



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1, 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.

■ Pastor, □ Leader (Assisting Minister), ▢ 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 — “Variations on THAXTED”

Tom Trenney

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 710

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

Confession and Forgiveness

¶ Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

¶ Amen.

¶ Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.
Silence is kept for reflection.
Mighty God, lover of justice,

¶ **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

¶ The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.

¶ Amen.

*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

P Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible, page 757

After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 15

setting by Carolyn Jennings

Refrain — first time: choir/cantor, then all singing

Lord, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?
Who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

Psalm Settings for the Church Year, © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

Choir: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor. In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

Refrain — all

Choir: They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word. They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Refrain — all

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Pew Bible, page 926

After the reading:

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

*Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (two sharps) and common time. The first staff contains the text 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The second staff contains the text 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' The music includes various note values such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, with rests and a fermata over the final note of the first staff.

*Gospel — Matthew 5:1-12

Spark Story Bible, page 264

- ▣ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.
- ▣ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- ▣ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ▣ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 721

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

Sung twice.

Installation of Council and Church Board Members

Children's Message

“Wonders of Worship”



The logo for "WONDERS OF WORSHIP" features the title in a stylized, bubbly font with a green 'W', a yellow 'O', and a red 'D'. Below the title, the words "WORD • WORSHIP • WORLD" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font, flanked by blue and red wavy lines.

I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? I won-der. I
won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!

Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

*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

(8:30) "I Dream a World"

André J. Thomas

I dream a world where man no other man will scorn, where love will bless the earth and peace its paths adorn. I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way, where greed no longer saps the soul, nor avarice blights our day. A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be, will share the bounties of the earth and every man is free, of such I dream. Where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind—of such I dream.

— Langston Hughes

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

arr. Ronald A. Nelson

*Offering Hymn — "As with Gladness Men of Old" stanza 3

DIX

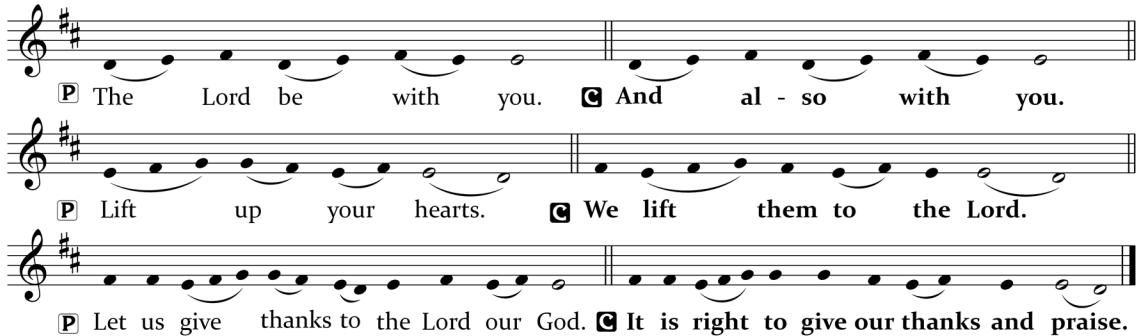
*As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.*

*Offering Prayer

❑ Let us pray.
❑ **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.**

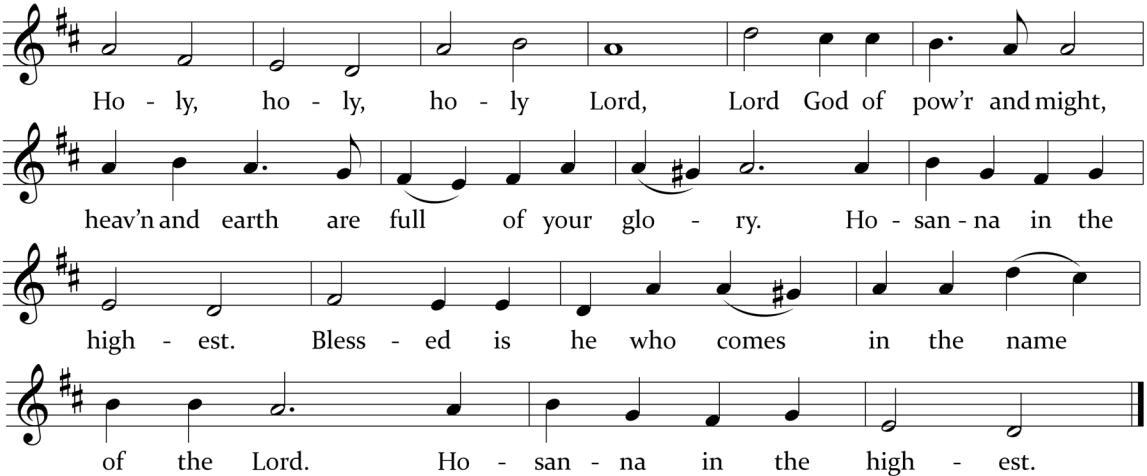
SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, holy, holy 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

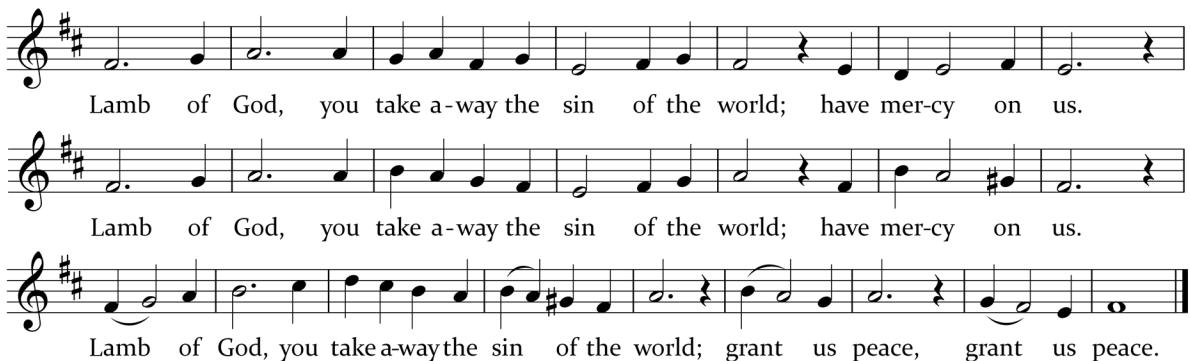
*The Lord's Prayer

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. 522

“As We Gather at Your Table”

Hymn — ELW No. 551

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

***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.

C Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:  **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn — “Sing a New World into Being”

NETTLETON



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope-ful theme.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home,
Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph-ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent yearn-ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled in God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor-ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and venge-ance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle © 2006 GIA Publications; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

*Dismissal

 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — Processional in D Major

David N. Johnson



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Scott Swanson (10:45) Jeff McLaughlin
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) Dan Dauner
Livestream	Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Service	Angie Gehring, Beth Cox
Greeters	(8:30) Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Mary Ellen North (10:45) Julie Cannon, Vikki Van Veldhuizen
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson
Treats	Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Gerri Licke, Tricia Peterson, Vikki Van Veldhuizen
Counters	Marilyn Calcutt, Bill and Jane Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Cheryl Buck, Dave Buck, Chuck Cannon, Roger Van Veldhuizen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image from *Icon 1*. Used with permission.

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Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (February 1)

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

Next Week (February 8)

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

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in loving memory of Karen Swenson by her 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), contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: March 22 & 29 and April 5, 12, 19 & 26.

St. John's Forums in February

9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

- **Today: Habitat for Humanity**

Join us for what is sure to be an enlightening and inspirational adult forum by Dayna Norvold, Executive Director of Rice County Habitat for Humanity. Dayna will cover a wide range of topics including current home building/restoration projects, the scope of need for affordable housing, sustainable building practices, how to apply for a Habitat home, and how to get involved with supporting Habitat and being a Faith Builder Congregation.

- **February 8: ISAIAH MN**

We are living in a time of crisis in our state and in our country. As people of faith, we are called to respond to the present moment by advocating for the values that our faith affirms. ISAIAH MN is taking action on several fronts and the St. John's ISAIAH leaders will report on some of these efforts. In addition, we want to address the emotional demands and challenges of our situation. St. John's member Dan Dimick will help us consider ways that we can cope with the stresses we face through self-care and productive conversations with others.

- **February 15: Epiphany-Seeing and Serving with Olaf & Christy Hall-Holt**

Olaf and Christy will be sharing their discoveries from recent trips to the country of Ghana in West Africa where Olaf used a sabbatical to teach computer science and Christy did some chaplaincy-related work.

- **February 22: Introduction to the Prophets**

Lenten Book Read: *The Tears of Things*

Our selection for this year's Lenten Book Read is Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* (2024). Reading the biblical prophetic books through the lens of his experience as a counselor and spiritual guide, Rohr pays close attention to the pattern of moving from anger through grief and lamentation toward hope in the prophetic books and Rohr meditates on how this pattern can help us deal with our own "tears of things"—the deep anger we experience in our own confusing times. As he notes, only grief and mourning can transform our anger into wisdom and hope as we seek to speak truth and act in love. We will begin selling books and signing people up for discussion groups on Sunday, February 8, and continue through February 22. One of our pastors will introduce us to the challenge of reading prophetic books in a forum on Sunday, February 22. Two small discussion groups will meet at different times during the week—on Sundays between the services (March 1, 8, 15 & 22), and on Wednesday afternoons from 4:15–5:15 p.m. before supper (March 4, 11, 18 & 25).

Announcements (continued)

Courageous Conversations: *Free Speech and Higher Education—Why You Should Care*

Thursday, February 5, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Amna Khalid, Professor of History at Carleton College and host of the podcast “Banished,” will ask us to consider initiatives curtailing protected speech and the freedom to learn and teach.

Manna and Mercy Retreat with Rev. Alan Storey, April 24–25

South African pastor Alan Storey is returning to St. John's to lead a *Manna and Mercy Retreat*. Alan is an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church of South Africa and is appointed to the Central Methodist Mission (CMM) in Cape Town. Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* (a book we use for Confirmation here at St. John's), Alan Storey will take us on a journey from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two days, with sensitivity to the contexts in which the scriptures were written and of our present day. The cost for the weekend is on a sliding scale of \$50–100. We are asking people to pay what they can. There are scholarships available and the cost for students is \$25. Scan the QR Code to register or go to www.alanstoreyinminnesota.org



Scan Me

Children and Youth

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 16, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who: Grades 2–5, Friends are always welcome!

When: 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Where: Meet at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

Cost: \$11.00 (Games+Shoes+Snacks) Scholarships available. Please pay with cash, or if by check, make it payable to Flaherty Northfield Lanes. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery. Parents: Please drop off and pick up your child at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Parent or high school chaperones needed.



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

Duane Engstrom, Fred Huemoeller, Ingrid Alberding,
Maralee Sisson (mother of Tamara Jackman)

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, February 4:
Tater Tot Hotdish

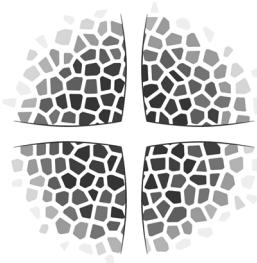
All are welcome!

*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, Feb. 2	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	WELCA Executive Board Meeting, Undercroft
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Feb. 3	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
	4:30 p.m.	Stephen Minister Training, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Feb. 4	11:30 a.m.	Gathering of Contemplation and Prayer, Fireside Room
	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.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
	6:30 p.m.	Faith & Politics Discussion Group, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Feb. 5	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	4:00 p.m.	Suzuki Kids, Fellowship Hall / Room 19
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Courageous Conversations, St. John's Hall
Friday, Feb. 6	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Feb. 7		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Feb. 8	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)</i>
	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*

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.*