



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 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 — “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Joe Utterback

Voluntary on “What Wondrous Love Is This”

John S. Dixon

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 520

“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”

*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

☐ Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the

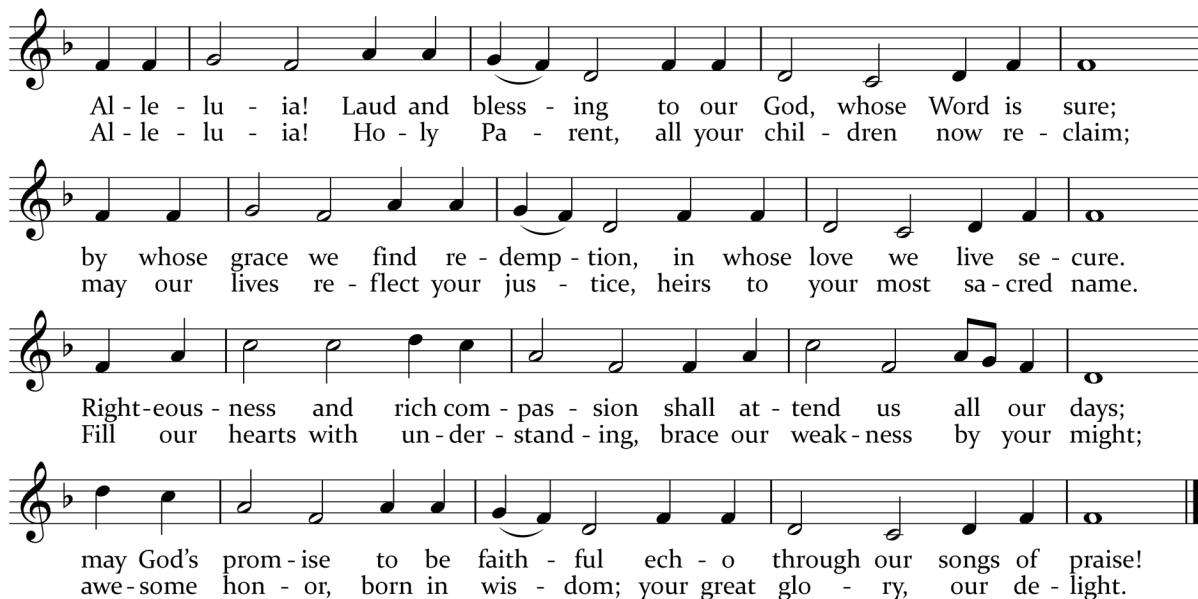
prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 111

Paraphrase: Michael Morgan



Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is sure;
Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Pa - rent, all your chil - dren now re - claim;
by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love we live se - cure.
may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa - cred name.
Right - eous - ness and rich com - pas - sion shall at - tend us all our days;
Fill our hearts with un - der - stand - ing, brace our weak - ness by your might;
may God's prom - ise to be faith - ful ech - o through our songs of praise!
awe - some hon - or, born in wis - dom; your great glo - ry, our de - light.

Psalm Paraphrase: Michael Morgan © 2011 admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources; Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this

liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Mark 1:21-28

Spark Story Bible, page 254

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 886

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- ☞ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☞ 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

"Jesus Loves Me"

Joe Utterback

*Offering Hymn — "Let the Whole Creation Cry" stanza 1

SALZBURG



Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might-y king!"

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re-joice.

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, alt.; Music: Jakob Hintze

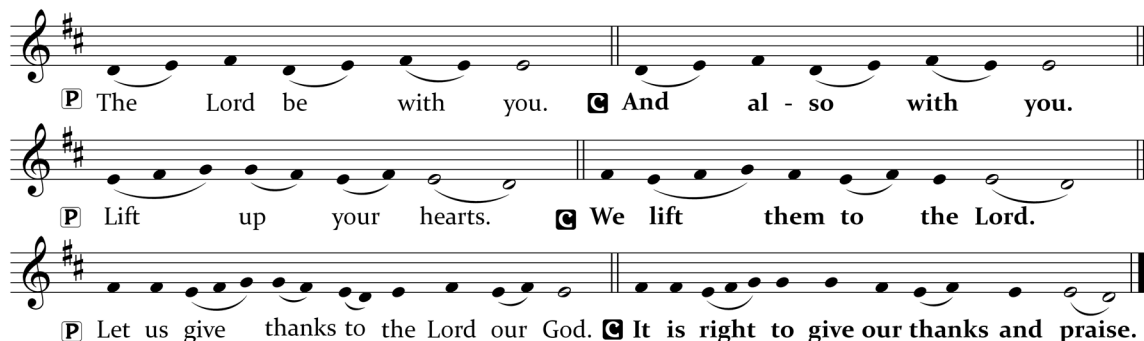
*Offering Prayer

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

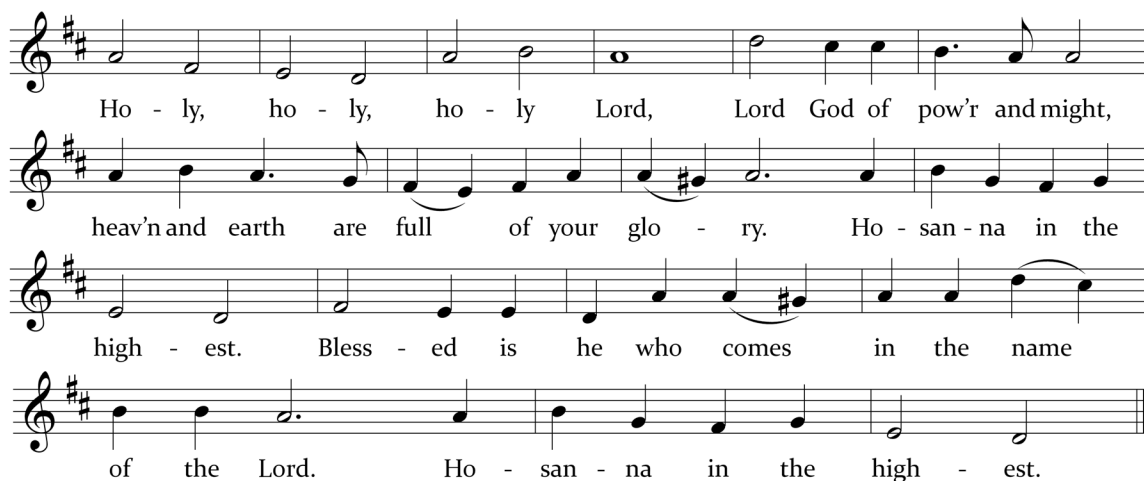


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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.***

On the fourth Sunday of the month during communion, we offer the practice of anointing your brow with oil and receiving a blessing. If you want, you may ask for a specific prayer blessing from the anointer.

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. 617

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

*Post-Communion Blessing

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℣ O Morning Star, fair and bright,
you have refreshed again with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure.
Go with us now—today, tomorrow, and every day—
that we tell the story of your never-ending love
and sing your praise both now and forever.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

Recognition of Pastor Pam’s Ten Year Anniversary

***Blessing**

Response:

☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 673

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — Toccata on “Amazing Grace”

J. Christopher Pardini



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (February 4):

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 † Psalm 147:1-11, 20c † 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 † Mark 1:29-39

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	David Legvold
Organist	Jay Zoller
Communion Prep	Georgene Johnson, Judy Smith
Communion Cleanup	David and Debby Nitz
Healing Prayers	(8:30) Jennifer Edwins, Kristin Partlo (10:45) Jane and Dennis Rinehart
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Stewardship Board
Counters	Gary Engstrom, Bill Rizzo, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Mark Rydberg, Todd Menssen, Eric Sponheim, Kent Rommereim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (January 28)

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)

Annual Meeting Preview (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Next Week (February 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)

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by friends of St. John's. 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: February 4, 18 & 25.

Celebrating Pastor Pam's 10th Anniversary at St. John's!

Today, at both services, we will take a moment to recognize and celebrate Pastor Pam's 10th anniversary as our Senior Pastor here at St. John's! There will be a congregation card to sign, and a congregational gift given. We continue to be so grateful for her ministry and leadership here at St. John's. Join us in celebrating and giving thanks for her!

St. John's Annual Meeting

Today, 12:30 p.m., St. John's Hall and via Zoom

The agenda will include the election of 2024 Board and Council members, along with the approval of the 2024 congregational budget. The Hearing Loop in the Hall will be operational for those who need hearing assistance. A hybrid Zoom option will be available for those who wish to listen and vote remotely.

Pub Theology

Monday, January 29, 6:00-7:30 p.m., The Contented Cow

Topic: *Do we hate poverty enough?*

Matthew Desmond's book *Poverty: By America* argues that poverty in the United States is more a matter of public will than economics. Compared to other wealthy countries, ours has such persistent poverty that it appears that -- collectively, at least -- we are comfortable with it. Read the review of his book (copies are at the Welcome Desk), and come prepared to talk about the structural and philosophical things that get in the way of really addressing poverty in the U.S.

Courageous Conversations: Hope is a Muscle

Thursday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. St. John's Hall

Topic: *Love Your Transgender Neighbor: A Biblical Basis for Allyship*

Austen Hartke, former member of St. John's, graduate of Luther Seminary, author, and founder and director of Transmission Ministry Collective

Have you heard Bible verses used against transgender people, and you're wondering if there might be more to the story? Ever wondered whether there were people who didn't fit neatly into gender boxes in ancient times? In this session we'll dig into stories of biblical characters who lived outside gendered expectations and talk about how these stories can inspire us to stand with our gender-expansive siblings today. Austen's latest book will be available for purchase.

Announcements (continued)

Beware of Email Scams

Occasionally, scammers purporting to be members of St. John's staff request gift cards or personal information. Usually, this is because your personal email has been published in a bulletin or newsletter, and, thankfully, you can usually tell that this is not a request our staff would make! Always check with staff by phone if you are uncertain about the validity of the message, and if possible, communicate about church groups within our CCB system to avoid having your personal address online.

January is Global Mission Month

If you receive offering envelopes, there is a special envelope for designated gifts to our global mission partners. These funds support our ELCA missionary in Colombia as well as our mission partners at the Lutheran Center in South Sudan, Iambi Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and El Salvador Lutheran Church in Colombia.

Sheets Needed for Quilting

Please donate used sheets that are cotton, flannel, or cotton-polyester blends. No microfiber. Please wash and remove stains. Any color or size is okay. Leave them in the basket by the women's bulletin board in the Commons, or in the Quilter's Closet in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall.

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.

Children and Youth

Prayer Buddies for Grades 4 & 5 During the Lenten Season

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". We ask Prayer Buddies to pray for their child during the Lenten season. With this program, we hope to create spiritual and caring connections with children and adults in our church community. If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy or would like to continue being a Buddy please contact Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Thank you!

Valentine's Party, Sunday, February 11 during Sunday School

Our 3rd - 5th graders are planning a Valentine's Party for the PreK- 2nd graders on February 11 during our regular Sunday school time. Enjoy games, treats, and crafts with a Valentine's theme. Parents are welcome to attend too. Hope you'll be part of the fun!

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

John Ferguson, Judy Karlson, Janice Kasa, Roberta Morse, Wendy Scholz

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Roald Revne (father of Melissa Berthelsen)

Family of Shirley Anderson

Those with ongoing health concerns

Jo Chambers, Jo Dahlin, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle,
Greta Matzner-Gore, Donna James, Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson,
Becky Ness, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Bruce Hella,
Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

All who are homebound, including

Janice Helgeson, Carol Johnson, VaLois Mandsager

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**

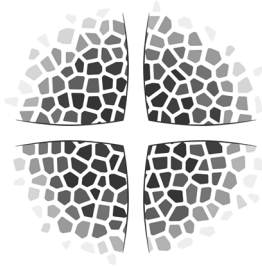
Menu for Wednesday, January 31:
*Mac & Cheese with Hot Dogs
(Vegetarian Option Available)*

*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. 29	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology, The Contented Cow Nordic Team Dinner, St. John's Hall
Tuesday, Jan. 30	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 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 Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
Wednesday, Jan. 31	3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Spotlight Bible Study, Room 20 J-Term Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Locations Vary High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Feb. 1	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Spotlight Bible Study, Offsite Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite Rejoice Ringers, Balcony Women of St. John's Courageous Conversations, St. John's Hall
Friday, Feb. 2	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Visitation - Paul Peterson, Commons Funeral - Paul Peterson, Sanctuary NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Feb. 3	9:00 a.m.	Council Retreat, Location TBD
Sunday, Feb. 4	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)</i> Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

**500 Third Street West
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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 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.*