope you will consider St. John's in your giving plans by pledging to support our pastors and church staff and the programming at St. John's throughout the entire church season.

- Jennifer Edwins, Stewardship Board

Pledging for the 2027 church budget is happening now! If you haven't pledged before, consider beginning this year. Sharing your resources with a generous heart is a spiritual practice and gifts of all sizes are welcome and valued.

Stewardship

St. John's 2026 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 2,** at the Advent Fair, continuing until Christmas.

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

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

Christmas Day dinner will be served from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Greeters Are Wanted for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Services

When: Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.; Christmas Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Who: You can greet on your own, or with other family or friends beside you!

Where: Greet in the Commons Area or at the Southwest Doors

What To Do: Arrive 25 minutes prior to worship and greet all as they enter the building. Welcome them with a smile and a "Merry Christmas!" Be a helpful person for those who are new to St. John's or are unfamiliar with our building by being there to guide them or answer basic questions. Volunteer by emailing Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org and stating which worship time you'd like to greet for, or sign up online using CCB in the Christmas Services Hospitality Group.

News and Updates

St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday December 2

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 2, in St. John's Hall.

Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages.

We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!

Time:
5:15-6:15 p.m.
Wednesday Night Meal
5:45-7:00 p.m.
Advent Fair Activities

Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner - set-up, serve or clean-up
- Help with crafts/shops
- Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treats

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

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



News and Updates

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 **December 31, 2026**, to direct any remaining 2026 Choice Dollars.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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

THRIVENT FINANCIAL®
Connecting faith & finances for good.



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 16.

Year-End Giving

We are so grateful for your faithful giving to St. John's in these challenging times. As we approach the calendar year-end, may we suggest a simple checklist for your church stewardship:

- Return your 2027 pledge (intention to give) – in person or online. *Your intentions for giving help shape our planning for the coming year.*
- If you already give automatically online, please consider increasing your regular gift. *Health care benefit costs for our staff are going up 15% in 2027.*
- Finish your 2026 giving before these deadlines:
  - Mailed gifts must be postmarked by December 31.
  - Online gifts can be given by December 28.
  - The church office will be open until 1:00 p.m. on December 31.

Thinking about taxes? Households that do **not** itemize may deduct charitable giving up to $1000 for individuals or $2000 for couples at any income level. If you itemize your deductions, consult with a tax professional about how the new laws treat charitable giving.

St. Olaf Choir Scheduled to Sing at St. John's on Sunday, January 17

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 17.

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.

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Information Session Sunday, January 10 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 *9th-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 have an information session on January 10th, 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 10th – OWL Information Session, 10:00am -10:30am
- January 24th – Parents Only Session – *Required, 12pm-2pm*
- February 7th – Opening OWL Retreat, 12pm-4pm
- February 10th – OWL Session, 7:30pm -9pm
- February 17th – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
- February 24th – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
- March 3rd – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
- March 10th – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
- March 17th – OWL Session, 7pm – 8:30pm
- March 21st – Closing OWL Retreat, 12pm-2pm

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

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 2
Advent Fair ~ Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, December 9
Chicken Tetrazzini

Wednesday, December 16
Enchilada Bake

Wednesday, December 23
No Meal - Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 30
No Meal - Christmas Break

Meals Resumew Wedesday,
No Meal - Christmas Break



News and Updates

Wellspring Circle "Bagged Suppers" and Discussion Time

1st Tuesdays of the Month

6:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Wellspring Circle invites women of generations X and Millennials (birth years ranging from 1965 ish - 1996 ish) to meet in the Fireside Room every first Tuesday of the month for a "bagged supper" social time from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

This is like bringing your own "sack lunch" to eat, except it's at dinnertime, while enjoying time to visit with others. The Fireside Room has a large table for eating and is conveniently located next to the small kitchen.

Then, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. we'll have a faith discussion, usually based on an article. Over the past year, we've engaged in many interesting and meaningful conversations during these gatherings!

We invite you to come as early as you like and stay as long as you'd like. This group is about making friendships and finding support among our peers while exploring faith and life's many questions, frustrations, and joys!

We hope you can come, and we look forward to seeing you!



ELCA Social Statements

In this space each month, we will share relevant excerpts from the ELCA's social statements.

The ELCA Social Statement of 1991 concludes that this church opposes the death penalty because: 1) it is not an effective deterrent to crime 2) it is not administered justly and 3) it undermines the building of a just society by responding to violence with violence.

"It is because of this church's ministry with and to people affected by violent crime that we oppose the death penalty. Executions focus on the convicted murderer, providing very little for the victim's family or anyone else whose life has been touched by the crime. Capital punishment focuses on retribution, sometimes reflecting a spirit of vengeance. Executions do not restore broken society and can actually work counter to restoration. . .

"Violent crime is, in part, a reminder of human failure to ensure justice for all members of society. People often respond to violent crime as though it were exclusively a matter of the criminal's individual failure. The death penalty exacts and symbolizes the ultimate personal retribution. Yet, capital punishment makes no provable impact on the breeding grounds of violent crime. Executions harm society by mirroring and reinforcing existing injustice. The death penalty distracts us from our work toward a just society. It deforms our response to violence at the individual, familial, institutional, and systemic levels. It perpetuates cycles of violence. . . . Lutheran Christians have called for an assault on the root causes of violent crime, an assault for which executions are no substitute."

Pub Theology Takes a Break in December

Pub Theology takes a break in December and will resume in January 2027.

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 meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes. Watch the bulletin and E-Voice for the January dates.

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 at (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate and Thistle Farms Sales

Fair Trade Coffee and Thistle Farms items are available for purchase during fellowship hour between worship services on Sunday, Dec. 6.

If you need items other times during the month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com or 701-238-5038.



From the Evangelism & Communications Board

Our new STJ video worship business cards feature a custom QR code that takes you straight to our online services.

Just scan the code with your smartphone camera to join our vibrant faith community from anywhere, anytime.

Grab a few cards from the church Commons to keep in your wallet to share with friends, family, and neighbors who are looking for a welcoming place to worship!

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:
Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.
The Voice (January 2027 Edition):
December 9

Please send submissions electronically via email to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org .

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OFFICE HOURS
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

Annual Meeting Reports!

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - the due date for reports is ***Friday, December 18.***
Please get the reports in on time!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2027.



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 9.

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.