



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JANUARY 2017



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St. Olaf Choir Sings at St. John's on January 15

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 15.

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

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.

A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir back to St. John's!

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP

9:45 a.m. Sundays

LIVE BROADCASTS

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

KYMN Radio 1080AM

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September-May

Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

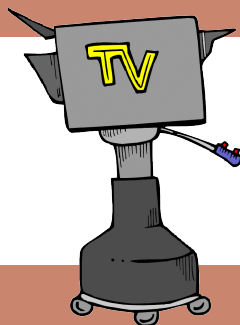


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



Learning and Fellowship

January 1:

Worship Service at 10:00, Sanctuary

January 8:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level

Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room

Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room

Adult Forum: Isaiah Organization - Undocumented Immigrants
and Sanctuary Churches, Sanctuary

Toddler Time, Room 20

January 15:

Reception for St. Olaf Choir, St. John's Hall

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level

Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room

Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room

Bold Café, Fireside Room

January 22:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level

Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room

Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room

Adult Forum: A Conversation on Racism Part 1, Sanctuary

January 29:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level

Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room

Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room

Adult Forum: A Conversation on Racism Part 2, Sanctuary

Manna and Mercy Mondays

January 16 – February 27

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Ever since Alan Storey preached at St. John's in October (you can find the [sermon on our website](#)) and led a *Manna and Mercy* retreat, we have been hearing from many people about how powerful it was and the impact he made on them. Those who attended the retreat have been wondering, "What's next? When can we dig deeper into *Manna and Mercy*, and what Alan taught us?"

To help congregations dig into the themes and lessons of *Manna and Mercy*, Alan Storey has created over 40 short video clips that give new insight on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. They feel like a video daily devotional of sorts.

With that in mind, Pastor Pam and I are excited to introduce *Manna and Mercy Mondays* coming in January! Beginning on Monday, January 16, we invite you to bring a lunch and join us over the lunch hour to watch a video or two (each one is about 7-10 minutes long) and have group discussion around the topic. We will meet for 7 weeks, until the beginning of Lent.

The beauty of this time is that each video stands on its own and there is no experience necessary for each week – just show up on the days that you can make it. You do not need to have attended the *Manna and Mercy* retreat in order to participate. If you did attend the retreat, however, you will still learn a lot, as you will get to discuss many of the ideas introduced at the retreat, as well as some new concepts.

Here are some examples of video topics:

In Love, By Love, For Love: The Biblical creation is meant to stand in contrast to another well-known creation story – the Babylonian Creation. Humans in the Babylonian story are born in violence, by violence, and for violence. But the Biblical story of creation is good; the deepest truth about our humanity is we are born *in love, by love, and for love*.

Truth is Larger than Fact: Some spiritual leaders of old would say, "I don't know if it happened this way but I know it's true." In wrestling with the story of Adam and Eve, Alan considers the difference between saying a Bible story is true versus saying that it is factual.

Is Jesus the Only Way?: What does Jesus mean in John 14:6 when he says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."? Many have used this passage in a way that brings heartache to those who struggle to believe in Jesus or who have a loved one who does. Was that Jesus' purpose here? Alan introduces us to the context of this well-known scripture text and suggests that these words from Jesus are meant to comfort the fearful, not condemn the uncertain.

These are just a few of the many topics we can discuss during this time together. We hope you will join us! This is a great way to both grow in faith and in relationship with each other.

In peace and love,

Pastor Jonathan

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



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 663-1097.

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



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

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

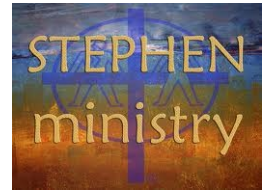
January 18, 2016
Orwin Marks

January 31, 2016
Joan Starkweather

January 31, 2016
Maxine Oates

Claim a Happy New Year

When January arrives we feel as though we are given a fresh start and we take on the new year with optimistic resolutions. We declare a new year despite the remains of the old year: usually a mix of sweet memories and weighty baggage. How do you anticipate turning the page from 2016 to 2017? Are you regretting the old and eager to move on to the new? Do you smile with delight as you recall the relationships and events of 2016 and anxiously cringe as you face possible changes and losses ahead in 2017? Very likely your January days (and nights) contain all of the above, and that is normal.



However, if you sense that regrets and losses are dominating your new year's outlook, consider sharing your concerns with a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen to and walk with individuals who need the steadying hand of a faithful friend. Each caring relationship is designed to meet the unique needs of a care receiver. The relationship may be brief with a handful of hour-long conversations or continue with weekly meetings over several years. Long or short, time with a Stephen Minister can move you forward with clarity and hope for the future. Think of a Stephen Ministry connection as you might the January arrival of a garden catalog that helps you imagine the coming of spring!

If you or someone you know might be searching for the warm smile of a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (507-645-6120).

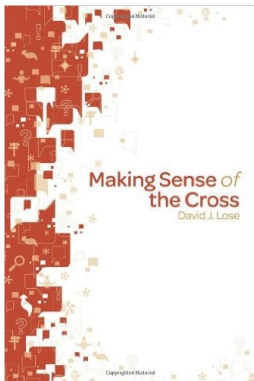
St. John's Forum: Welcoming the Stranger Understanding Immigration & Sanctuary Sunday, January 8

Many of us have been hearing in the news recently about "Sanctuary Cities" and "Sanctuary Churches" as ways of caring for undocumented immigrants in the United States. Our own Northfield City Council is having this conversation. Join us on January 8 at the St. John's Forum where Alexa Horwart, from the ISAIAH organization, will speak to us about immigration and what it means to be a sanctuary. The forum will include the following:

- Sharing stories from immigrants and connecting them to our own stories
- Dispelling myths and learning about how our immigration system works
- Connecting to what our faith says about immigration
- And how to take action to support our neighbors

Did God Kill Jesus? - A Lenten Book Read on *Making Sense of the Cross*, by David Lose

The title of this article may sound a little harsh, but it is a question worth asking. What happened on the cross and the day Jesus died? What did God accomplish through the cross? Did God kill Jesus? Did Jesus have to die?



While many of us know the importance of the cross and resurrection of Christ to the Christian faith, many of us struggle to articulate why it matters or what it means.

In his book *Making Sense of the Cross*, David Lose shows that the meaning of the cross has changed over the course of Christian history. To begin, Lose offers a thoughtful review of the four Gospels and how each portrays Jesus' death on the cross and what it might mean. He also walks the reader through three

major ways that the cross has been understood over the past two thousand years, as long with the benefits and drawbacks of each. In the end, Lose hopes to offer an alternative view of the cross that is both biblical and faithful to the Christian life, which then can inform the way we live out the Christian faith in our daily lives.

Beginning on Sunday, February 27, small groups will meet to discuss *Making Sense of the Cross* for one hour a week, over a period of four weeks during Lent. Please keep an eye out for signups this month and early in February. If you would be interested in leading or hosting a small group, please speak with Barb Eaves or Sandi Gerdes.

A Conversation on Racism - A 2 Part Adult Forum

Over a year ago, we started a conversation on race using the ELCA's webcast on racism. A lot has happened since then. Philando Castile was killed during a traffic stop in St. Paul, leading to a long protest outside the Governor's Mansion. Five police officers were killed in Dallas during a protest. Proclamations of "Black lives matter!" have been contrasted with "All lives matter!" Many in the black community have called for the white community to wake up to the systemic racism that is still alive in our country.

On January 22 and 29, Pastors Pam and Jonathan will continue this conversation on racism, and the many topics around it, such as white privilege, colorblindness, and institutional racism. Join us for these hard but important conversations.



Life and Growth

Births

December 2, 2016
William Toov
Son of Alysya and Mark Toov

Deaths

December 2, 2016
Forrest Brown



Radio Broadcasts

December 4, 2016

Given by Judy Christensen in memory of Dagny Christensen and Leslie Gustafson who shared a December 1 birthday.

December 11, 2016

Given in memory of Vic Fergen by the Menssen Family.

December 18, 2016

Given in celebration of Bob and Marilyn Matta's 60th wedding anniversary.

December 24, 2016

Given in honor of all those who volunteer their time to the church.

December 25, 2016

Given in memory of John Falck from his family.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

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

January 1	No Sunday School (New Year's Day)
January 8	Sunday School Toddler Time
January 15	Sunday School
January 22	Sunday School
January 29	Sunday School (Camp Sunday)
February 5	Sunday School (Teacher Appreciation)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

January 4
January 11
January 18
January 25

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

Wednesday, January 4, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Bowling for 2nd-8th Grades

Monday, January 16 (No School Day)
12:30-2:00 p.m.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, February 1, 5:30-6:45 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 5
9:45 a.m., Fireside Room



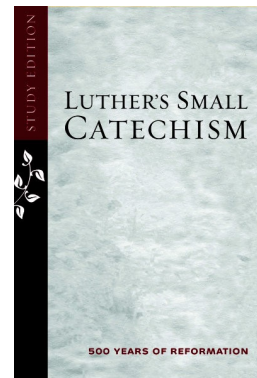
Children's Communion Instruction Available

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

Catechism for 4th and 5th Graders will resume in January

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, January 4.

CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in Room 19 and 5th grade in the Undercroft from 4:00-4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in January: 4, 11, 18, 25.



3rd Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), will meet Wednesday, February 1, 5:30-6:45 p.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. (Room to be determined)

If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429.

Time to think about Summer Camp!

On Sunday, January 29, 3rd - 8th graders are invited to Fellowship Hall to hear about St. John's summer camp options for 2017. Parents - come and learn more about camp with your child! We will be meeting during the Sunday school hour, 9:45-10:30 a.m.



Toddler Time - January 8

Children who are 2 year olds (by 9/1/16) and Preschool 1, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.



Rachel Skunes leads the children in song, games, crafts, and story time. Toddler Time meets monthly at 9:45 a.m. in Room 20 (lower level).

Here is our schedule for the remainder of the year:
February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

NAYW Ski-Night

When: Sunday, January 15, 2:30-11:00 p.m.

Where: Welch Village (bus leaves from Bethel)

Who: 6th Grade through Adults



What: Our annual ski-trip to Welch Village is right around the corner. Transportation and dinner will be provided by Northfield Area Youth Workers (NAYW). It's \$10 to cover the bus and food, \$25 for a lift ticket, and \$10 for rentals. If you have a season pass or your own downhill equipment, you can pay for only what you need.

Parents- we need one or two chaperones from each church and this is a really great event to join your youth on! You can sign up by going to: <https://trinitynorthfield.wufoo.com/forms/welch-ski-night/>

Volunteering at Second Harvest

When: Saturday, January 14, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Where: Carpool will leave from St. John's for their Golden Valley location

What: Second Harvest is a food bank meaning that they collect and store food to be distributed to local food shelves. They rely on volunteers to support their work sorting, packing and distributing their donations. This is an ideal service project for families, mentor pairs, etc.

Children, Come to the Table!

When is my child ready to take Holy Communion? When is anyone really ready? As Lutherans we believe that the sacraments are gifts of God not dependent on our understanding or preparation to be effective as gifts of grace. At St. John's we urge parents to bring their children to the table every week, whether they receive a blessing or the bread and wine. Parents may use discretion based on their own piety and family situation as to when a child receives the bread and wine, but there is no minimum age. Age appropriate materials are available for discussing communion with your child from age 4 and up. Contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Davis if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.

Children and Youth

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 16, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who:

Grades 2-8

Friends are always welcome!

Where:

Jesse James Lanes
Hwy 3, Northfield

Time:

12:30-2:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$10.00

(2 games & shoe rental)

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery.

Parents: Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie or Mike a call at 507-645-4429 or email at

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org
youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parent or high school chaperones are needed!



Shared Ministry

Sunday Hospitality Groups

Are you wondering which month your Sunday Hospitality Group is serving?

You can find out by logging on to CCB. Once logged in, look on the left side of the screen. You should see either the word "Groups" or under the little house icon, there appears to be a picture of 3 heads in circles. "Click" on either the word "Groups" or the icon of the heads in the circles. You should then see all of your groups - look for the "Monthly Hospitality Group" you are assigned to in this list.

Note: You can still sign up to serve in other months in addition to the month you are currently assigned to serve.

If navigating CCB is difficult for you, please contact Mary Kelvie in the Shared Ministry office at 507-645-4429, or at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know you can serve anytime, not just in your assigned hospitality group? Sign up today!

Current **weekly** opportunities available:

- Sundays - greeters, coffee servers, dishwashers, treat makers (or buyers), communion prep and cleanup.
- Wednesday Night Meals - table bussers, dishwashers, dessert makers (or buyers), table washers, pots and pans scrubbers, floor sweepers.

If any of these sound like something you would like to step out and do or learn please contact Mary Kelvie by calling 507-645-4429, emailing sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, or signing into CCB and signing up yourself.

Welcome 2017!

By Mary Kelvie

As we begin 2017, let's take a moment to look back at 2016... What has happened in the last 12 months? New job? New home? New members of the family? Lose members of your family? Change schools? Take a big trip? Enjoy a year of health? Experience a year of health challenges? Make new friends? Too busy to figure out which end is up? Not busy enough?

If you are like me, some things in the last year make your heart swell up with happiness and gratitude. However, there are some things in the last year which break your heart. How will you choose to remember 2016? Only the bad? Only the good? I challenge you to make a list of as many blessings you can remember from 2016. Get ready! If you are honest with yourself, you may need a whole notebook of paper. You may be thinking, "She is crazy! I won't need a whole sheet of paper, let alone a notebook." Think about yesterday, really think about it. What do you have to be thankful for that happened yesterday? Nothing? One or two things? Think again. Really think. I'll bet you could come up with at least 10-15 things. What if you did that every day? Guess what? A whole notebook would be used! Just think how much our attitudes could / would change if we were always looking for things to be thankful for every day. In the movie Pollyanna, there is a line which says something like "We looked for the good, and we found it."

St. John's had a busy and BLESSED 2016. We looked for the good in people here and we definitely found it. Let's review a few of the events we have had in the past year where you, the St. John's community, stepped up and volunteered your gifts of service. The monthly hospitality groups serving as greeters, communion prep, clean up, and coffee service complete with treats every Sunday, St. Olaf Choir Breakfast, Annual Meeting & Potluck, members of St. John's boards, Wednesday Night Meals, Soup Suppers, Thursday's Table, Fruit Sundays, Welcome Fest, Ministry Fair, Accompany, Habitat for Humanity, Snow Movers, Crop Walk, Thanksgiving Pie Social, Ushers, Assisting Ministers, Christmas Dinner, Easter Services, Sunday school teachers, Wednesday night teachers / leaders, small group leaders, funeral hospitality, library, kitchen ministry, Advent Fair, choir members, Women of St. John's groups and the list could keep going. If you helped with any of these events listed or other events not listed, please know you are appreciated, and you have BLESSED our community with your gifts of service. On behalf of the St. John's community, I would like to say a very heartfelt THANK YOU!

If you haven't found your place here at St. John's where you feel comfortable serving, let's change that and make 2017 even more blessed than 2016! Please contact me, if you would like some help getting plugged in here at St. John's. I don't bite. (I promise!) I would love to help connect you with people who have similar serving interests.

Your Radio Ministry Connects Our Community – Now also on FM 95.1

“Faith comes by hearing.” That is Scriptural. Though this verse might be a too simplistic description of the way that the Holy Spirit gets into our lives and changes our hearts and minds, it does remind us that hearing the word in a human voice, sung and spoken, has a power that addresses us in a way that reading silently does not. At St. John’s, we hear over and over again how important our radio broadcasts on KYMN are for those who cannot be here on Sunday mornings.

- A mother-to-be, suffering from horrible nausea, cannot get out to be in worship in person but gratefully turns on the broadcast to hear our worship services.
- A friend of the congregation, several states away, tunes in online, especially to hear the unique music ministry of St. John’s before going to her own local congregation.
- A community member who usually finds himself on the road to the Cities on Sunday mornings listens in on his car radio.
- Members who spend part of their year in warmer places tune in via KYMN’s website to keep in touch with St. John’s worship.
- A group of St. Olaf students gather in a dorm room on Sunday mornings to hear our 8:30 a.m. service before they head off to participate in worship in other places.
- And of course, many of our own longtime attenders who are now struggling with health issues find this ministry a vital link to their community of faith.

All of these are not imagined scenarios but real stories told to us as staff over the course of the year.

Our radio broadcasts, however, don’t just “happen.” Our marvelous A/V team, headed by Mark Gleason and Dave Zdenek, keep us technologically functioning along with the staff of KYMN. Our radio announcers, headed by Andy Langehough, show up every week to send a greeting during offering time to those who listen in. And many of you sponsor broadcasts, week after week, so that people you may never meet can hear the Gospel.

KYMN recently began broadcasting on FM at 95.1. The station provided the new equipment necessary to switch over our signal to them. We are grateful to Jeff Johnson and his engineers in making this transition smooth. You can still also get the broadcasts at www.kymnradio.net, or catch the video broadcasts on Northfield cable 187 on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

THANK YOU to everyone who supports this ministry of St. John’s! If you’d like to sponsor a broadcast any Sunday, contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org to schedule a date and contribution.

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, January 4
Chili

Wednesday, January 11
Scalloped Potatoes with Ham

Wednesday, January 18
Lasagna

Wednesday, January 25
Cheeseburger Sliders



News and Updates



Thank you to all our Sunday School children who participated in the Sunday school Christmas Program!

Thank you to the Sunday school teachers, the choir directors and our pre-service musicians; to Brian Evenson, Sue Brockman, Marcia Yernberg, Jenny Pelletier and the Middle School Percussion Ensemble and Frances Boehning. And thank you parents, for supporting our Children's programming at St. John's!

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Sharing Tree this year! Special thanks to our 3rd-5th grade Wednesday kids for helping with the stars!

Thank you, thank you, thank you! From all of us on the Christmas Dinner Committee. Thank You for your contributions of food and time to make the 2016 Community Christmas Dinner such a great success. Without your help this event would never happen. It is always such a joy and blessing to look out over St. John's Hall on Christmas Day and see so many enjoying such a wonderful home cooked meal. This is a great gift to the community.

Save the Date for a Marriage & Money Retreat

Saturday February 18, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. St. John's will offer "Better Halves: a Marriage and Money Workshop."

Led by the pastors, this workshop is designed for couples to set aside time to talk about the emotional side of our financial lives, and to set goals for improving financial communication and planning in their relationship. Couples of all ages are welcome. Watch for signups in the weeks ahead.

Youth Fundraiser!

When: Sunday, February 12, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

Who: For Everyone at St. John's
(but put on by Youth)

What: In effort to defray costs for Summer Activities such as the **2017 Mission Trip to Nashville, Camp @ Green Lake, and Magical Mystery Tours**, we are running a silent auction and breakfast for the congregation. Youth are encouraged to donate their time by helping serve breakfast and talents by donating items or services to the silent auction. Watch for a letter in the mail detailing how you can help!

The donation form for the silent auction can be found on page 15 and on the St. John's website.



Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch!

Children's ministry volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 4 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. More information will be coming your way!

Please contact Julie at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you can help with the brunch by serving, bringing an egg bake or bake treats (muffins, rolls, breads...)

Thanks in advance!



It's a potluck!

***Bring a
salad,
side dish,
main dish
or dessert
to share!***



2017

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

**January 22 following the 10:45 service
St. John's Hall**

the WOMEN'S page

January Gatherings

Abigail/Rebecca

Thursday, January 12, 2:00pm
Parkview West Fireside Rm
Northfield Retirement Community

Elizabeth

Thursday, January 12, 1:30pm
Rose Berthelsen's home
Kildahl Point #111
888 Cannon Valley Dr.

Lydia

Wednesday, January 11, 9:00am
St. John's Hall

Martha/Claudia

Wednesday, January 11, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Rm
Northfield Retirement Community

Mary

Friday, January 13, 1:00pm
Cora Scholz' home
704 St. Olaf Ave.

Sarah

Wednesday, January 11, 9:30am
Venue: Contact Char Nelson

Bold Cafe

Sunday, January 15, 9:45am
St. John's, Fireside Rm

Baby Boomers

Time & Venue: TBD
Contact: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870
julie.zdenek@gmail.com

Breakfast Group

Saturday, January 14, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm



Carols on Campus



Lunch at Buntock Commons' Valhalla Room Thursday, January 5, 2017

Transportation (for parking):

St. John's parking lot- gather 10:45, leave 11:00

Rides from NRC: Contact Jo Franklin

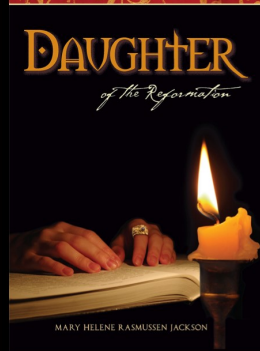
Lunch begins at 11:30

Cost: \$14.50 make checks payable to WELCA
Sign up at the WELCA bulletin board or RSVP to
Sharon Flaten at cassakr@gmail.com NLT Jan.3



Mary
Helene
Rasmussen
Jackson

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE LIFE
AND TIMES OF THE WIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER



"Daughter of the Reformation" by Mary Helene Rasmussen Jackson

Book Discussion

Wednesday
January 18th
5:30-7:00pm
Fireside Room
Led by Shirley Keltto

Author to speak at St. John's

Thursday
February 2nd
7:00pm
St. John's Hall
Open to the public

books are available at Content Book Store (downtown
Northfield), huffpublishing.com and amazon.com

Save the Date!

Triennial
Gathering



Minneapolis Sat. July 15
(plenary sessions and
workshops) with -

**Nat'l Lutheran
Choir concert**

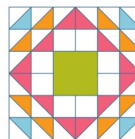
Information on
WELCA bulletin board

Can you tie a knot?

Help tie knots for
Lutheran World Relief
quilts.

January 16th & 19th
8:30am

Fellowship
Hall



Need a ride?

Rides avail-
able for all
St. John's
Women's
events.

Call Mary
Hoff 763.688.4516



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

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com
Publicity: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

Prayer Buddies During Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids will be paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their “Prayer Buddy”.



We ask the adult to pray for their buddy and to acknowledge them when they see their child in church.

With this program, we hope to create spiritual and caring connections with children and adults in our church community.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy for a child, please contact Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. We're looking for about 25 adult members from St. John's congregation.

Thank you!

Visit to Tanzania and Iambi Lutheran Church in March

An important part of our partnership with Iambi Lutheran Church in the Central Diocese of Tanzania is accompaniment, or walking side by side in mutual solidarity with each other. The Road to Emmaus story in Luke is the scriptural basis for accompaniment. This story of Jesus reminds us that mission is a journey and that Christ is already present in encounters and visits wherever we go.

This March, Pastor Pam, Terry Gilbertson, and Kristin Partlo will join Bishop Delzer and a group from our synod that is doing just that, visiting our partner synod in the Central Diocese, to get acquainted and build friendships. They will visit Mwangaza in Arusha (an educational center started by Shoonie Hartwig), and churches and projects of the Central Diocese, including the Lutheran Seminary at Kiomboi, the secondary schools, a technical school, and a hospital run by the church, and several churches, including our partner church at Iambi. This visit will give us all a renewed connection with our partner congregation, and provide an expanded view of the Body of Christ, living and ministering in another part of the world.

If you would like to contribute financial support for this trip, and also support for our missionary sponsorships of Randy and Carol Stubbs in Tanzania, Curtis and Katie Kline in Colombia, and of other mission work of the ELCA, please make your contribution in the Mission envelope in your packet. Or write a check to St. John's, noting Missions on the memo line.

News and Updates

Pub Theology in January

We are all theologians. Believe it or not, all of us are constantly doing theology as we think and wonder and ask big questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and a life of faith.

Continuing on Monday, January 9, join us at the Contented Cow from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for Pub Theology.

Pastors Pam and Jonathan and Mike Skunes will lead a monthly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, and current events. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences to the table. Each month, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, the News Blast, and an email list.

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



St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher
pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis
jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Visitation Pastor

John Quam
jequam@rconnect.com

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer
children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers
facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander
finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor
music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Alleluia Choir
caroldbenson@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers
rejoiceringers@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Mary Kelvie
sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Ministry

Mike Skunes
youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Brent Nystrom
brent.nystrom@gmail.com

From Bread for the World: After the Election

The election season, despite the anger and anxiety that it aroused, has been an opportunity to live out the call to "love our neighbors." As the Gospels make clear, "our neighbors" includes everyone – even our enemies. We don't restrict our love to our own family or tribe. All in God's family are our neighbors.

Basking in God's inexhaustible love, we have the freedom to keep asking ourselves – and our elected officials – what is best for our neighbors, what enhances the lives of our neighbors.

We pray that those who have been elected will seek the good of all those they serve. We pray that those who were not victorious will join in healing the divisions – and share in the hard work of solving problems at the local, state, and national level. And we pray that the Spirit of the Risen Christ will inspire us to carry out persistent communication with those who can make our government a force for good in our own country and around the world. To that end members of St. John's will be invited to participate in Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters in March. Read more at www.bread.org.

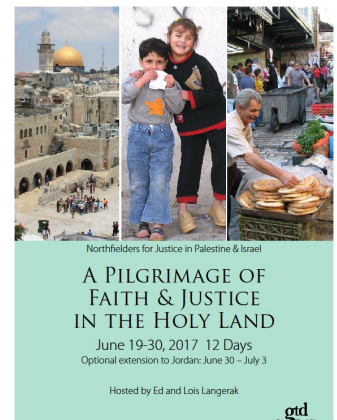


Holy Land Trip in 2017

Did you know there is a special trip planned to visit Israel and Palestine in June? This trip is sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Israel/Palestine (NJP). It is specifically planned for visiting not only the many Christian sites but also for meeting the native people.

Four nights will be spent in the Lutheran Guest House in Bethlehem where one will meet many Christian Palestinians, including the mayor of Bethlehem. This guest house is one of the many projects dreamed and brought to fruition by Mitri Raheb, the pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church and also the founder of Bright Stars of Bethlehem. On a visit to Hebron, the city where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are buried, the mayor of that city will meet with the group. He would most likely be a Muslim, giving the group a chance to learn more from that religion.

For more information visit www.njpmn.org and click on "travel brochure" or pick up a brochure in the Commons.



St. John's Annual Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction / Breakfast Sunday, February 12



*Our fundraiser helps make our 2017 summer programming
opportunities financially possible for all families.
We thank you in advance for your participation and support!*

Fundraiser Schedule for the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
 Check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
- (\$6 per person / \$24.00 per family)
 - Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit, Juice and Coffee
- 10:35 a.m. Breakfast and Silent Auction Ends

If you have an item or service to donate to the auction, fill out the form below and bring the donation to St. John's main office by Sunday, February 5. Please contact Julie Brehmer at St. John's, 507-645-4429 or email; children@StJohnsNorthfield.org, if you have questions.

-----Tear off here-----

Name: _____

Phone Number/Email Address: _____

Please Describe the Donation: _____

Estimated Value of Your donation: _____

Thank you!



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

PHONE

507-645-4429

FAX

507-645-9633

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



St. John's Annual Meeting

will be held on

Sunday, January 22

(following a potluck lunch)