



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

Ushers will gather these following worship.

*In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags

*are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.*

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.

For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.



*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.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Variations on “Earth, Earth, Awake!”

Robert Powell

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ACS No. 937

“Earth, Earth, Awake!”

*Greeting

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

- ☐ O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Genesis 35:1-15

¹God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel, and settle there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” ²So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your clothes; ³then come, let us go up to Bethel, that I may make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” ⁴So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they

had, and the rings that were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak that was near Shechem. ⁵As they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities all around them, so that no one pursued them. ⁶Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, ⁷and there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because it was there that God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother. ⁸And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So it was called Allon-bacuth. ⁹God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and he blessed him. ¹⁰God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall you be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he was called Israel. ¹¹God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. ¹²The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you." ¹³Then God went up from him at the place where he had spoken with him. ¹⁴Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured out a drink offering on it, and poured oil on it. ¹⁵So Jacob called the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

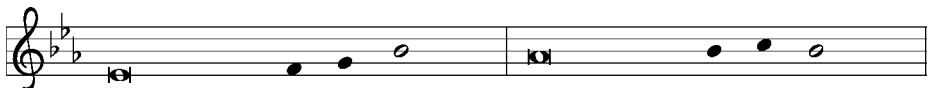
L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 103:1-8

Antiphon: Carlton Young (ACS No. 1094)

Antiphon: Bring many names, beautiful and good, celebrate, in parable and story, holiness in glory, living loving God. Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!



¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—

³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;

⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*Antiphon: Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home: Hail and hosanna, great living God!*

***Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel — John 15:9-17**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1094

“Bring Many Names”

*The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

L Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

*Peace

☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "Awake, My Heart"

Carolyn Jennings

Awake, my heart, with gladness, see what today is done; now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun. For Christ again is free! Oh, praise the victory! My Savior, strong to save, has triumphed o'er the grave. Now evil cannot harm me, its power has been defied; and death cannot alarm me, for Christ is at my side. Beyond this mortal life, beyond all earthly strife, my Savior leads the way to realms of day, endless day. This is a sight that gladdens—what peace it does impart! Now nothing ever saddens the joy within my heart. No gloom shall ever shake, no foe shall ever take the hope that God's own Son in love for me has won. Awake, my heart, with gladness, the Savior now proclaim. Away with gloom and sadness! Extol the Savior's name. For love so full and free, my Savior's gift to me, awake, my heart, and sing! Let praises ring! - Paul Gerhardt, tr. John Kelly

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"

Wayne Wold

*Offering Hymn — "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your
abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the
world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

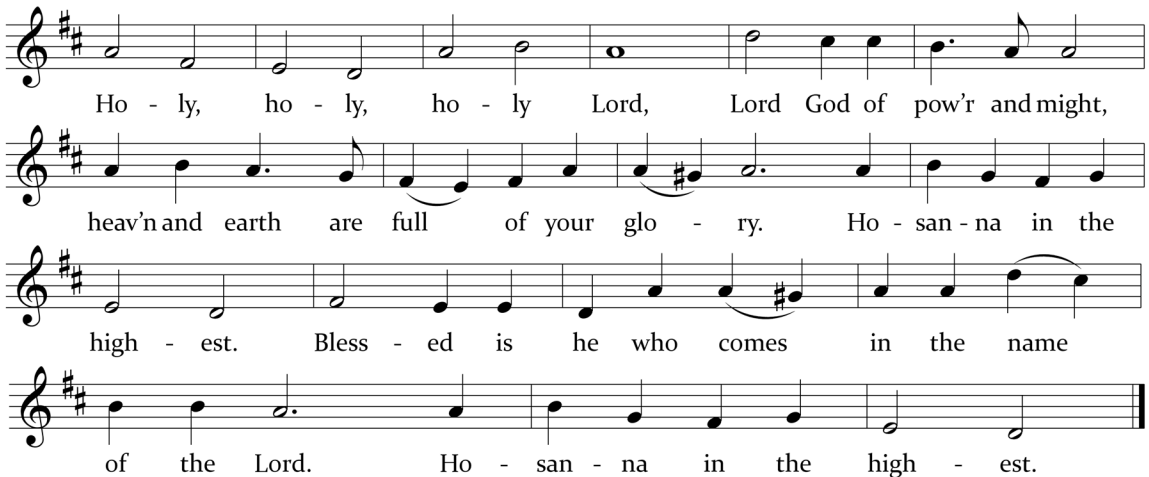


P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the
time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center. After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice. The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray. **If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.***

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(10:45) **Anthem** — "Our Father in Heaven"

Eugene W. Hancock

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Yours is the kingdom, yours is the power, yours is the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Matthew 6:9-13

Taylor Dirks, soprano

Hymn — ELW No. 595

"Jesus Loves Me!"

Hymn — ELW No. 482

"I Come with Joy"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℣ Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share
the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
- ☞ **Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response: ☞ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 449

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

***Dismissal**

- ℣ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☞ **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**
- ℣ Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Jubilate”

Roy Douglas



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Liturgy setting: Holy Communion Setting 4, Festival Setting by John Ferguson.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Elaine Nesbit (10:45) Leif Knecht
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Anthem Accompanist	(8:30) David Sims
Soloist	(8:30) Taylor Dirks, Church Music Intern
Communion Prep	Andi Carlson, Angie Gehring
Communion Cleanup	Craig Schultz
Greeters	(8:30) Gerri Licke, Patrice Nordstrand (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	TBD
Refreshments	Gerri Licke, Rhonda Reece
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Bill Rizzo, Pippa Younger
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Jon and Alison Kavanaugh, Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (May 12):

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Jeremiah 10:1-10a † Psalm 1 † 1 John 5:9-13 † John 17:6-19

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (May 5)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5 (9:45-10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

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

St. John's Forum: Exploring the Bible with Interfaith Sensitivity (9:45-10:30 a.m., Sanctuary)

Parent Conversation around Children, Youth & Family Ministry (9:45-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall)

Next Week (May 12)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5 (9:45-10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

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

Announcements

Additional announcements can be found in the weekly E-Voice.

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Ann Ness by the Elizabeth Circle. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available dates: June 16, 23 & 30 and August 4, 11, 18 & 25.

St. John's Forum: *Exploring the Bible with Interfaith Sensitivity with Jason Ripley*

Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

This session follows up on a question introduced last fall: “Is the New Testament anti-Jewish?” Special attention will be given to Paul’s letter to the Romans, addressed to a mixed community of Gentile and Jewish followers of Jesus in the center of the Roman empire, facing challenges across religious, cultural, social, and political issues. We will explore how Paul engages the questions “Has God abandoned the Jewish people—and what might the implications be for Gentile followers? Can Jewish followers of Jesus still keep the Torah commandments? Must Gentiles? Does following Jesus entail rejecting Judaism?” Jason Ripley is currently chair of the religion department at St. Olaf. A New Testament scholar specializing in the Gospel of John, he teaches courses on biblical interpretation and regularly leads students on study-abroad programs. His publications address topics of religious violence, gender, and reinterpretation of the Hebrew Bible in early Judaism. He has been attending St. John’s since 2020.

Parents! You are invited to a conversation around children, youth, and family ministry at St. John's.

Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

The Children and Youth boards, along with staff, have been reflecting on what matters the most for and about children and youth ministry at St. John’s as a way of visioning for the future. Now we would like to hear from you about your family’s experience. We hope you’ll join us!

Church Softball League Games Start Today!

Tonight, 7:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2

St. John's vs. Cornerstone

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on! For the full summer schedule, check the bulletin board in the Commons.

Pub Theology

Monday, May 6, 6:00–7:30 p.m., The Contented Cow

Is work an idol? Scripture has long advocated for sabbath as an essential way to keep the idolatry of work at bay. Recently, more secular authors have also pushed back against adoration of “hard work” in American culture. Has this concern shown up in your life? How do you think about rest as a spiritual virtue? Debie Thomas’s article will be our starting point for conversation. Copies are available at the Welcome Desk.

Announcements (continued)

Summer Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, May 26

This summer from Memorial Day, May 26, through Defeat of Jesse James Days, September 8, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and fellowship following the service.

Thank You from the Property & Grounds Board

The Property & Grounds Board is extremely grateful to the congregation members, who turned out to help on Saturday, April 27, for the annual Spring Churchyard Clean-up. Also, we wish to give a special thank you to the individuals and family members who have “adopted” one of our fifteen gardens for the season. A hearty thanks to all for the hard work! The results are quite magnificent!

St. John’s Volunteer Day for Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, May 18, located at 501 Ford St., Northfield

Homes are being built for partner families in Northfield this year. St. John’s is aiming to get 10–12 people to help on May 18 with construction. No prior experience or fancy skills are needed. To sign up to help with construction (must be 18 or older), go to [Habitat for Humanity Construction Volunteer Sign-Up](#). Or, you can contact jodihabitat@gmail.com or call 507-403-7868. If you’d like to check out the website to learn more, go to habitatricecounty.org/volunteer. Thank you!

St. John’s Forum: *Trends in the Christian Church and a Third Way Forward*

Sunday, May 19, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Post WWII Christianity has been in decline in America since the 1950s, in both numbers and influence, for multiple reasons. One thing seems clear: since the formation of the Imperial Church under the Roman Empire in the fourth century, there has been an ongoing dispute that has resulted in two gospels: the Personal Gospel, as in, “Have you accepted Jesus as your personal savior,” and the Social Gospel, freeing the oppressed from discriminatory social structures and systems. These two perceptions within Christianity have been, in more recent times, torn apart by what has been identified as Political/Fundamentalist Evangelicals who have taken moral piety to the extreme and demonized those not in strict agreement. The result has been that Christians without a well-anchored faith have become frightened, confused, and sometimes harmed, and are falling away from Christianity into a category some call “nones,” those without any religious affiliation. Many “nones” feel a newborn sense of freedom; however, they also feel the loss of community. We are left with the questions, “How can we attract them into the fold of a more tempered form of Christianity?” and, “How might that more tempered form take shape?” Join St. John’s member Gary Engstrom as he offers learnings from a recent Elder Collegium class and a potential “third way” for the Church to move forward.

Reminder of Deadlines

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (June 2024 Edition): Due by May 15

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Ruth Smestad Anglin, Janice Kasa, Audrey Moe, Roberta Morse

Those with ongoing health concerns

Georgia Braulick, Jo Chambers, Jo Dahlin, Billi Faillettaz, John Ferguson, Bob Flaten, Paul Klinefelter, Greta Matzner-Gore, Donna James, Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

All who are homebound, including

Janice Helgeson, Carol Johnson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

St. John's Stephen Ministers offer care to those in a variety of difficult situations. If you or someone you know would benefit from some time with a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors at 645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Wednesday Night



**Served from 5:15–6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

Menu for Wednesday, May 8:
Taco Boats

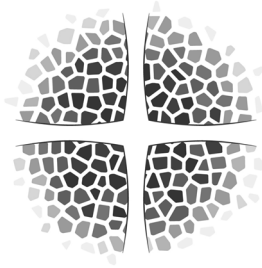
All are welcome!

*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Monday, May 6	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Location TBD
	7:00 p.m.	Northfield Girl Scout Leaders Meeting, Undercroft
Tuesday, May 7	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	6:30 p.m.	Parents Grief Support Group, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room Northfield Rotary, St. John's Hall
Wednesday, May 8	9:30 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	6:15 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, May 9	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Spotlight Bible Study, Offsite
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library
	1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, May 10	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Mary Circle, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, May 11	9:00 a.m.	WELCA Cannon River Conference, St. John's Hall / Sanctuary
Sunday, May 12	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
David Sims and Will Fecko, *Directors of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*