

# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2017



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

*"Let all that you do be done in Love."* 1 Corinthians 16:14

Our fundraiser helps make our 2017 summer programming opportunities and other youth and children's programming financially possible for all families.

### 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
- 10:40 a.m. Breakfast and Silent Auction Ends

If you have an item or service to donate please complete the form on page 15 and bring to the Church Office by February 5.

**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/95.1FM

**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

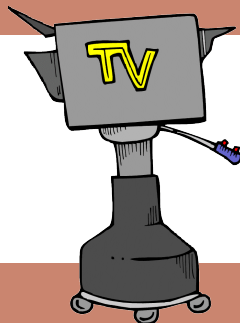


## TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



## Learning and Fellowship

### **February 5:**

*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: A Conversation on Racism Part 3, Sanctuary*

*Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch, Fireside Room*

*Accompany Sample Session, Undercroft*

### **February 12:**

*Youth Fundraiser, Commons and St. John's Hall*

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

*Toddler Time, Room 20*

### **February 19:**

*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: Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Sanctuary*

*Bold Café, Fireside Room*

*Accompany, Undercroft*

### **February 26:**

*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: Introduction to Lenten Book Read, Sanctuary*

*Accompany, Undercroft*

## Dear Friends in Christ:

Last week your Church Council, after more than a year of discerning conversations, decided it was time for St. John's to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and to adopt the Welcome Statement that was developed over the course of the past year.

We would like to thank the Church Council for their discernment around this. They took this process very seriously, with the utmost concern for the congregation over their own personal views. Together, they carefully considered the results of the spectrum poll, which had more than 200 respondents and indicated that 94% strongly supported or mostly supported this decision. They also read the many comments you submitted with the spectrum poll and letters written in the last two years.

The Council decided to make this decision as a governing body because in today's political climate, it is often difficult to avoid the sense that these decisions involve "winners" and "losers." While the numbers of the poll were very clear, your comments and letters also reflected a diversity within our congregation:

- Some members felt we should have made this decision a decade ago.
- Some members support the Welcome Statement, but not the decision to become RIC.
- Some members strongly supported becoming RIC, but wished the Welcome Statement were worded differently.
- Some strongly felt that saying "all are welcome" should be sufficient, and that any naming of particular groups inherently leaves someone out.
- Some members have strongly held convictions about gender and sexuality that prevent them from supporting this decision.
- For some members, this decision is deeply personal and affects how they feel about inviting their own family members to this congregation.

One desire we heard again and again, across the spectrum, was that this be a decision that was good for the whole of the congregation and for the witness of St. John's in the larger community. It was for this reason that the Council felt that a faithful decision by this body -- that has met and discussed and listened over the course of the year -- was preferable to a single vote at a congregational meeting. The spectrum poll also allowed from us to hear from people who could not be physically present, including many of our homebound members.

As your pastors, we would like to thank you for participating in this process. You have been open and honest, and we have been grateful for the wide variety of ways we have talked -- in forums, in small groups, in Bible studies, in one-on-one visits with shut-ins and home visits with concerned members. The church gives us ways to be in conversation that are more mutual and caring than a public debate, and for that we are grateful.

Continued on page 5

## 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](mailto: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."*

February 3, 2016  
**Janice Wallaker**

February 7, 2016  
**Phyllis Hoversten**

## Yes! Thank you!

Almost everyone who takes Stephen Ministry training comments on how much of what they learn about Christian caregiving applies to their everyday life at home, at work, out in the world. As one long-time Stephen Minister put it, "This training has infiltrated every aspect of my life. Without it, I'd be a different person. I'd have different relationships with everyone, probably less healthy ones."

In a Stephen Ministry lesson called "Assertiveness: Relating Gently but Firmly," one of the skills emphasized is how to say no and how to say yes. Oddly enough, saying yes can be as complicated as saying no, and the two can get mixed up.

One of our SM's told a story that illustrates the problem: Her sister Nan, at the annual banquet of her company, had been given "The Most Valuable Supervisor" award. Afterwards Nan went up to her boss and said she couldn't accept it, she didn't deserve it, there were people who had been there much longer than she, who did their jobs better . . . Nan told her family about this in an e-mail filled with emotion. Her sister e-mailed back: "Congratulations! You've always given 150% to your job. I know you deserved that award. Now I want to suggest a different response from you, which comes out of my Stephen Ministry training: Why don't you try a simple 'Thank you!?' You have been given a gift, a high compliment, and it seems ungracious to refuse such a gift." The next day Nan e-mailed back: "I went into my boss's office and said, 'Thank you for that award. Your good opinion means a lot to me, and I'm honored.' I feel calmer about it now."

Here are possible responses to everyday situations that call for yes or no:

**Yes:** "Thank you for the compliment. This tie is special. My daughter gave it to me." Or: "Thank you. This is one of my favorite colors." Yes: I'd be happy to work at Friday's funeral; when would you like me to work?" Or: "She was a good friend of mine and I'd like to bring a cake as well as work at the funeral lunch." Or: "I'm free until twelve that day. Could you use me in the kitchen before noon?"

**No:** "I'm not free to work at Friday's funeral; but call me another time." (Notice: no elaborate excuses, no details of how busy you are, just a simple "No, I'm not free.") Or: "No, but could I bring a cake instead?" Or: "I won't be able to help out at funeral lunches any more. I say this with reluctance because I've enjoyed such work, but I've decided I need to pare down the activities in my life."

This month you might practice gentle but firm assertiveness. If someone gives you a compliment or a gift, receive it without deflecting it or minimizing yourself. If you are unable to do something that is asked of you, refrain from making excuses or explaining yourself, but instead kindly and firmly decline.

If you or anyone you know is going through a time of difficulty, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (507-645-6120) to discuss the possibility of seeing a Stephen Minister. One of them will say **Yes!** when asked and listen to you attentively, without judging or advising.



## From Our Pastors...

Continued from page 3

Some of you opposed this decision have wondered if you are still welcome here. The answer is simple: yes. You are a crucial part of this congregation and we believe that Christ calls us together, not apart. Christ unites us and makes us the body of Christ.

What's next? St. John's will submit our Welcome Statement to Reconciling Works, so that we might be "on the map" of RIC congregations. Your Evangelism & Communications Board will discuss how to share the Welcome Statement and the RIC designation in our various communications. But most importantly, we will continue to be in conversation about how we extend Christ's welcome. This is not a destination, but a point along a journey of following Jesus into our changing world. Whatever your feelings about this outcome, we invite you to continue to be in prayerful conversation with us, which is how we are the body of Christ together.

In Christ's love,

Pam and Jonathan

## Reconciling in Christ: 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.

## Results from the Congregational Survey and Council Vote on Becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

A total of 221 surveys were filled out (a great turnout, comparable in number to both of the last congregational ballots on the call of our pastors).

94.1% of all surveys indicated support for becoming Reconciling in Christ and approving the Welcome Statement (88.2% or 195 surveys indicated they strongly agreed and 5.9% or 13 generally agreed). 1.4% of surveys (3) were neutral. 4.6% indicated some disagreement (1.4% or 3 surveys generally disagreed and 3.2% or 7 strongly disagreed).

Weighing these very strong results from the congregation along with all the information and comments gathered from the events held in 2016, the Council faithfully and without dissent voted at our meeting in January to proceed with becoming an RIC congregation and for approval of the Welcome Statement.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

January 5, 2017  
Milo Quinnell

January 25, 2017  
Paul Jorgensen



### Radio Broadcasts

**January 1, 2017**  
Given by David and Pat Halsor.

**January 8, 2017**  
Given in loving memory of  
Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss  
by Marie Struss and family.

**January 15, 2017**  
Given in honor of Nathan Proctor  
by Mark & Erin Goettsch,  
Nathan, Anneliese, and Charlotte.

**January 22, 2017**  
Given by Dallas and Millie Berg  
in gratitude for our many blessings.

**January 29, 2017**  
Given in memory of Muriel Wold by 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](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

#### Sunday School and Life Groups Schedule (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

February 5	Sunday School/Life Groups (Teacher Appreciation)
February 12	Sunday School/Life Groups Toddler Time (Youth Fundraiser)
February 19	Sunday School/Life Groups
February 26	Sunday School/Life Groups

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming and Confirmation

February 1
February 8
February 15
February 22

**3rd Grade CAT Retreat**  
Wednesday, February 1  
5:30-6:45 p.m., Undercroft

**Teacher Appreciation Brunch**  
Sunday, February 5  
9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

**High School Mission Trip 2017 Info Lunch**  
Sunday, February 5  
Noon, Fireside Room

**NAYW's Night of Awesomeness**  
**Grades 6-8**  
Friday, February 24  
6:00 p.m.-Midnight, Meet at St. John's



## Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers, assistants, and Wednesday afterschool volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 5, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep Children's Ministries thriving!



### 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.

## NAYW's Night of Awesomeness

**When:** Friday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.-Midnight

**Where:** Bus will leave from and drop students off at St. John's

**Who:** 6th-8th Graders

**What:** A fun all night-adventure awaits! Swimming, bowling, and Romans & Christians are on the docket for evening jam packed with awesome activities. Bring your friends!



## High School Mission Trip 2017 Info Lunch

**When:** Sunday, February 5, Noon


**Where:** Fireside Room

**What:** Our 2017 High School Mission Trip is to Nashville, TN with the organization "Center for Student Missions" (CSM) from **June 10-June 18**. Come gather information and meet other potential attendees about the trip while we order in pizza. Non-St. John's members are absolutely welcome on the trip if you'd like to bring a friend. If you can't make the meeting or have questions contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).





# St. John's Summer 2017

Camp	Grade Completed	Dates		Cost	Deposit	Registration deadline
VBS Summer Camp	Age 2-4 <sup>th</sup>	June 12-15	More information coming soon!	More info coming soon!	No Deposit	Registration coming soon!
Shores of St. Andrew "Andy's Gang"	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 18-23	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN. Create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible devos, play lots of games, kayak and swim! Sibling Discount of \$15	\$440	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Registration due by 3/17 Balance due by 5/21 Reg. Online (see below)
Chrysalis Crew	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	June 18-23	Chrysalis Crew is located at Green Lake in Spicer, MN. This weeklong camp is awesome, the best of summer camp! Come for a week of faith-filled experience. Sibling Discount of \$15	\$440	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Registration due by 3/17 Balance due by 5/21 Reg. Online (see below)
Nashville Mission Trip	9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	June 10-17	Come serve with us in Nashville! Get to know the city while serving the needs of the people there.	Approx \$450	\$100	Balance due May 1st

REGISTER EARLY for Andy's Gang and Chrysalis Crew  
Go to [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org) to register. (Some spaces are reserved)  
If registering after March 17, we will check availability for space.



**Other stuff for middle school'ers... MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS!**  
**For youth completing 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.**  
**Join us and other Northfield area churches for mystery events in June, July and August.**  
**More info will be coming your way this summer.**

Questions? Contact Mike Skunes or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, or email [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Every camper receives about \$125 from our Youth Fundraiser towards the cost of camp/trips. Please feel free to ask about full/partial scholarships too.



## Shared Ministry



### Do You Enjoy...

Sending cards / encouraging notes?

Visiting someone who is recovering from a surgery or cancer treatments?

Making a meal for a family with a newborn, a family in a crisis situation, or a family who just lost a loved one?

If you do, Called to Care needs your help as they would love to have you as a part of their ministry.

How does Called to Care work? A pastor is informed of a need. The pastor advises Called to Care of the need. Those in Called to Care decide who is available to meet the need at the time.

If this sounds like a ministry you would like to serve with, please email [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office to be added to the group.



## My Last Challenge - - Be a Minister!

By Mary Kelvie

I stepped into the role as Interim Shared Ministry Coordinator while Christy Hall-Holt was travelling for a semester abroad. It is hard to believe the last six months have gone by so quickly. Christy and her family are excited to be returning to Minne'snow'ta which means my time in this position at St. John's is drawing to a close. As I prepare to give the reigns back over to Christy, I have one last opportunity to write to you and give you one more challenge.

First, you need a little background information. When I was a teenager, the church we attended had a sign out front with the name of the church, the name of the pastor and one more line, "Ministers - ALL." I remember thinking, "What? What does 'Ministers - ALL' mean?" Then like a typical teenager with so many other "better" things to think about, I would promptly forget the sign...until the next time I saw it. One day as I was driving by the church and saw the sign, it dawned on me - "Ministers - ALL" means we (everyone - all the people of the church) are supposed to be ministers. Huh? How am I supposed to be a minister? I am not ordained, I am NOT going to seminary, after all I am still in high school.

Why would a church put up a sign saying, "Ministers - ALL"? What does the word minister mean? The definition most of us are familiar with is "a member of the clergy, especially in Protestant churches." However, minister can mean, "a person or thing used to achieve or convey something." As a verb, minister can also mean, "attend to the needs of (someone)."

My high school brain only thought of a minister being a member of the clergy, not about the fact we are all ministers. Isn't that what we are called to do as Christians - attend to the needs of others? Aren't we supposed to be showing others what it is to help, serve, and live outside ourselves in a "me-centered" world? Wasn't the person who put up the sign saying, "Ministers - ALL" right? Shouldn't we all be considered ministers? Now when I think of the sign in front of the church saying, "Ministers - ALL," I smile and think, "Thank you Lord, for the reminder to take a vacation from 'the world revolves around ME' and think of how I can help others and show them YOUR love."

As I step away from the Shared Ministry position, I want to thank you all for being ministers at St. John's. My challenge as I go is this...Keep it up! Keep helping and volunteering for Sunday Hospitality roles. Keep signing up to help at Wednesday Night Meals. Keep up the willingness to sing in the choirs, play bells, usher, serve communion, and step into the role of assisting minister on Sundays. Keep teaching Sunday School or being a leader at Wednesday night confirmation. Keep volunteering to help out in ways you feel called. Keep stretching yourselves to have conversations with new people. Keep giving those around you a welcoming smile. Keep it up St. John's after all we are "Ministers - ALL"!



## Order Your St. John's T-Shirt / Sweatshirt in February!

St. John's children and youth are taking orders for t-shirts and sweatshirts with St. John's new logo starting Wednesday, February 1, and continuing throughout the month.

- Youth Sizes M / L - \$15
- Adult Sizes, T-Shirt and Women's Cut - \$20
- Youth and Adult Sweatshirts - \$25

The styles and sizes will be on display in the Upper Commons starting February 1. Payment is due at the time of order.

## Holden Village Trip Summer 2017!

Spots are available for a group registration and rate for Holden Village this summer. Families or individuals must make a first night's deposit by March 10th to hold a spot within the group.



Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade mountains of Washington state. Originally a village for copper miners, it was gifted to the Lutheran church in

the 1960's and has been operating as a unique year-round ministry for the renewal of the church for over 50 years. Pastor Fickenscher serves on the board of the village, and many Lutherans have visited either on their own family retreats or as part of college student groups on J-term.

Our group will arrive in the village Sunday, July 23, and depart on Saturday, July 29.

### Group rates for 2017 are:

\$65 / night for adults

\$46 / night for children ages 6-17

Children under age 5 free

Maximum rate for a 2 parent family is \$1,399

**We need 15 travelers by March 10 to get the group rate.** You are welcome to bring local friends from other congregations with you.

Travelers will be responsible for making their own travel reservations to and from the village. Holden is very remote – so please read their website "visit" page to understand if it is a feasible trip for you:

<http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/>.

## 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, February 1

Shepherd's Pie

#### Wednesday, February 8

Pizza Burgers and Salad

#### Wednesday, February 15

Tater Tot Hotdish

#### Wednesday, February 22

Nacho Boats



## News and Updates

### **YOU made, You MAKE the difference!**

*As a Stewardship board,  
we asked you to Live Generously, Give Joyfully.*

*And you responded by saying "Yes, we will."*

We exceeded our pledge card goal,  
and raised an additional \$5,000 match for  
the church.

We increased pledges from 2016-2017 by  
\$114,206.

We asked you to give so we can continue the  
work of the church, including meaningful  
worship, welcome and invitation for all, and  
extending our food ministry  
and you said "Yes."

Your gifts will move the church toward  
reaching those goals in 2017.

As we live in the season of epiphany,  
we take a few moments to rejoice in this  
humble generosity, the body of Christ in  
this church and this community.

With humble and grateful hearts,  
we say "Thank you."

Your responsiveness and generosity brings  
joy and renewal to our community.

If we weren't so Minnesotan,  
we might dance in the aisles.

(In fact, if you're so motivated, please do!  
Or just tap your toes under the pew,  
if you want to avoid drawing too much  
attention to yourself.)

You - we all - can rejoice in this moment.

Live generously, give joyfully.

We are blessed to belong to this church,  
in this time and place, where people give  
generously of our time, talents and treasures.

Stewardship is for all seasons, in all places  
and times. You make it possible. Thank you.

In joyful generosity,  
Your Stewardship Board

## **LWR Project Promise Baby Care Kits – How You Can Help?**

Project Promise Baby Care Kits are part of an emergency relief effort through LWR. Kits are given to expectant women around the world to encourage them to seek prenatal care. Thank you to Sarah Circle who has supported this program throughout the years at St. John's.



On Sunday, March 26, our inter-generational event is helping create these kits. Starting February 19, we will be collecting two different items each week to create our Baby Care Kits. A donation basket and shopping lists will be by the Sanctuary entrances and in the Upper Commons.

### **A few guidelines:**

- Clothing between 6–24 months. New is preferred, but can gently used is fine. No worn or stained clothing because it is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries and the entire shipment may be jeopardized.
- Soap, towels and diapers must be new.

No religious symbols, messages, patriotic or military symbols on clothing please.

### **Here's our donation schedule:**

Feb. 19: Lightweight cotton t-shirt (no Onesies) or 8-9 oz. gentle soap in original wrapping

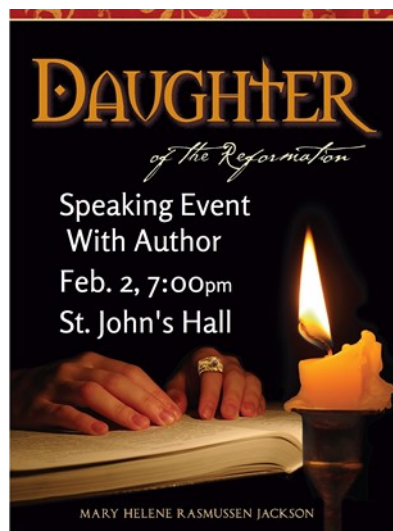
Feb. 26: Pair of baby socks or long or short-sleeved gown/sleeper without feet

Mar. 5: Sturdy diaper pins or cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

Mar. 12: Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby cap

Mar. 19: Hand towel, dark color or receiving blanket in med-weight cotton or flannel up to 52" square

You are welcome to give monetary donations for purchasing items or for shipping the kits. Please make checks to Women of the ELCA. Thank you in advance!





## 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”.



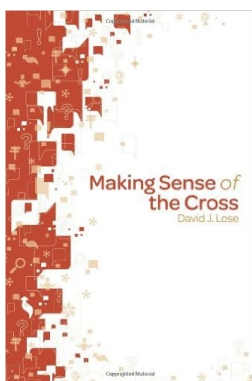
We ask the adult to pray for their buddy and to acknowledge them when they see their child in church.

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](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. We're looking for about 25 adult members from St. John's congregation.

Thank you!

## 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 26, 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. If you would be interested in leading or hosting a small group, please speak with Barb Eaves or Sandi Gerdes.

## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in February

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, February 6, 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](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) to add your name to the email list.



# the WOMEN'S page

## February Gatherings

**Abigail/Rebecca**

Thursday, February 9, 2:00pm  
Parkview West Library  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Elizabeth**

Thursday, February 9, 1:30pm  
Darlene Hand's home  
1109 Farehaven Ct.

**Lydia**

Wednesday, February 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Martha/Claudia**

Wednesday, February 8, 9:30am  
Parkview West Fireside Rm  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Mary**

Friday, February 10, 1:00pm  
Carol Benson's home  
670 Green Meadow Ct.

**Sarah**

Wednesday, February 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Bold Cafe**

Sunday, February 19, 9:45am  
St. John's, Fireside Rm

**Baby Boomers**

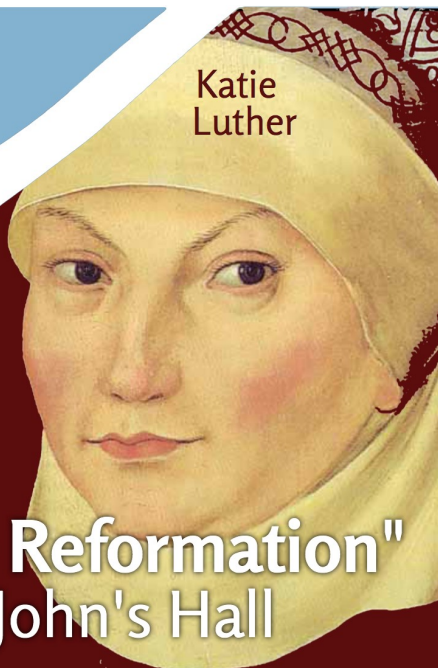
Saturday, February 4, 4:30pm  
Julie Zdenek's home  
2121 Ontario Ln.

**Breakfast Group**

Saturday, February 18, 8:30am  
St. John's Fireside Rm



Katie  
Luther



## Speaking Event with Author of

**"Daughter of the Reformation"**  
Feb. 2, 7:00pm St. John's Hall

**Saturday  
March 4th  
1:00pm**

**KATIE LUTHER TEA**

*save the date!*

*-Lutheran's first feminist*

*How far we have come? How far will we go?*

Honoring Our Heritage - video interviews of our "seasoned sisters"  
Discovering Our Future - panel discussion with our "motivated millenials"

## Save the Date!

**National Gathering of ELCA Women**

**This Summer, July 13-16, in Minneapolis!**

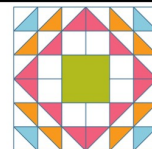
Scholarships available, see WELCA bulletin board info: [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org)



## Can you tie a knot?

Help tie knots for **Lutheran World Relief** quilts.

February 13th & 16th 8:30am, Fellowship Hall



## Need a ride?

Rides available 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](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)  
Publicity: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870

St. John's  
**Women**  
of the **ELCA**

## Accompany... Joining the St. John's Community



We invite newcomers to St. John's to engage in small group gatherings. Participants learn to engage Scripture and worship in personal reflection and group conversation, and are accompanied by members of St. John's along the way.

Anyone interested – whether as a newcomer or as someone interested in renewing their own faith by being a sponsor – is invited to a sample session on Sunday, February 5, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Regular sessions will begin Sunday, February 19, and run through Easter. Contact either of the pastors for more information, or just come to the sample session.

## Better Halves... A Marriage & Money Workshop

Ever wonder why talking about money in marriage is so difficult? Want to strengthen your relationship and your finances at the same time? Better Halves is a marriage enrichment workshop that addresses the emotional side of finances, giving you tools to talk with each other about this often contentious issue.

The pastors will be leading the Better Halves workshop on Saturday, February 18 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 and includes an online assessment as well as a light brunch. Sign up at St. John's or by emailing Pastor Pam at [pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Lent Begins March 1 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 p.m.



Mid-week worship begins the following week, March 8, at 6:30 p.m.

**Soup Suppers** precede each midweek service, serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

## News and Updates

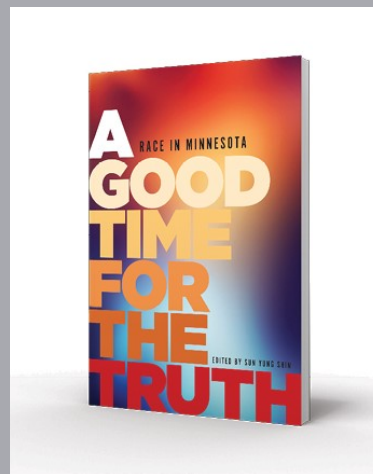
### Wednesday Night Book Discussion on Race in Minnesota

During the last two Sundays of January, the Adult Forum encouraged conversation around race and racism.

If you want to continue that conversation with special focus on how race and culture are lived in Minnesota, please join us in a book group meeting informally over dinner Wednesday nights in St. John's Hall.

We will read *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, a collection of essays by 16 Minnesotan authors sharing their experiences living as Indigenous and people of color in our state.

Contact Kristin Partlo at [kpartlo@gmail.com](mailto:kpartlo@gmail.com) if interested.





## 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)

### Visitation Pastor

John Quam

[jequam@rconnect.com](mailto:jequam@rconnect.com)

### Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### Facility Manager

Tim Byers

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

### Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

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

### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

Carol Benson - Alleluia Choir

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

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

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

### Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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

### Shared Ministry

Mary Kelvie

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

### Youth Ministry

Mike Skunes

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

### Congregation President

Ruthie Neuger

[rneuger@engageprint.com](mailto:rneuger@engageprint.com)

## From Bread for the World

As the nation's 45th president, Donald Trump has an awesome responsibility to be the leader of all Americans. Trump must be the president to the rich, the poor, and all in between, to the powerful and the excluded. In a letter sent to Trump prior to his inauguration, Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World recalled Trump's victory speech on election night in which he made a promise to help "the forgotten men and women of our country" and vowed that they "will be forgotten no longer." The letter called on him as president to live up to our nation's ideals of inclusion and to foster respect for all people.



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

The number of people in extreme poverty has dropped from two billion in 1990 to fewer than 800 million people today. Bread for the World urges the president to do his part to put our nation and the world on track to end hunger by 2030. In his letter Beckmann wrote "You have made bold promises of prosperity for struggling communities across the country, and you recognize the link between global security and world hunger. Cutting hunger in half within eight years is possible, and we can imagine you setting the goal of making it happen." Read more at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## Collecting Donation Items for Refugees in the Twin Cities

As an extension of a class project, St. Olaf students Kaziah Josiah and Zachary Rivera are seeking support from the members of St. John's to donate items for refugees in the Twin Cities.



Specifically, Twin Cities refugees are in need of **cleaning supplies**: broom, mop, sponges, dish soap, multi-purpose cleaner, dish towel and rag, dust pan; **winter supplies**: gloves, mittens, shoes, boots; **hygiene items/bathroom supplies**: toilet paper, feminine hygiene pads, diapers, deodorant, shower curtains; **kitchen supplies**: rice cookers, plastic cutting boards, can openers, pots and pans; and other **household goods**: trash can, laundry basket, light bulbs.

**Items can be deposited in collection boxes in the Commons.** All items will directly benefit refugees in conjunction with Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, and Arrive Ministries. Given the current uncertainty surrounding refugee resettlement in the U.S., your contribution is even more important and appreciated.

If you have any questions contact Kaziah or Zachary at [josiahk@stolaf.edu](mailto:josiahk@stolaf.edu) or [rivera@stolaf.edu](mailto:rivera@stolaf.edu). Kaziah and Zachary thank our congregation for your willingness to host an items drive and for actively supporting refugees for more than 50 years.

# 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](mailto: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!**



**St. John's**  
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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NORTHFIELD MN

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

**PHONE**

507-645-4429

**FAX**

507-645-9633

**EMAIL**

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

**WEBSITE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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



## **Missing something? Check the Lost and Found!**

The church lost and found is filling up.

Please be sure to check and see if anything is yours.

The items are in the Lost & Found box or on the rack  
near the bathrooms off the Commons.