



# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 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** — Larghetto in D Minor

Michael Mazzatenta

*Rejoice Ringers*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 326

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

*Front of ELW hymnal, page 94*

## \*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

¶ Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
¶ Amen.

## Children's Message

“Wonders of Worship”

I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?  
I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?  
Come and see! Come now and see!



# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## Psalmody — Psalm 32:1-6



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me <sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
“I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”

Then you forgave me the guilt <sup>1</sup> of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.

## Second Reading — Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.

<sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA



We are turn - ing, Lord to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and  
kind— slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## \*Gospel — Matthew 4:1-11

Spark Story Bible, page 248

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

<sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**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 — ACS No. 923

"As Your Spirit in the Desert"

*Stanza 1 — cantor*

*Stanzas 2-5 — all*

## \*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*

(8:30) "A Bridge Called Faith"

Fred Gramann

(10:45) "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Thomas Keesecker

## \*Offering Hymn — "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

FRANCKE

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your  
Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal -  
va - - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

## \*Offering Prayer

**L** Let us pray.

**C** Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

## \*Great Thanksgiving

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also 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:

*Sung first in English, then Spanish.*

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes in both English and Spanish. The English lyrics are: "Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you. Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te a - do - ra." The Spanish lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you. San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra." The bottom staff continues with: "My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God. Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to\_e-res Se - ñor." The music concludes with a final measure ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text and music: Argentine traditional

## \*Words of Institution

## \*The Lord's Prayer

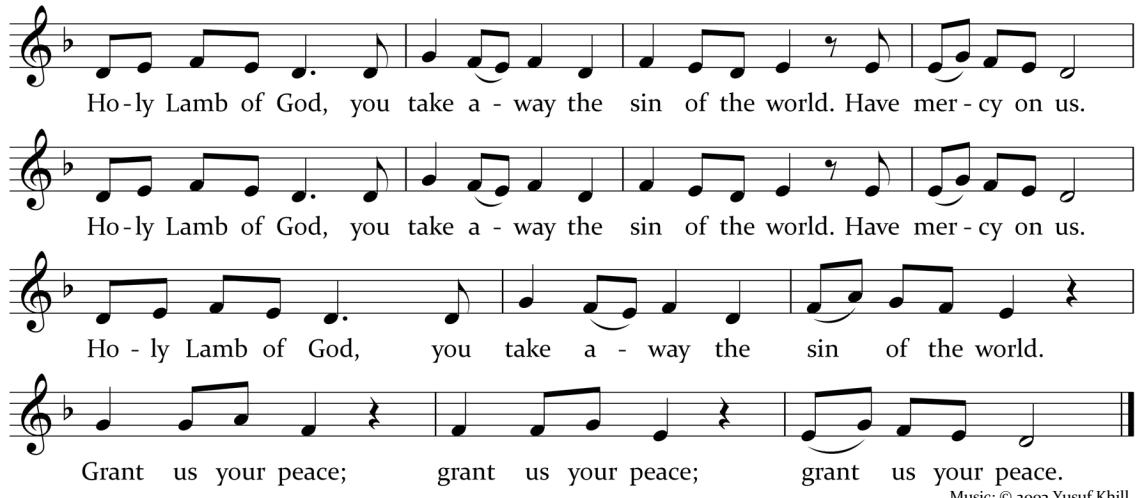
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory 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

“Holy Lamb of God” *Ya hamalallah*

Yusuf Khill



Ho-ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

Ho-ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy on us.

Ho - ly Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace; grant us your peace; grant us your peace.

Music: © 2003 Yusuf Khill

**Hymn — ELW No. 319**

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

**Hymn — ELW No. 469**

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

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

### \***Prayer after Communion**

□ God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

□ Amen.

## **DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

### \***Blessing**

*Response:*

□ Amen.

\***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 618

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

### \***Dismissal**

□ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

□ **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** — “Sarabande” from *Holberg Suite*

Edvard Grieg, arr. Christopher Eva



### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Randall Family (10:45) Sally Lindell
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, director
Cantor	(8:30) Heather Wallace, Church Music Intern
Livestream	Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Vicki Otis
Greeters	(8:30) Marie Benson (10:45) Sandra Nyvall
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson, Karen Schuette
Treats	Tricia Peterson, Rhonda Reece
Counters	Sue Brockman, Chris and Martha Erickson
Ushers	(8:30) Leif Knecht, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Bob Nyvall, Mark Rydberg, Eric Sponheim

## **LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: WHEN HAVE YOU FELT CALLED?**

When people speak of a calling, it is often in large-scale, life-altering terms, like a career or a decades-long responsibility. But God calls in many ways, sometimes to actions that are smaller and less noticed by the world, and sometimes in the midst of circumstances we never would choose. This Lenten season we are inviting five members of St. John's to reflect on the notion of calling and to share how they have felt called in their lives.

*To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

– 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from February 25 through March 25.

- February 25: Paul Beck
- March 4: Gordy Turpin-Moore
- March 11: Rusty Kluver
- March 18: Susan Lohmann
- March 25: Anika Rychner

# Announcements

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

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Vern and Joan Koester by Gracie and Justin Koester. 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 507-645-4429 or [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Next available dates: March 1 & 29 and April 5, 19 & 26.

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given in celebration of Duane Engstrom's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 26.

## **St. John's Forum: *Introduction to the Prophets***

**Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall**

Who are the prophets of Scripture and how do we read them? Too often prophets are seen as those who predict the future. The prophets of Scripture, however, are those called by God to give a word of warning or a word of comfort to the people of God. In preparation for our Lenten book read on the prophets, Pastors Pam and Jonathan will introduce us to the prophets of Scripture and how we might need their voice and their wisdom during a time of violence and despair.

## **Courageous Conversations: *Building Bridges through Storytelling***

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

Lupita McClanahan, Navajo elder, will speak on surviving Indian Boarding School, nurturing personal resilience, and strengthening cultural identity through adversity. Lupita will speak about her early years, attending Indian Boarding School, overcoming trauma, and choosing to become a bridge-builder between cultures by sharing her stories. She continues to live on her ancestral land. Refreshments provided.

## **Lenten Book Read: *The Tears of Things***

Discussion groups for the Lenten book read, *The Tears of Things* will begin on Wednesday, February 25, from 4:15–5:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The Sunday discussion group will meet between services beginning on March 1. If you need a copy of the book, the cost is \$20 and they will be available today in St. John's Hall.

## ***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. Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy*, 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](http://www.alanstoreyinminnesota.org).



Scan Me

# **Announcements (continued)**

## **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Thrivent members can benefit St. John's at no cost to them by designating their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's. 2025 funds need to be directed by March 31. Log in to your account at [thrive.com](http://thrive.com) to direct funds.

## **Musicians, Poets, Performers: Come Visit Benedictine Living Community!**

Benedictine residents would enjoy hearing and seeing you! The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board heard from Barbara Walters who invited all to come. She said even a casual practice time could happen on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. or on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. for an extension of the church time. The more formal Monday Music slot at 2:00 p.m. also needs to be filled. Christy Grim, the new Wellness Director, can be contacted at 507-650-5007 (work) or 918-706-7216 (personal) to set up a gig. Be creative and share your energy!

## **Sunday Evening Gatherings**

### **5:00–5:30 p.m., First UCC**

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

## **Learning and Fellowship Between Services**

### ***This Week (February 22)***

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)

### ***Next Week (March 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)

Lenten Book Read (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

## **Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 1):**

### ***Second Sunday in Lent***

**Genesis 12:1-4a + Psalm 121 + Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 + John 3:1-17**

# Prayer Requests

*We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.*

## **Healing and Support**

### *Those in the hospital or in need of healing*

Fred Huemoeller, Judy Swanson, 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, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff),  
Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

### *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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com), or contact a pastor.



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

Menu for Wednesday, February 25:  
Beef Stew / Creamy Potato Soup

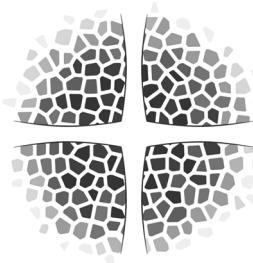
**All are welcome!**

*Soup Suppers 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](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

<b>Monday, Feb. 23</b>	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Visitation - Don Starkweather, Commons
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral - Don Starkweather, Sanctuary
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 24</b>	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
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 25</b>	10:15 a.m.	Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite
	10:45 a.m.	Communion at NRC, Offsite
	11:15 a.m.	Communion at Kildahl Apartments, Offsite
	11:30 a.m.	Gathering of Contemplation and Prayer, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	4:15 p.m.	Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room
	5:15 p.m.	Lenten Soup Supper, St. John's Hall
	6:15 p.m.	Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary
		Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
		High School Youth Group, Youth Room
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
		Faith & Politics Discussion Group, St. John's Library
<b>Thursday, Feb. 26</b>	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, Youth Room
	1:30 p.m.	Book Buddies, St. John's Library
	4:00 p.m.	Suzuki Kids, Fellowship Hall / Room 19
		Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<b>Friday, Feb. 27</b>	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Rehearsal - CVRO, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
<b>Saturday, Feb. 28</b>	3:00 p.m.	Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra (CVRO), St. John's Hall



# St. John's

ELCA • NORTHFIELD • MN

500 Third Street West  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-4429

[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org)  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://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.*