

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 4, 2026 † 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.



GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — "From Heaven Above"

F. Melius Christiansen
arr. G. Winston Cassler

Welcome and Announcements



Cantors 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.”

2 “To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.”

3 “This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free.”

4 “The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.”

5 “These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds.”

**All 6 Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near
to see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.**

Low voices 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there! What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God’s dear Son.

**All 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away; how can our thanks such love repay?**

High voices 9 O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed where lowing cattle lately fed?

Organ only 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.

Pet owners 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.

Carls & Oles 12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.

Norwegian sweaters 13 My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

All stand during organ interlude.

***All 14 “Glory to God in highest heav’n, who unto us the Son has giv’n.”
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!**

*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

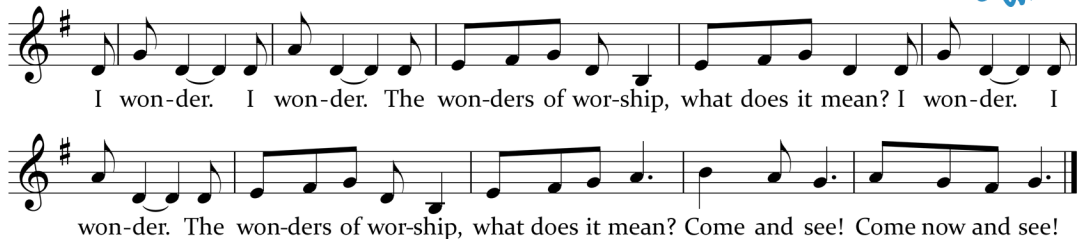
- ☐ Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD



Children's Message

"Wonders of Worship"



Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

First Reading — Jeremiah 31:7-14

Pew Bible, page 641

After the reading:

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

Hymn — ELW No. 286

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

Second Reading — Ephesians 1:3-14

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

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — John 1:1-18

Spark Story Bible, page 240

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the

light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(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.' ") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, 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.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 292

"Love Has Come"

***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:

- ℣** Lord, in your mercy,
℣ 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

"Meditation on 'O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!' "

David Bednall

***Offering Hymn — "What Child Is This" stanza 3**

GREENSLEEVES

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

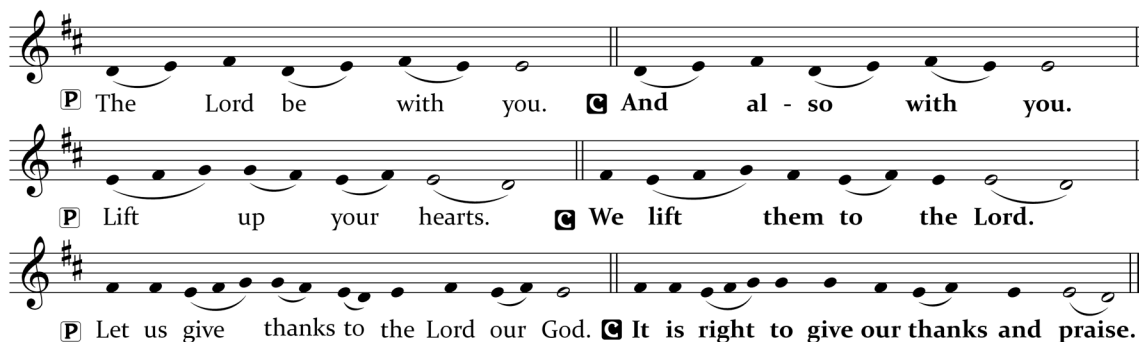
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the
grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of
your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

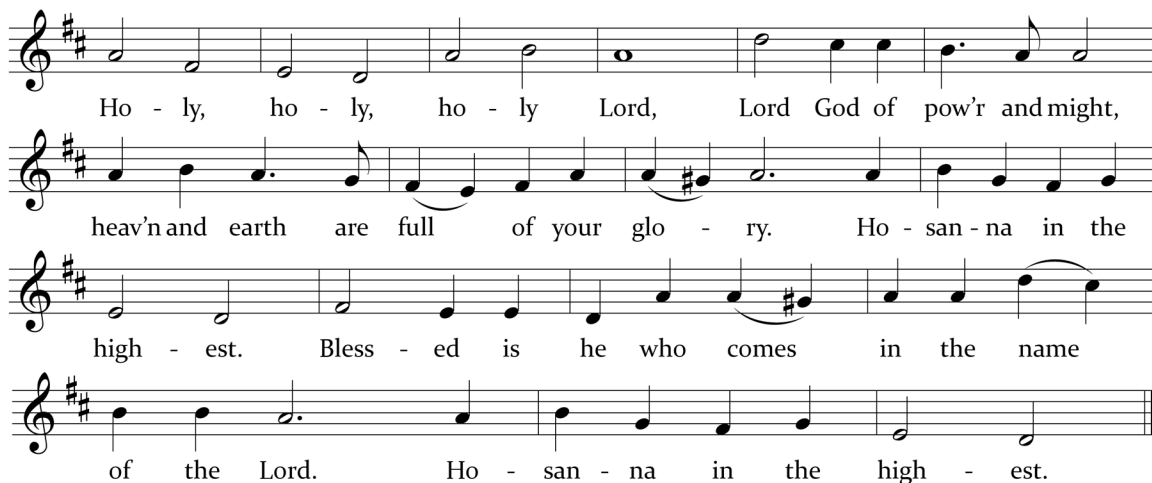


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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.

Hymn — ELW No. 300

“The First Noel”

Hymn — ELW No. 294

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound**

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℒ God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 301

“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky”

***Dismissal**

- ℒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “There’s a Star in the East”

David Sims



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 11):

Baptism of Our Lord — First Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9 † Psalm 29 † Acts 10:34-43 † Matthew 3:13-17

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching and Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	David Sims
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantors	David Sims, Kristin Partlo
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Mary Ellen North (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	TBD
Treats	Rhonda Reece
Counters	TBD
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Mike Bull, Chuck Cannon, Roger Van Veldhuizen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork: Hannah Garrity “Light” | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (January 4)

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)

Next Week (January 11)

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 by Doug Johnson. 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), contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: February 1, 8, 15 & 29.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on **Sunday, January 18**. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music. A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall.

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn in your report as soon as possible, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25. (Watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting.)

Food Donations Needed for St. Olaf Choir Breakfast, Sunday, January 18

For many years, the talented St. Olaf Choir begins their musical winter tour by blessing us with the sound of their angelic voices for both worship services on a Sunday in January. To thank them and show our appreciation, we serve them a hot breakfast before they sing. **In order to make this breakfast possible, we need food donations, which include the following:** egg bakes (use a recipe of your own choosing), muffins, fruit, and juice. The egg bakes must be brought to our church kitchen fully cooked, warm, and ready to eat by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 18. Muffins, fruit, and juice can be dropped off either that morning by 7:00 a.m., or anytime 2–3 days earlier during office hours (9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.). A few helpers are also needed for serving and clean-up. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Commons, sign up online through CCB, or contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (February 2026 Edition): Due January 15

Sunday Evening Gatherings

5:00–5:30 p.m., First UCC

Please join us on Sunday evenings for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and Communion. The Evening Gathering is facilitated by lay people in Northfield. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare for the coming week. Questions can be emailed to theeveninggathering@gmail.com.

Announcements (continued)

Stewardship 2026 Appeal

We at St. John's have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2026, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2026 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or [complete the online pledge form](#) on our website. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2026 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures the continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's.



Children and Youth

Third Grade Catechism Retreat, Sunday, January 11

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Sunday, January 11, noon-2:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall. If you are unable to attend, please email Julie Brehmer at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Sign up for Good Earth Village Summer Camp 2026!

Northfield Week at GEV is June 21–26 for children in grades 2–6

Here are the camp options:

- Discover Camp for kids in Grades 2–4, June 24–26
- Seekers Camp for kids in Grades 3–4, June 21–26
- Stargazers Camp for kids in Grades 5–6, June 21–26

For Northfield Week use codes:

- NORTHFIELD26FULL for Seekers and Stargazer Camps, sponsorship of \$100
- NORTHFIELD26HALF for Discover Camp, sponsorship of \$50

The discount code and sponsorship code will be entered on the “My Cart” page. If you need to use more than one code you will need to enter them separately. Please contact Julie Brehmer, children@stjohnsnorthfield.org, if you have questions.

Summer Mission Trip Registration for Youth is Open!

Get ready for the summer 2026 mission trip to Milwaukee, June 21–26! The registration window is short because of the organization we're working with, so make your plans now. The cost per participant is \$500 and registrations are due by January 15. For more information, contact Kristin Partlo at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Contact information for Children and Youth

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry at childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Fred Huemoeller, Ron James, Ingrid Alberding

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson,
David Norman, Alice Rickert, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Lori Skoglund,
Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff), Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

All who are homebound, including

Carolyn Jennings, Laila Burns Hedstrom

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

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

Prayer Chain Requests

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



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

Menu for Wednesday, January 7:
Tamale Pie

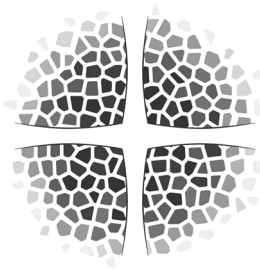
All are welcome!

*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, Jan. 5	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall WELCA Executive Board Meeting, Undercroft Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Jan. 6	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Wellspring Circle, St. John's Library Stephen Minister Training, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Jan. 7	2:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Fireside Room Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Confirmation J-Term (Grades 6-8) High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
Thursday, Jan. 8	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library Suzuki Kids, Fellowship Hall / Room 19 Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
Friday, Jan. 9	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Mary Circle, Fireside Room NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Jan. 10	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
Sunday, Jan. 11	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)</i> Worship, Sanctuary 3 rd Grade Communion Retreat, St. John's Hall Sons of Norway Membership Banquet, St. John's Hall



St. John's
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Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

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, Faith Community 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

Arturo Rosas, Custodial Associate

David Sims, Director 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.*