



# SERVICE OF THE WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 31, 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** — “Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness”  
“Soar Up to Your God”  
“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star”

Guy Bovet

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Thanksgiving for Baptism

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**C** Amen.

**P** *A reading from Second Corinthians:*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old  
has passed away; see, everything has become new!

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters  
of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers,  
the Cannon and the Mississippi, dew and rain, ice and snow.

**C** **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

**P** You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you.  
Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us.  
In Christ's death and resurrection you joined your life to ours forever.

**C** **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

**P** You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth.  
In baptism we are born again to become your people,  
one with the body of Christ throughout the world.

**C** **In these saving waters, you shine the light of your promise on us.**

**P** Through these waters refresh us; renew us in your promise so that we may  
serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**\*Gathering Hymn — “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word” (#520)**

LIEBSTER JESU

Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and  
 gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:  
 and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on  
 es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, tr. Catherine Winkworth, adpt.; Music: Johann R. Ahle

**\*Greeting**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A** And also with you.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** 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.

**G** Amen.

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## Children's Message

### First Reading — Deuteronomy 18:15-20

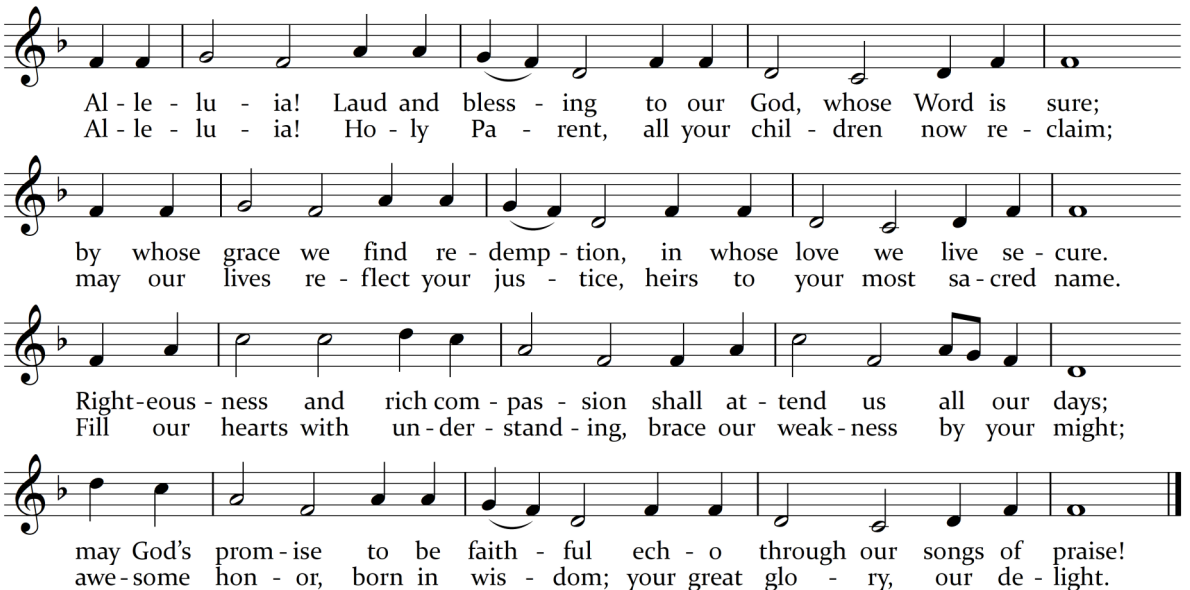
[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But 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.

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

## Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

<sup>4</sup>Hence, 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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet 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.

<sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For 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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, 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. **G** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation



## \*Gospel — Mark 1:21-28

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

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

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and 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.”

<sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They 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.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

- 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 — “Son of God, Eternal Savior” (#655)

IN BABILONE



Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace.  
As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead;  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry; Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen

### **\*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**

- ℣** 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:*

*Air from Suite No. 1 for Organ*

Florence Beatrice Price



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

**P** Holy God, Light of the universe,  
Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,  
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,  
proclaiming to us your wisdom  
and inviting us to follow your call.

Your Word came among us in Jesus,  
our brother, who preached your righteousness,  
healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,  
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

**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**

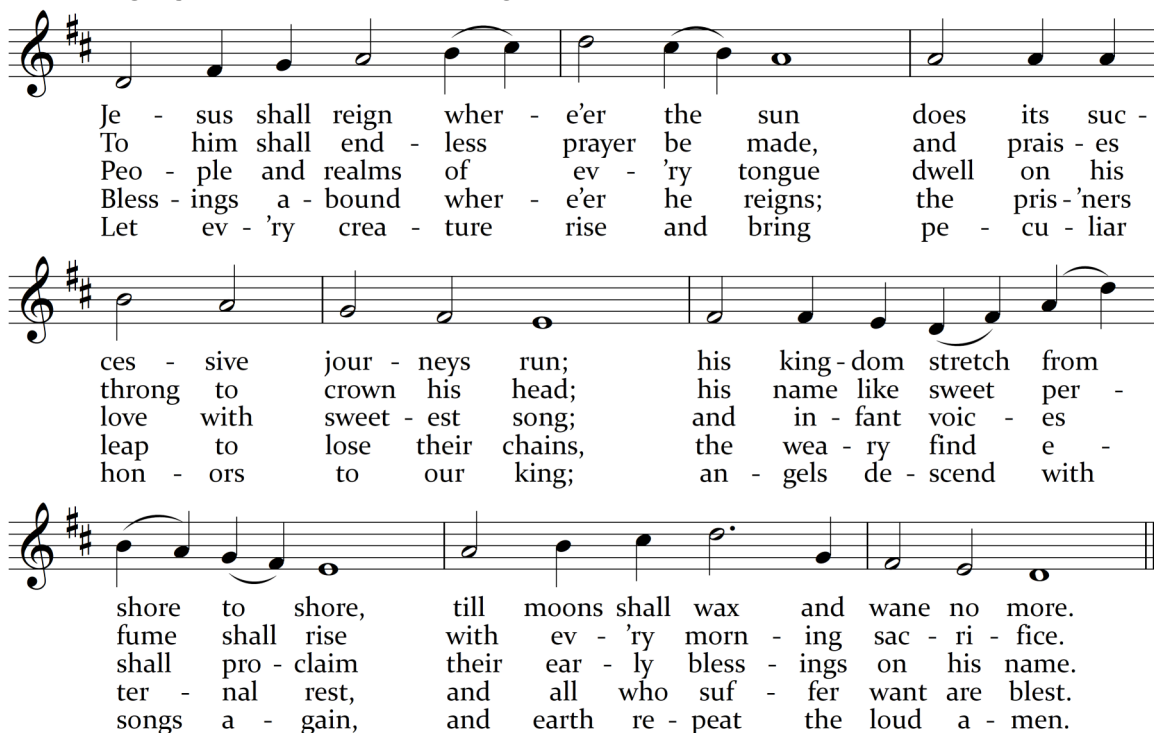
### **\*Blessing**

*Response:*

**C** Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn — “Jesus Shall Reign” (#434)**



DUKE STREET



Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns; the pris - 'ners  
Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar  
ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
thron - to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with  
shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.; Music: attr. John Hatton

**\*Dismissal**

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

**Postlude — Toccato from *Suite No. 1 for Organ***

Florence Beatrice Price



## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:**

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Minister	Jackman Family
Organist	Melanie Ohnstad

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Cover artwork from *Icon 1*.

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**St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting  
will be held by Remote Connection  
Today, 10:30 a.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85684245319>

The 2020 Annual Report is available digitally  
and can be found on the church website home page.

# **Announcements**

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given by David and Martha Brown in memory of Benny and Beverly Blanness. 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: April 25 and May 2, 9, 16 & 30. 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.

## **Pastor John Quam Turns 90**

Today is Pastor John Quam's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We invite you to join us in wishing him a happy birthday and continuing to give thanks for his many years of ministry here at St. John's. Happy birthday, John!

## **Pub Theology via Zoom**

**Mondays, February 1 & 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Pub Theology is a conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

## **Women of St. John's Courageous Conversations via Zoom**

**Thursday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.**

Topic: "*Race Matters in Healthcare, Why Do Black Americans Have Poorer Health Outcomes?*"

Our presenter is Rod Christensen, M.D., a retired Northfield physician. Rod was a family physician in Northfield for over 25 years, and worked in administration for Allina Health for over 10 years, where his focus included clinic operations, clinical quality and service, affordability, and access. Now retired, he volunteers and is a board member for the Community Action Center and works with ISAIAH toward racial and economic justice in Minnesota. To register go to: [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/courageous](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/courageous).

## **Mark Your Calendars for St. John's Mardi Gras Drive-Thru**

**Sunday, February 14**

Celebrate Mardi Gras by joining us at St. John's for a Mardi Gras Drive-Thru! Check next week's E-Voice and bulletin for more detailed information.

## **Update from the Safe Operating Task Force**

The Safe Operating Task Force, in light of improved infection rates, is allowing for small group meetings of up to 10 people in St. John's beginning February 1, with physical distancing rules observed. All groups meeting in the building must schedule with the church office by calling 507-645-4429 or contacting Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## **Announcements (continued)**

The Adult Ministry & Education Board is pleased to offer members and friends of St. John's the opportunity to participate in the annual Lenten book read.

This year's book is *A Cross in the Heart of God: Reflections on the Death of Jesus* by Samuel Wells. The Canterbury Press Lent book for 2021 focuses on the significance of the story at the very center of Christianity: the crucifixion. Samuel Wells writes as a theologian and pastor to explore the cross in the purposes of God and how this act brings about salvation.

- Please email [stjohnsadultministry@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsadultministry@gmail.com) to let us know if you or others in your household are interested in participating in one of the book groups. Or, you can go to CCB and complete the Lenten Book Read Interest form on the St. John's website: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/51/responses/new>.
- Ordering the Book: We encourage you to order your copy of the book through Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please order as soon as possible, as it will take approximately one week for the book to be ready for pick up once ordered. You will also need to pay for the book at the time of your order. The cost of the paperback is \$20.99. It is available for Kindle devices for \$15.99.
- Meeting Times: We anticipate that there will be two discussion groups. A third group may be added if responses warrant. Each group will meet four times between February 21—March 14. The book group facilitators will follow up with you about preferred meeting day and time. As a reminder, Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 28.

### **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!

### **Ways of Being Home Film Discussion via Zoom**

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. you will have the opportunity to discuss with Chilean-American documentary filmmaker, Cecilia Cornejo, her inspirational film: *Ways of Being Home*.

- To view the film until 3:00 p.m. today go to <https://vimeo.com/481383362> (Password: WOBH\_ENE\_2021)
- Register for the discussion with the filmmaker at [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJolcuirDorE93jvJy\\_Df2rJVxgQEybR9rA](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJolcuirDorE93jvJy_Df2rJVxgQEybR9rA). A Zoom link to participate will be sent post registration.

## **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*

Eric Nicholson, Dorothy Ostlie, Gordon Smith, Howard Thorsheim  
Verna Krause (grandmother of Keke Judge)

*Those mourning the loss of a loved one*

Family of Jeff Zdenek (brother of Dave Zdenek)

*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*

Lyla Arneson Paulson, Janice Helgeson, Arlene Sivanich

*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 (February 7):**

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31 + Psalm 147:1-11 + 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 + Mark 1:29-39

## **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).*

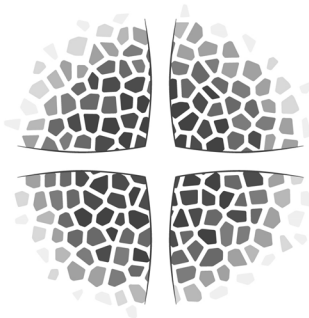
**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts  
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. ([www.kymnradio.net](http://www.kymnradio.net)).**

<b>Monday, Feb. 1</b>	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 2</b>	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Council Orientation via Zoom
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 3</b>	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Confirmation J-Term for Grades 6-9 via Zoom
<b>Thursday, Feb. 4</b>	7:00 p.m.	Book Discussion with Charlie Wilson via Zoom Women of St. John's Courageous Conversations via Zoom
<b>Friday, Feb. 5</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Saturday, Feb. 6</b>		No Scheduled Activities
<b>Sunday, Feb. 7</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

**500 Third Street West**

**Northfield, MN 55057**

**507-645-4429**

**office@StJohnsNorthfield.org**

**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.