

# *THE EVANGELIST*



**MAGAZINE FOR SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR SINCE 1881*  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 VOL. CXV, NO. 1

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflections From Convention ..... 3  
"With No One Left Out" ..... 4  
An Evangelist for Spiritual Healing ..... 6  
News from CYF ..... 8  
Meet Our New Staff ..... 9  
Welcome, New Members! ..... 10  
Service Information and Birthdays ..... 11

## **We encourage your contributions!**

You are always welcome to submit reflections, articles, and photos. Send them to [communications@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:communications@stjohnsstpaul.org). Thank you!

## ON THE COVER:

St. John's choir and handbell choir, directed by Richard Gray, offered a fantastic Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 17. The service was preceded by a musical prelude by Dean Billmeyer on piano and Alison Young on flute (below).



# STAY CONNECTED



Scan this QR code to reach all these links in one place!

Website: [www.StJohnsStPaul.org](http://www.StJohnsStPaul.org)

Sign up for our email list: [www.tinyurl.com/SJEemails](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEemails)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnsstpaul](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsstpaul)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stjohnsstpaul](http://www.youtube.com/@stjohnsstpaul)

Instagram: [@stjohnsstpaul](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsstpaul)

Staff Blog: [epistlesandepiphanies.wordpress.com](http://epistlesandepiphanies.wordpress.com)

My St. John's directory & parishioner portal: [www.tinyurl.com/SJEportal](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEportal)

App: [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#) (search for "Church by Ministry One.")

## St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church

### Clergy

The Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, *Rector*  
The Rev. Craig Lemming, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Chelsea Stanton, *Deacon*

### Staff

Shelley Byrnes, *Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry*  
Gabriel Dull, *Coordinator for Streaming Media Ministry*  
Sarah Dull, *Executive Administrator*  
Richard Gray, *Director of Music*  
Laurel Mikkelson, *Nursery Coordinator*  
The Rev. Barbara Mraz, *Writer in Residence*  
Dr. Judy Stack, *Welcome & Connect Minister*  
Chris Tegeler, *Building Manager*  
Ellie Watkins, *Communications & Media Manager*  
Jenny Watt, *Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant*

### Vestry Members

Bette Ashcroft, *Junior Warden*  
Jeff Chen, *At Large*  
Tisha Colton, *At Large*  
Jamie Bents, *Faith in Action*  
John Docherty, *Liturgy*  
Johannah Frisby, *At Large*  
Paige Hagstrom, *Fellowship*  
Eliza Mae Lundberg, *At Large*  
Rianna Matter, *Children, Youth, & Family*  
Rick Rinkoff, *Treasurer*  
Sally Sand, *At Large*  
Ed Stieve, *Music*  
Holly Weinkauf, *Senior Warden*

# REFLECTIONS FROM CONVENTION

This year's diocesan convention, and especially Bishop Craig Loya's address, was an especially energizing experience for our delegates! You can watch the video of his address (with captions and transcript) at [tinyurl.com/PlayInTheWater](https://tinyurl.com/PlayInTheWater).

**Tom Evans:** Thrilled, grateful, enthused, optimistic – I came away from this year's Convention with a sense of all of the above, especially for the "renewed" state of the Episcopal Church in MN.

Unquestionably we are blessed with leadership at all levels that is totally on board with the plans laid out at the convention, and a true commitment to work together. The diocesan priorities (Discipleship, Justice, Vitality, and Faithful Innovation) are working now to create a more unified ECMN; among all the regions of the diocese there is a sense of sharing resources and working together.

In the Bishop's address, he acknowledged the uncertain times we are in and then put forth his 4-point plan for stabilizing and growing our future:

1. Form Lay Leaders, partnering with the Lutheran Program to assist in bringing this about;
2. Establish MORE congregations, many led by lay leaders, overseen by clergy, creating micro communities in homes and public places;
3. Develop strong support and funding for the 11 Indigenous communities in ECMN;
4. Put our focus on multicultural communities, those that are racially and linguistically diverse.

He encouraged us all to "step out of the boat and to dance on the waves" in this time of worldwide uncertainty. Take a chance. Be brave.

The Commissions and Trustee elections resulted in some of the best talent coming forth to strengthen the leadership ranks.

The convention had a new energy brought on by a younger crowd, the ECMN staff meeting us at the door each day, and the contagious enthusiasm exhibited by those in attendance. It was joyous with a serious commitment to continue to build.

Finally, with a plan and energy, ECMN, with its 93 current Churches, has momentum going forward.

Been a long time a-brewin' Whew!



**Bette Ashcroft:** When asked to serve as a delegate to the ECMN Convention in 2023, I agreed with some reservations. I have been a delegate in the past and had found the experience to be tedious, frustrating, and unproductive.

This year, our community was blessed with the presence of our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. He is a deeply engaging preacher, and it was a treat to hear him in person.

But I was even more impressed by the leadership of our Diocesan mission team. There was perfect a balance of fellowship, business, worship, teaching, and messaging. The Spirit was in the room, and I left feeling enriched and encouraged. I look forward to gathering again in 2024.

**Judy Stack:** Two things stood out to me. The first was the diversity of representatives at the convention. There were black, white, first nations, Asian, Latinx, and Indian; city and rural; folks who were exuberant and folks who were quiet. I saw that ECMN is truly connecting across lines of difference in race, age, gender, economic resources, high and low church traditions... it was amazing. The second thing was Bishop Loya's address. His encouragement to our parishes to step out of the boats and move toward Jesus, even in the midst of the storms that are buffeting our civic and church communities in so many ways--it was truly a word that focused us as a diocese on the future and embracing what the spirit is up to with faith and hope in the face of uncertainty and tumultuous circumstances. I thought to myself, "I am in the right place!"

# “WITH NO ONE LEFT OUT”

By the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson

On January 14, St. John’s will observe the feast of Saint Aelred of Rievaulx at 8am and 10am. Saint Aelred’s writing on spiritual friendship, focusing on his intimate spiritual connections with other men, led many over the years to make inferences about his sexuality. Within the Anglican and Roman Catholic tradition this has resulted in many LGBTQ+ Christians claiming him as their patron saint. At St. John’s over the past few years we have taken this tradition as an opportunity to not only celebrate Saint Aelred but also the presence and blessing of LGBTQ+ leaders in our midst and within the Episcopal Church. This year’s preacher for the feast of Saint Aelred of Rievaulx will be Nathan Michael Black, a postulant for holy orders, discerning a call to priesthood from Saint John’s, and currently serving as a chaplain and part of the spiritual care team at Mayo in Rochester, Minnesota.

Nathan is no stranger to many of us at St. John’s, having been here now for more than a few years, beginning his ordination discernment process in our midst, more recently assuming leadership of our parish LGBTQ+ Spiritual Life group, and having preached in our pulpit already on previous occasions. More recently, you may have even noticed Nathan at the Annual Saint John’s Christmas Party, where he and his husband (recently married – Congrats to the happy couple!), Alejandro Pineda Camacho, staffed one of the chef stations providing food. Their dish was a celebration of Alejandro’s food traditions growing up in his native Venezuela.

Nathan currently lives in Owatonna, to be closer to Rochester, settling there not long after moving to Minnesota from Seattle in 2020 for work. In Owatonna, Nathan found that there wasn’t much by way of public and visible community support for the LGBTQ community. With the partnership of local leaders in the gay community and allies, Nathan helped found Rainbowatonna, a community action and organizing group for queer folks in the Owatonna area. The group organized the first, to their knowledge, Pride event in Owatonna this summer.



Perhaps you heard the story as it made national news in July, when Owatonna’s mayor, Thomas Kuntz, began interfering with churches and businesses involved with hosting or supporting the Owatonna Pride events. As Nathan tells it, it wasn’t surprising to receive resistance, even hate and vitriol from residents of the area. But, as he told me “we were wholly unprepared to deal with discrimination from city officials.” Nathan and Rainbowatonna pushed through and held a very successful Pride for their city. But, lingering in the background was how to respond to an organized and concerted effort by elected officials to shut down a celebration of LGBTQ identity and expression.

Nathan explained, “I knew that our community has entrenched patterns and histories of racism, white supremacy, and homophobia. I knew that the

'good old boy' network was very powerful in this small town. I concluded that because the mayor took a public action against our community in his official capacity as mayor, and he did this at a church, and attempted to interfere with a religious service, that I *had* to respond publicly." Nathan would eventually publish a letter to the community calling for the mayor's resignation. The story drew both local and national attention. News organizations asked for interviews with Nathan, pressure mounted on the mayor, and Rainbowatonna and Nathan did not back away from their call. Mayor Kuntz issued what most regarded as a "non-apology" which Nathan and his fellow leaders refused to accept.

As the situation heated up Nathan recalls having to steel his resolve, holding his ground, insisting on an elected leader who could be a trustworthy representative for all his constituents. Eventually with involvement from Minnesota Department of Justice and the pressure of other state officials, a non-punitive conciliation process was begun and the mayor issued an actual apology.

A meeting between the parties also happened, which Nathan describes as a bright moment in the whole experience. Nathan brought a board member of Rainbowatonna, Jen Hansen, to the meeting with the mayor and a local pastor.

Hansen, a retired teacher in the local school district and a well known and beloved member of the community, shared how scary and heartbreaking it was trying to protect her transgender daughter from the harm of bullying, discrimination, and violence. She shared that as deeply faithful Christians, they were very sad that her daughter did not feel safe and welcomed at church. Hansen described how with everything that Rainbowatonna was doing this year, her daughter began to express hope about maybe going back to church.

Hansen then described the impact of the mayor's actions. She told Kuntz, "When you did what you did, my daughter said, 'see, they're never going to accept us.'" This personal story seemed to connect with Mayor Kuntz, and he tearfully asked, "How do I fix this?"



"I know so many of you are getting involved in your communities doing the work to create justice and equality... the Beloved Community. And it is beautiful to see the contributions you are making.

If you're worried about the growing danger for equality, freedom, and safety, my advice is to get involved locally in something that is meaningful and working for change. If you can't find something local, guess what... it's time to start something. And you can do it!"

– Nathan Michael Black, in an online post during Pride

Together, the mayor and Rainbowatonna, with Nathan's leadership, drafted a joint statement for how they could move forward. That statement and the details within it are still in process and Nathan notes that he isn't sure exactly what of it will come to pass, and what systemic change in Owatonna looks like. But, it is clear that the process is shaping him as a leader.

I ask him what it means to be a queer Christian leader in light of these experiences and as he continues in the discernment process toward the priesthood. How are these learnings shaping his ministry in Owatonna and as a chaplain at Mayo.

He takes his time to respond, clearly reflecting.

"One of the blessings of being a gay person in ministry is that I can never get too far away from my knowledge, awareness, and experience of being someone on the margins in our society. At the same time, being a white male in our society means that no matter how much I heal and grow, I can never get too far away from my knowledge, awareness, and experience of being someone with extraordinary and unearned privilege. It is a profound blessing, often with many challenges, to live in both worlds. These gifts keep me grounded, passionate, hopeful, and committed to making the Good News of the Gospel alive, healing, and transformative for everyone, with no one left out."

# AN EVANGELIST FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING

On Sunday, February 4, we will observe a Black History Candlemas on the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. Our preacher that morning, Marjorie D. Grevious, is a familiar voice at St. John's: she has preached at Racial Reconciliation Holy Eucharists honoring Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, and she co-led our Advent 2022 Faith Forum series "Healing Within: Spiritual Practices for All Bodies."

This time, Marjorie is coming back in a new capacity as our Evangelist for Spiritual Healing, a role created by our rector, Jered Weber-Johnson, to help us continue to live into our parish and diocesan priority of "Justice: Becoming Beloved Community." This role will focus almost entirely on proclamation,

and Marjorie will preach on a monthly basis.

We have a long tradition at St. John's of great preaching and proclamation from both parish clergy and guest preachers. "It is my hope," says Jered, "that Marjorie's presence in our pulpit on a recurring basis – as not only an excellent preacher, but a person of many intersecting identities – will help us work toward justice by inviting us more deeply into the work of inner healing. We can only do that by expanding what Dr. Catherine Meeks describes as 'dialogue in our inner communities.' I am humbled and delighted that Marjorie's voice will become a regular part of the dialogue in all our hearts and minds."

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MARJORIE D. GREVIOUS

By the Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson

"Who am I?" asked Marjorie D. Grevious this spring, as she preached at St. John's Racial Reconciliation Eucharist honoring the life of Saint Harriet Tubman. Reflecting on Tubman's legacy, the struggle to liberate enslaved blacks from antebellum southern states in the midst of her own frailty, epilepsy, and diminutive stature, Grevious wove her own story in with this great ancestor in the faith.

She asked, "Who am I, Lord, a poor black girl from Kentucky, born to an overwhelmed teenage mother... progeny of a simple country preacher... with debilitating asthma that robs me of breath, joints that give way in pain, and a heart shattered by grief? Who am I to proclaim your divine glory?"

Who she is, is a prophetess, in the biblical tradition of Anna, Miriam, Huldah, and Deborah, and in the legacy of Sojourner Truth and Pauli Murray. A prophetess, as Grevious describes to me, is a woman who has the "audacity and conviction" to speak on behalf of God or by divine inspiration for God's people often in spaces and places and in the midst of theological traditions that do not invite or allow women to hold positions of authority or to function formally in ministry. Though holding a Masters of Arts in Theology degree from United Theological



Seminary, a rigorous program of theological study, Grevious has not felt called to ordained ministry. "Looking at the women in the Bible who are called prophetess," she says, "I was impressed...these women were not ordained or formally commissioned by their communities as we might imagine such roles today." Yet they still allowed their lives and words to be used to disrupt structures and systems of injustice, inequality, and oppression and to point toward a future where God's reign would liberate and free.

Marjorie's calling is multifaceted, reflecting a formation in the Missionary Baptist tradition of her childhood, and her first encounter with liberation theology at Augsburg (B.A. in Secondary Education and a minor in theology). The latter, she says, "expanded and exploded my idea of what being a Christian meant for me in a big way." It would get channeled into a passion for liberation, healing, and helping what scripture often calls "the least of these" and to a career in social services.

Her experiences in youth work and social work highlighted the need to focus on the whole person, the spiritual as well as the physical, to bring about healing and wholeness for individuals, systems and communities. In 2018 she would bring her diverse training and experience together in founding Temple Within, her private consulting practice offering, as she says in her bio, "spiritual wellness consulting, workshop facilitation, and yoga teaching services to those seeking liberation from what hinders, healing from what hurts, towards reimagining and reclaiming joy."

I am aware that Marjorie's life experiences, her identity as a queer black woman, and her lack of ordination credentials, might seem to point in the opposite direction of an Episcopal Church pulpit. I am a straight, white, ordained clergyman, and the majority of our preaching tradition has been dominated by people who look and sound like me. I wonder with Marjorie what that might mean as she comes to be a recurring preacher here.

She reminds me that she is the beneficiary of the Black Baptist Church tradition, and while it granted many gifts, it did not make much (if any) room for women or queer folks in positions of theological leadership. Feeling outside of the tradition is not exactly a new experience for her. I ask her to tell me

about that, and I sense her care and caution as she responds. "It is probably one of the most Christlike things I can do," she says, "to step into a space where I or folks like me have not historically been seen, expected, invited, or welcomed." She goes on to point out that Jesus went into spaces where he was not always respected, valued, invited; he went to be with and hold sacred space for and with people, especially people who needed this new word from the Lord. "With that comes a sense of discomfort and a lack of ease as, like Jesus, I step into a space to disturb the status quo."

I feel myself getting uncomfortable as she says this, and at the same time am reminded of words from Bishop Rob Wright, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, who recently told his clergy that if you aren't uncomfortable as you step into the pulpit, you probably aren't doing it right. How quickly we can slip into imagining that the work of homiletics is about comforting instead of challenging, accommodating instead of disrupting! I am grateful for Grevious' candor. Discomfort can be holy.

As we wrap up our conversation, I can also see that Marjorie is aware of my discomfort. She is quick to add, "I just want the people of St. John's to know that I come in love and I come with peace and that my intention and purpose is to be a vessel, not to or for St. John's, but for the Spirit of God. That's why my business is called Temple Within: because of that passage in Corinthians when Paul asks 'do you not know you are a temple of the Holy Spirit?'"

Indeed, we are that temple, and we are a body, and like all bodies, we need a prophetic word, a troubling word from time to time, to move us out of complacency into healing and new life. That can be good news, not just for our spirit, but for a world in need of justice and reconciliation. I am looking forward to our faith community engaging more deeply in that process as we get to know Marjorie Grevious in the year ahead.

As she concluded her homily this spring, Marjorie asked us, "I dare you to ask yourself, 'Who am I', in the wake of a legacy like Harriet Tubman. Who am I to stand in my own fragility and still do the work of justice, and freedom. Might you be called into discomfort as you disrupt the complicated systems of inequality woven into all of our lives as Americans, as Christians, as human beings."



# NEWS FROM CYF

## (CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES)

**By Shelley Byrnes,  
Director of  
Children, Youth,  
and Family  
Ministries**

Thank you all for such a warm welcome to St John the Evangelist! I am honored to be your new Director of CYF Ministries. My imagination has been wholly inspired by the students and the activities already happening at SJE. One of the most exciting aspects is the support of volunteers and parents, without which, nothing I can do will create a successful program! Because of this, I will be holding an information gathering meeting with parents and leaders, in January to hear what you feel is working, what could be better, and what you wish for in the CYF program. Watch for an email scheduling this after our Epiphany Pageant.

In the meantime, we have amazing and dedicated Godly Play and Whirl leaders who teach Sunday School each week. These men and women truly show our young people the face of Jesus as they teach them about the Bible and create safe spaces for them to ask questions and wonder about the stories of God.

Beginning in January, I will hold semiannual gatherings so these leaders may build confidence and skill in the classrooms. We are blessed to have Jay Clark (a passionate and gifted Godly Play storyteller) who will run trainings for new and current Godly Play leaders. And I will meet with Whirl leaders to discuss the curriculum and classroom management techniques. We will have seasoned leaders working with the new until they feel comfortable as a leader.

Additionally, with a resource like Richard Gray, it makes sense to offer music education to our younger parishioners! So, in Lent, the students will have an opportunity to learn music in preparation to

celebrate Easter through music. If we have enough participation, there is a good possibility that we will continue beyond Easter. We hope to have enough participation to continue after Easter.

The students in our youth groups are remarkable! I am honored to continue to get to know them. The younger group is engrossed in building leadership skills and writing their youth group covenant. During Lent we will be using the teen version of the Living Compass curriculum which helps teens discover their spiritual gifts and develop skills for a well-rounded life.

The older group is working diligently toward their pilgrimage in the summer of 2025. They communally chose Croatia as their pilgrimage site. There, they will explore the historic borderland between, Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The trip will include time surrounded in natural beauty as well as a dramatic rendering of the stations of the cross and a visit to Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. There will be opportunities for you to support these students as they fundraise over the next 18 – 20 months.

The CYF Committee is a superb support. They provide continuity from the past and inspiration for the future. Since I am still meeting parishioners, they are also helping me to build the cadre of program volunteers including: CYF Committee Members, Whirl Leaders, Godly Play Leaders, Youth Group Leaders, and Pilgrimage Chaperones, special event leaders, etc. So, if the Holy Spirit has been nudging you to volunteer, NOW is the time to get involved. Please contact me at [CYF@stjohnstpaul.org](mailto:CYF@stjohnstpaul.org) and we will make time to find the right fit for your time and talents!



# MEET OUR NEW STAFF



**Dr. Judy Stack, Minister for Welcome and Connection** (she/her)  
getconnected@stjohnsstpaul.org

I coordinate the various activities at St John's related to membership – welcoming visitors, leading Wayfinders classes, keeping records up to date – but on a bigger level my job is to help create and maintain pathways for connection for new folks, existing members, and anyone else who finds themselves here.

*How does your ministry area help support St. John's commitment to the diocesan priority of Justice?* There is no justice without inclusion. A commitment to welcoming the other and then to building healthy, authentic connections that include listening and trusting--these are first steps in doing justice on an interpersonal level that leads to movement toward justice on a larger scale.

*What are your hopes and dreams for St. John's in this coming year?* This is a very exciting time at St John's! There is a deep well of spiritual vitality bubbling up. I see it in the joy folks have in being together in worship and other gatherings. Studies show people are desperately isolated and lonely these days. St. John's is famous for being genuinely warm and friendly; we are in a position to build on that to show up with authentic, caring curiosity that tells people they are valued and accepted.

*What's a topic you always love to chat about?* Old movies, philosophy, and all sorts of music from medieval chant to punk rock.

*What is the most relaxing thing you've done recently?* My son, Michael (age 24) and I are on a project of watching “the great dumb movies” like *Wayne's World*, *Animal House*, and *Happy Gilmore*. Michael's commentary makes me laugh so hard!

*How would you sum up the gospel in one sentence?* In love God has, through Jesus, freed us from the power of sin and death, filled us with faith, love, and joy, and made us part of Christ's body so that his resurrection life flows through us to love and serve others.



**Laurel Mikkelson, Nursery Coordinator** (she/her)  
nursery@stjohnsstpaul.org

I am a board certified music therapist and independent childcare provider. My duties at St. John's include caring for children in the nursery during church services and organizing fun, creative ways to engage them during larger group events when childcare is provided.

*What's a topic you always love to chat about?* Child development and emotion regulation!

*What is the most relaxing thing you've done recently?* Take a day off to clean and organize around my home as well as to do yoga and take a nap!

I am grateful for the opportunity to care for children in such an affirmative, welcoming space.



**Jenny Watt, Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant** (she/her)  
church@stjohnsstpaul.org

My duties include setting up annual pledges, maintaining financial records, processing accounts payable/receivable, and answering questions that come in for the church office.

*How does your ministry area help support St. John's commitment to the diocesan priority of Justice?* It goes beyond managing daily operations and budgeting – it's about assisting in the mission of the Gospel. Providing exceptional administration gives our members, church, and community more time to focus on their faith journey. We help pave the way for spiritual growth within our congregation.

*What's a topic you always love to chat about?* Anything about animals, especially dogs!

*How would you sum up the gospel in one sentence?* A holy God sends His righteous Son to die for us, so we can live with God in His kingdom for eternity.

# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

In November, we formally welcomed 20 new members into our congregation! Over the next few issues of *The Evangelist*, we'll be sharing their profiles so you can get to know them. Be sure and say hello next time you see them at St. John's!



**Jax Collins** (she/her) is originally from Virginia and a lifelong Episcopalian. Jax studied at theology at Vanderbilt, and now works for the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; she will be starting her MBA soon.

After settling in the Twin Cities, Jax went church shopping and heard Craig Lemming preach when he was a guest preacher at another church. Intrigued by his message, she visited St. John's. She is passionate about everything which fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion. Because of this, she feels that St. John's is a great fit for her.

When not at work or church, one can find Jax listening to podcasts, watching TV (documentaries) or reading biographies or fiction.

We're delighted to announce that Jax is taking on the role of coordinating the Young(ish) Adults Spiritual Life group! If you identify as a young(ish) adult, keep an eye out in future communications for upcoming gatherings, and/or reach out to Jax to let her know you're interested!



**Ryan Musgrove** (he/him) grew up in Western Colorado. At age 21 he moved to Germany where he stayed for eleven years. Ryan moved back to the US in 2005 and lived in Maine until last year. Ryan works as a professional pastry chef.

When Ryan moved to St. Paul about a year ago, he searched for a church home. After trying a few other local Episcopal churches, he found St. John's and liked what he saw: the wonderful clergy, the liturgy, the religious and spiritual aspects, and especially the music. The "personal touch" and "strong sense of community" have been important factors for him in choosing to become a member of St. John's.

Ryan has varied interests including history, medieval music, architecture, and reading. He is especially enjoying learning about St. Paul's history and has recently read local history books written over 100 years ago! He and his partner, Tim Olsen, are members of the choir, but he is also interested in the educational offerings at St. John's and would like to become a reader and chalice bearer in the future.



**Bundy Trinz** (she/her) comes from Chicago and has a background in theater and film as a set designer and art director. Upon leaving that industry for health reasons, she worked as a senior designer at American Girl Dolls and – her favorite after the visual arts – in organizational excellence in the non-profit world.

She has a double master's degree from seminary in theology and the arts and leadership toward racial justice. Bundy has been an active ally for racial and gender equality since the 1960s. She is a Presbyterian deacon and trained spiritual director. She has sat on anti-racism teams for two churches, the UCC Conference and Presbyterian Presbytery. Bundy found her way to St. John's through fellow visual artist and member

Sarah Stengle, who introduced her to the beautiful music here. Bundy and member Barb Lindeke – classmates from high school-level boarding school – reconnected in 2022 at a reunion in St. Paul. Bundy joined Barb for services and says she stayed at St. John's for several reasons: a variety of activities "from fun to serious"; community outreach programs; and our excellent music. She feels "the spirit in the house," especially during services and during communion. Bundy appreciates the wonderful sermons and finds that St. John's is a place where she can be honest about her religious and political views. Bundy currently serves as a reader, is part of the discernment group and book club. She is grateful for her friends and acquaintances at St. John's.

Other interests include her own abstract cartoons, art collection, close friends, film, music, travel, and love of animals. Bundy is currently engaged in using the Enneagram for personal transformation and to better understand others – through the lenses of compassion and truth.

## JOIN THE WORSHIP TEAM!

Help make Sunday mornings happen! Contact the addresses listed below to volunteer or learn more.

### Altar Guild:

jered.weberjohnson@stjohnsstpaul.org

**Coffee Hour:** [www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEcoffeesignup)

### Eucharistic Ministers:

craig.lemming@stjohnsstpaul.org

**Media Team:** [media@stjohnsstpaul.org](mailto:media@stjohnsstpaul.org)

**Readers & Vergers:** [rlinehan@gmail.com](mailto:rlinehan@gmail.com)

**Ushers:** [jolsen4338@gmail.com](mailto:jolsen4338@gmail.com)

## MAKE YOUR COMMITMENT NOW

The ministries of St. John's are only made possible by you – our current members and supporters. When you prayerfully commit now to how much you intend to give in 2024, the Vestry can better determine the budget for the coming year.

### To make your commitment:

- Visit [www.tinyurl.com/SJEpledge2024](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEpledge2024)
- Use your phone camera to take a picture of the QR code at right
- Place your completed commitment card in the offering basket



## REGULAR WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Sundays: 8am** Rite I Eucharist in the Church;

**10am** Rite II Hybrid Eucharist in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE)

The 4th Sunday of each month is a Racial Reconciliation Eucharist.

**Monday-Saturday: 8am** Morning Prayer at [www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE](http://www.facebook.com/MorningPrayerSJE)

followed by Coffee Hour on Zoom.

**Thursdays: 7pm** Compline (Night Prayer) in the Church and on YouTube at [www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE](http://www.tinyurl.com/youtubeSJE).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

### JANUARY

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Kathryn Farseth  | 15 Mary Ann Mason       |
| 2 Thomas Giambetti | 16 Alice Johnson        |
| 4 Timothy Welsh    | 17 Dusty Mairs          |
| 5 Jennifer Tianen  | 18 Elliott Allen        |
| Keith Davis        | 19 Josephine Lottsfeldt |
| 6 Patti Murakami   | Shirley Sailors         |
| 7 Bob Horn         | Lance Georgeson         |
| Anne Hodgson       | 20 Mary E. Johnson      |
| Austin Loch        | 21 Cormac Graupman      |
| 8 Lynn Hartmann    | 23 Nancy Wellington     |
| 10 Pat Brynteson   | Katherine Meyer         |
| George Power       | Patricia Ball           |
| Cara Bailey        | Beth Bowman             |
| Noella Merchant    | 27 Pauline Johnson      |
| 11 Dorothy Ek      | Marilyn Conklin         |
| 12 Julia Ferguson  | 28 Daniel Huston        |
| 13 Barbara Mraz    | 29 Elizabeth Plummer    |
| 14 Judy Stack      | Michael Georgeson       |
| Mary Hansen        | Matthew Doll            |
|                    | 30 Jonas Brown          |

### FEBRUARY

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 George Madsen        | 15 Matthew Wright        |
| 2 Eliza Lundberg       | Nina Georgeson           |
| 4 Dyanne Parsons       | Henrik Gjerde            |
| 5 Patricia Byrne Pfalz | 16 Fred Berndt           |
| Sarah Clements         | Sheryl Ramstad           |
| 6 Sarah K. Smith       | 17 Sam Tessier           |
| Rae Hadley             | Clark Watkins            |
| Jon Lahti              | 19 Julia Lightner        |
| 8 Matthew Porter       | 20 Tessa Wegenke         |
| 9 George Kinhead       | Anne Debertain           |
| Eloise Teisberg        | 22 Colleen Swope         |
| 12 Robert Bloom        | Liliane Matter           |
| Jennifer Rosendale     | 23 Coleman McNally       |
| 13 Steve Michaels      | 24 Emily Linehan         |
| Nicholas Brezny        | 27 Don Postema           |
| 14 Becky Garthofner    | 28 Annabella Ruby Powers |
|                        | Paul Garceau             |

*Have your address or phone number changed? Is your birthday missing or incorrect? Log on to My St. John's at [www.tinyurl.com/SJEportal](http://www.tinyurl.com/SJEportal) to update your records.*



60 Kent Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

[stjohnsstpaul.org](http://stjohnsstpaul.org)

*Join us for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 am Sundays*

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 2441

## ***THE EVANGELIST***

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024**



In December, St. John's staff enjoyed a musical interlude from our tenants Big Wonder Child Care who visited us on their rounds of Christmas caroling!