

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 5, 2025 † 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 — “Variations on ‘The Holly and the Ivy’ ”

David Sims

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

- ☞ O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ 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 — Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 602

After the reading:

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

Psalmody — Psalm 72:1-4, 10-13

Antiphon: "The First Noel"

Antiphon: Noel! Born is the King of Israel.



- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ²that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. *Antiphon*

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the ¹isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba ¹offer gifts.

¹¹May all kings bow ¹down before him,
and all the nations ¹do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out ¹in distress,
the oppressed, and those who ¹have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the low- ¹ly and poor,
and preserves the lives ¹of the needy. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Ephesians 3:1-12

Pew Bible, page 950

After the reading:

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

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

***Gospel** — Matthew 2:1-12

Spark Story Bible, page 218

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search

diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 915

“When a Star Is Shining”

(8:30) *The Nicene Creed

Front of ACS hymnal, page 16

(10:45) **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** — *Front of ELW hymnal, pages 227–231*

The Triune God proclaims Rowena Lorraine Luedtke as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Rowena’s parents are Benjamin and Allison Luedtke, and her sponsors are Dwight Luedtke and Cynthia Luedtke.

Presentation

☐ People of God, do you promise to support Rowena and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

☑ We do.

*Profession of Faith — *Front of ELW hymnal, page 229*

***Baptismal Hymn — “You Have Put on Christ”**



You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap-tized. Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

Text: International Commission on English in the Liturgy © 1969; Music: Howard Hughes © 1977

(During the hymn, all children are invited to join the baptismal group at the font.)

***Thanksgiving at the Font — Front of ELW hymnal, page 230**

Baptism

Welcome

Baptismal Hymn — “You Have Put on Christ”

***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

“When a Star Is Shining”

Bob Moore

***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!**

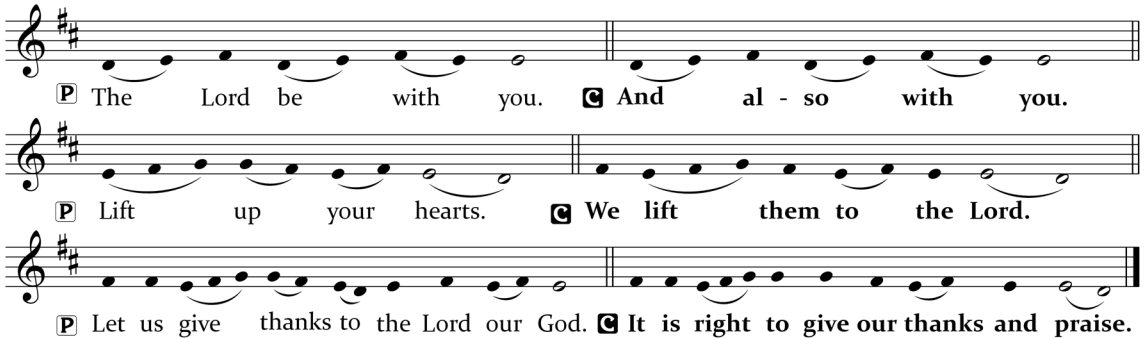
*Offering Prayer

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

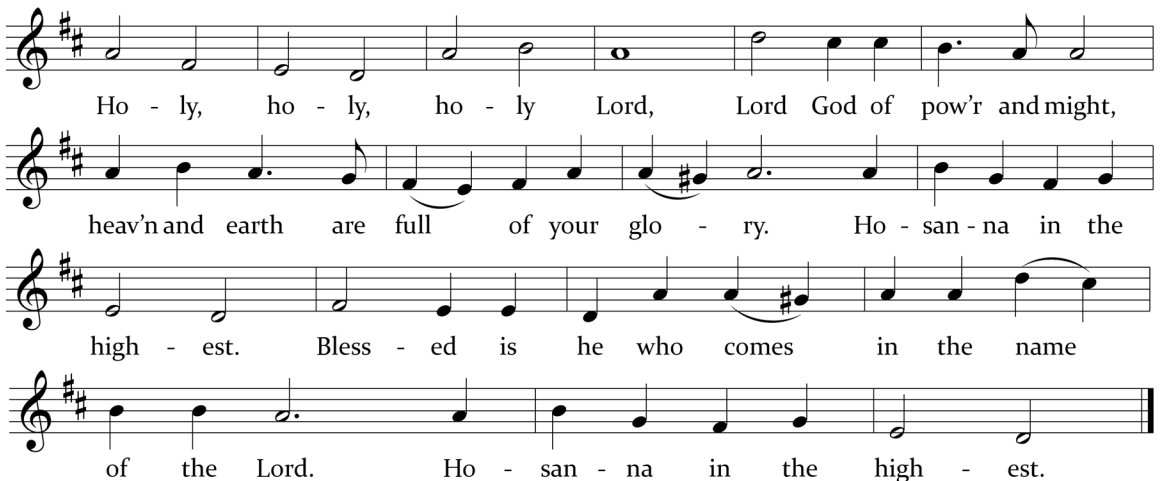


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

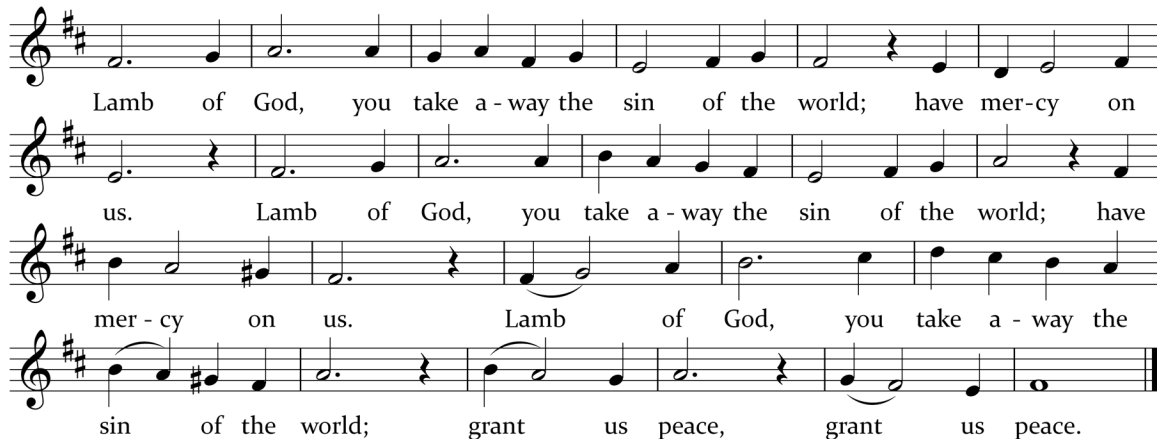
*The Lord's Prayer

**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 — on VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Walter Pelz



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 12):

Baptism of Our Lord — *First Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 43:1-7 † Psalm 29 † Acts 8:14-17 † Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Ralph Yernberg (10:45) Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantors	David Sims, Kristin Partlo
Communion Prep	TBD
Communion Cleanup	TBD
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Bob and Pat Tabery
Counters	Chris and Martha Erickson, Pippa Younger
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Chuck Cannon, Alison and Jon Kavanaugh, Gordon Moore

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (January 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)

Next Week (January 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)

Toddler Time (9:45–10:30 a.m., Room 14)

Announcements

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

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 at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: January 12, 19 & 26.

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 19. 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.

Advance Care Planning: What ACP Is & Why It Matters to All Adults **Wednesday, January 8, 6:15 p.m.**

Did you know that Advance Care Planning is a valuable process, not only for those in the later stages of life or those with a serious illness, but for adults of any health condition and any age? Are you aware that completing a health care directive is more about identifying your own personal values than about specifying specific medical treatments you do or do not want? How do you decide who is the best person to make decisions on your behalf, in the event you are ever unable to make them for yourself? In this forum, Advance Care Planning—a process of reflection, conversation and communication, and one that many adults recognize as important, but have not completed—will be described and demystified. Whether you would like information for yourself or for someone in your life, please join us to learn about how Advance Care Planning can provide peace of mind, knowing that your family and your care team are aware of your values and wishes, and will be able to honor your choices. Susan Lohmann is a recently retired clinical social worker, and a member of St. John's, who practiced in the areas of hospice, hospital, long term care, oncology, and private practice counseling. She has been active in providing community education and guidance about health care directives, and is a certified Advance Care Planning facilitator.

Stewardship 2025 Appeal

Thanks to those who have returned their 2025 pledge card. We still need to hear from more of you in the next few weeks in order for leadership to craft a budget. You can scan the QR Code on the right, [complete the online pledge form](#) on our website, return a card to the church office or in the offering plate, or email your intent to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2025 intent, even if it is to remain the same.



 SCAN ME

Announcements (continued)

Food Donations Needed for St. Olaf Choir Breakfast, Sunday, January 19

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 19. 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. **Whatever you can do or bring will be greatly appreciated!** 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!

Children and Youth

Third Grade Catechism Retreat, Saturday, January 25

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Saturday, January 25, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall. If you are unable to attend, please email Julie Brehmer at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registrations are Now Open

Good Earth Village, located in Spring Valley, has opened the 2025 summer registration site online. Check out the schedule and registration fees on Good Earth Village's website at <https://goodearthvillage.org/summer>. St. John's gifts each camper a portion of the fee.

Check out these Registration Discounts:

- The Super Early Bird discount of 20% goes until January 26 with code SUPEREARLY2025
- Siblings can receive 25% off with code SIBLING2025

Does your camper want to attend more than one summer camp session? Each additional tier-priced reservation can receive a 25% multi-week discount with code MULTI2025. (Only one discount code per registration.)

Summer 2025 Summer Trip

This summer's trip will be backpacking (for high school) and camping & hiking (for middle school) at Christikon in Montana. Youth and chaperones from St. John's, St. Peter's, and First UCC will adventure in the mountains July 19–27. Sign-up by February 15!

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 or comfort

Bill Carlson, John Ferguson, Darlene Hand, Fred Huemoeller,
Carol Schoen, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff)

Those celebrating the baptism of

Rowena Lorraine Luedtke, daughter of Allison and Benjamin Luedtke

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Joan Halvorson

Those with ongoing health concerns

Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, Cynthia Neubecker, Scott Quinnell,
Alice Rickert, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Kathy Vang, Ingrid Alberding

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

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.

Wednesday Night



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

Menu for Wednesday, January 8:
Sloppy Joes

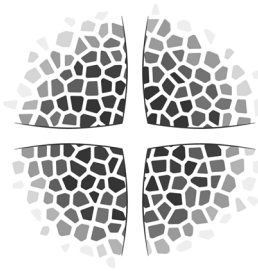
All are welcome!

Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

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. 6	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Foundation, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Jan. 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.	Wellspring Circle, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room Northfield Rotary, St. John's Library
Wednesday, Jan. 8	9:30 a.m.	Visitation - Joan Halvorson, Commons
	10:30 a.m.	Funeral - Joan Halvorson, Sanctuary
	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.	Advanced Care Planning Forum, Sanctuary
		J-Term Confirmation (Grades 6-8) High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
Thursday, Jan. 9	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library
	1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library
Friday, Jan. 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, Jan. 11	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
Sunday, Jan. 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

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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, *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.*