

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 3, 2021 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

# *Welcome to worship at St. John's!*

*We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!*

*During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.*

*We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.*

*Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.*



*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** — “From Heaven Above”

Ernst Pepping

- I. Allegretto cantabile
- II. Scherzando
- III. Pastorale

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Opening Litany** — Zephaniah 3:14-15, 18-20 (*Read responsively*)

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

**Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
and has turned away your enemies.

<sup>18</sup>**I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.**

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

**And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,**

and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>**At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;**

for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
**when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.**

\*Gathering Hymn — “From Heaven Above” (#268)

VOM HIMMEL HOCH



“From heav’n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
“To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
“This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your  
Now let us all with joy - ful cheer go with the  
My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no  
“Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n who un - to



news to ev - ’ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly  
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior  
shep - herds and draw near to see this won - drous gift of  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv’n.” With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
be and from all sin will set you free.”  
God, the bless - ed child to us be - stowed.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann

\*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

- ☐ Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 — Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🎵 Thanks be to God.

### Carol — "What Child Is This" (#296)

GREENSLEEVES



What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

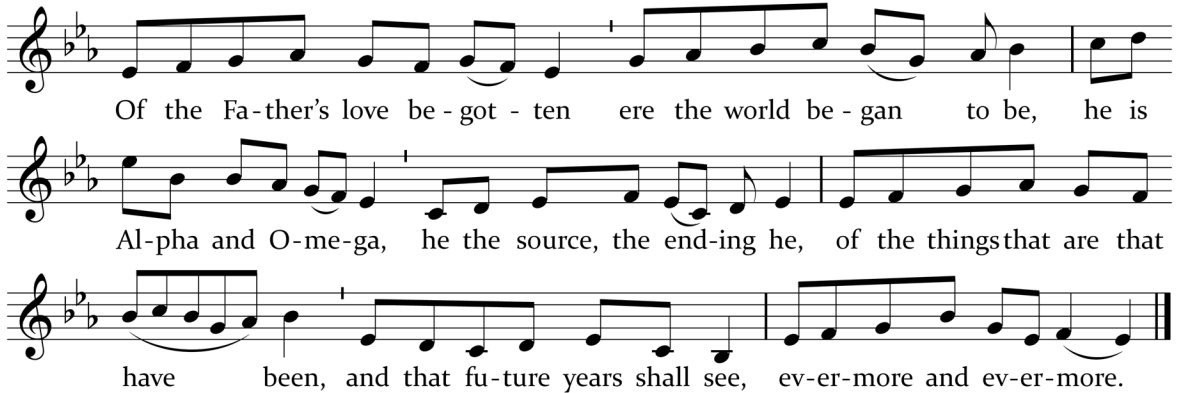
Text: William C. Dix; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

## Second Reading — Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

**\*Gospel Acclamation** — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (#295) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be, he is  
Al-pha and O-me-ga, he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that are that  
have been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

**\*Gospel** — John 1:1-18

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Rise, Shine, You People” (#665)

WOJTKIEWIECZ



Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug; Music: Dale Wood © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House

## \*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**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** **And also with you.**  
*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

### **Offering of Our Gifts**

*Music at the Offering:*

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

James Engel

### **\*Thanksgiving for the Word**

**P** Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,  
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,  
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,  
to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all peoples,  
and to welcome us as members of your family.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,  
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,  
we may live as your children,  
bearing your goodness throughout the world.  
All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## \*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.

# DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

## \*Blessing

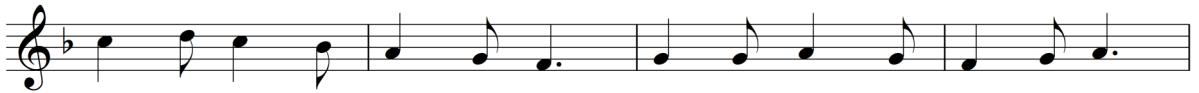
Response:  Amen.

## \*Sending Hymn — “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (#288)

IN DULCI JUBILO



Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. John Mason Neale; Music: German carol, 14th cent.

**\*Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

🎵 **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** — “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”  
IV. “Dance of Joy”

Eleanor Whitsett



**SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:**

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Rev. Mark Rydberg
Assisting Ministers	Ruthie and Dave Neuger
Organist	Nathan Proctor

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Bulletin artwork from *Icon 1*.

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# **Announcements**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given in loving memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: March 28 and April 11, 18 & 25. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

## **Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5 and Virtual Youth Group Take a Break**

Our holiday break continues. We'll be back next Sunday, January 10, from 10:00-10:30 a.m. If you would like the Zoom links for either Sunday School or Youth Group, contact Julie Brehmer ([children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) or Emmanuel Kaghondi ([youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)).

## **Stewardship Campaign Update**

Thank you to all who have already submitted their 2021 pledge card. If you have not yet indicated your intent, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our work on next year's budget. Please submit your giving intention for next year via the online form on our website or contact Leah Garlie directly at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 612-532-6863.

## **Annual Meeting Reports**

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn your report in as soon as possible and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31 (watch future publications for more details regarding the format of the annual meeting).

## **Sunday Forum via Zoom**

### **Sunday, January 10**

As part of our Global Mission focus this month, please join us for a virtual forum with Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich. St. John's helps to support their work at Tumaini University Makumira, Arusha, Tanzania. As they report in their Advent 2020 newsletter, the majority of their graduates are in education programs. Although Tanzania is making immense efforts to improve its educational system, the country, as of 2018, still had on average one teacher for every 51 students and one textbook for every 10 students. So, there is still much work to be done. Join us to hear about the Riches' ongoing efforts and challenges. Watch for details to participate next week.

## **Courageous Conversations Book Group**

We will discuss Alicia Garza's new book: *Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* starting in January. It is available at Content in Northfield - a discount applies when you mention the book group. We will meet via Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25. Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

# **Announcements (continued)**

## **J-Term is Back for Confirmation Students**

This is a joint Confirmation Ministry of Bethel, St. John's, St. Peter's Lutheran Churches, and First United Church of Christ. We will be via Zoom, every Wednesday, January 13-February 3, 6:30-7:45 p.m. We'll all be together at the same time and split into small groups, with a different speaker for each of the four nights of class. We have great speakers again this year.

## **January Focus: ELCA Global Mission**

ELCA Global Mission walks with more than 80 companion churches in other countries to participate in God's reconciling mission. Participating in these relationships, ELCA members see how people's lives are touched by the gospel, how their lives are transformed and renewed, and how their communities live in hope. We share our gifts and talents to address the root causes of poverty and hunger, meet human needs, fight HIV and AIDS, build communities that coexist in peace, and prepare women and men to preach the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world. During January, we ask you to consider a special gift to ELCA Global Mission to support this important work. You may donate online or by check, noting Global Mission on the memo line. Thank you!

## ***The Plague*: Book Discussion with Charlie Wilson via Zoom**

**Thursdays, January 21, 28, and February 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.**

For this class, please purchase Stewart Gilbert's translation of this book, which will be available at Content Bookstore. Charlie Wilson, St. Olaf Religion Professor and member of St. John's, has taught Albert Camus' book *The Plague* for decades now. But this past semester, understandably, it had a deeper resonance with college students. Join Professor Wilson for a three-session class on this classic, yet still timely, book. Throughout his life, Camus struggled with the meaning of evil in the world and challenged Christians to think better about their faith. *The Plague* tells the story of a plague sweeping through a French community. The novel is told from the point of view of a narrator not revealed until the last chapter.

Reading schedule:

- January 21 – Part 1
- January 28 – Parts 2 and 3
- February 4 – Parts 4 and 5

Please sign up by January 14 via an email to Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## **Interested in putting your faith into action at the state and local level?**

Learn about opportunities to build the beloved community at ISIAH's We Make Minnesota Virtual Launch on Sunday, January 24, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. ISIAH is a nonpartisan, multi-faith, multi-racial, statewide group of congregations, clergy, and people of faith working collectively towards racial and economic equity in Minnesota. Contact Rod Christensen ([chris719@charter.net](mailto:chris719@charter.net)) or Christy Hall-Holt ([connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) for more

## **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*

Rae Pearson, Maurilio Dorantes (father of Irene Dorantes)

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness,  
Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

*All who are homebound, including*

Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson, Richard Olson

*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;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

### **Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests**

*Stephen Ministry Requests*

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

*Prayer Chain Requests*

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or [macisar@gmail.com](mailto:macisar@gmail.com), or contact a pastor.

## **Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 10):**

### ***Baptism of Our Lord***

**Genesis 1:1-15 † Psalm 29 † Acts 19:1-7 † Mark 1:4-11**

## **This Week At-a-Glance**

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

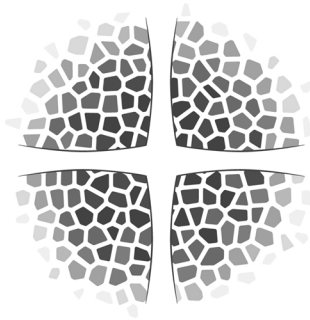
**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. ([www.kymnradio.net](http://www.kymnradio.net)).**

<b>Monday, Jan. 4</b>	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 5</b>	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 6</b>	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Confirmation for Grades 6-9 via Zoom
<b>Thursday, Jan. 7</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Friday, Jan. 8</b>	2:00 p.m.	Budget Committee Meeting via Zoom
<b>Saturday, Jan. 9</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Sunday, Jan. 10</b>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  10:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream Virtual Sunday School via Zoom Virtual Youth Group via Zoom Coffee Hour via Zoom

### **Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream**

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website.  
We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.

**Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.**



# St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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**Northfield, MN 55057**

**507-645-4429**

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

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

*Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor*

*Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor*

*Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir*

*Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry*

*Tim Byers, Facility Manager*

*Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager*

*Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator*

*Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator*

*Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

*Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse*

*Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir*

*Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers*

*Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants*

*Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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