

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 † 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 — “There in God’s Garden”

Robert Buckley Farlee

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — ELW No. 342

“There in God’s Garden”

Stanzas 1-4

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C Amen.

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

P Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave
the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for everyone.
God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ’s name,
and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

C 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

- ☐ 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.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Spark Story Bible, page 14

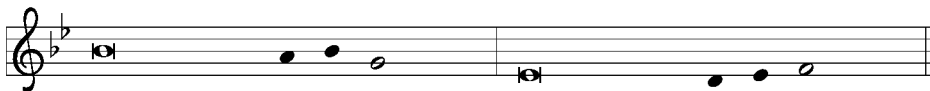
¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

³¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

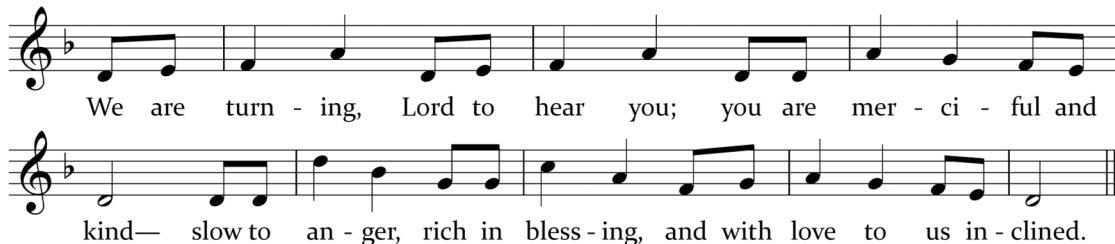
- ☐ The word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 32:1-7



¹Happy are they whose transgressions¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is¹ put away!
²Happy are they to whom the LORD im-¹putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!
³While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.
⁴For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer.
⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.”
Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.
⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.
⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 4:1-11

Spark Story Bible, page 248

- 📖 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.
- 📖 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”
⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying 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.’”⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 922

“When We Are Tested”

*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) "The Tree of Life"

arr. James Biery

The tree of life with every good in Eden's holy orchard stood, and of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat. Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew; its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned. The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove with tempting voice to Eve beguile and Adam too by sin defile. O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death, its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made. What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by his grace: in sending One from woman's seed, the One to fill our greatest need—for on a tree uplifted high his only Son for sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent's head! Now from that tree of Jesus' shame flows life eternal in his name; for all who trust and will believe, salvation's living fruit receive. And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat, to find within this cross of wood the tree of life with every good.

– Stephen Starke

St. John's Chorale

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

Thomas Keesecker

*Offering Hymn — "Create in Me a Clean Heart" For music, see ELW No. 188

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

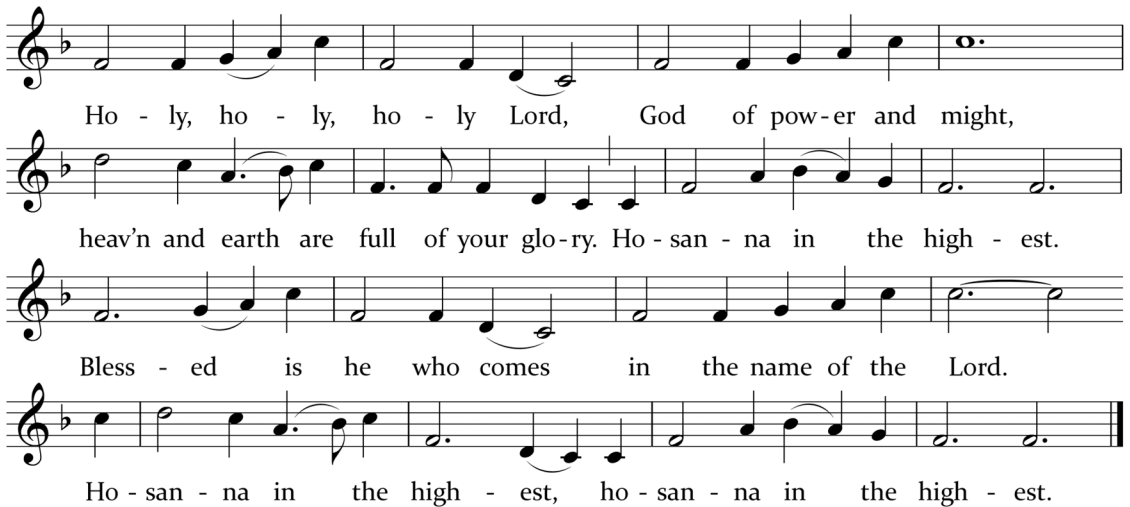
*Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray.
- Ⓑ **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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, 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.

Hymn — ELW No. 325

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

☞ Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

☞ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 321

“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

*Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn” BWV 630

J. S. Bach



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Arielle Loy (10:45) Scott and Elaine Nesbit
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) Marcia Yernberg
Oboe	(8:30) Lauren Vilendrer
Cantor	(10:45) Kristin Partlo
Healing Prayers	(8:30) Rod Christensen, Jennifer Edwins (10:45) Dennis and Jane Rinehart
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	TBD
Greeters / Welcome Desk	(8:30) TBD; (10:45) TBD
Coffee and Refreshments	TBD
Counters	Sue Brockman, Reed Hagberg, Bill Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Mark Rydberg, Todd Menssen, Robert Nyvall, Eric Sponheim

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (February 26)

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)
Lenten Book Discussions (9:45–10:45 a.m., Fireside Room)
Accompany (10:00–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

Next Week (March 5)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons
Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)
Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)
Lenten Book Discussions (9:45–10:45 a.m., Fireside Room)
Accompany (10:00–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 5):

Second Sunday in Lent

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

Announcements

*Additional announcements can be found in the weekly E-Voice.
Printed copies of the E-Voice are available at the Welcome Desk and by Door #1.*

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 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: March 5, 19 & 26.

Courageous Conversations:

Christian Nationalism—What is it, Why it Matters, and How We Can Respond

Thursday, March 2, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

In recent years the alignment between right-wing politics and Christianity has taken on a new intensity in a movement called "Christian Nationalism." Our speakers, Pastor Rolf Olson, retired, and Dr. Nancy Koester, pastor and Luther Seminary professor, will lead a fascinating and disturbing conversation about our national life. Due to the volatile nature of the subject, this program will not be advertised outside of St. John's, and because of copyright issues, the program will not be recorded.

Kids Night Out at St. John's

Friday, March 3, 5:30–8:30 p.m. for Kids in Grades K–5

Games, pizza, crafts, and a movie! Bring a snack to share. Friends are welcome too! Sign up in the Commons or email Julie at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if your child would like to attend!

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. 2022 funds need to be directed by March 31. Log in to your account at thrivent.com to direct funds.

The Evening Gathering: An Ecumenical Worship on Sunday Evenings

Sundays, 6:00 p.m., First UCC (300 Union St., Northfield)

A new ecumenical worship service is created and carried out by laypeople from local churches. You are invited to join on Sunday evenings at First UCC for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and communion. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare us for the week.

Earthquake Relief

Two of St. John's mission partners, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Mideast Development, are already active in the regions of Turkey and Syria hit by the recent earthquakes. For the most rapid response, you can give directly to these organizations at lwr.org and lutheran-mideast.org.

Announcements (continued)

Oral History Update

You can listen to a 40-minute interview with Donna Paulsen about her decades-long experience as a church musician and teacher in Northfield. Donna served longest at Trinity Lutheran, but she and her husband Burt always maintained their connections to St. John's. In 2019, Donna was awarded the Northfield "Living Treasure" award for her many contributions to music in Northfield. Click on the "About" tab on the main page of the website, and then scroll down to "Oral Histories."

PEEL Project—Openings Available

PEEL Project is where 10–12 people gather together for a weekend to learn about photography, poetry, and each other. St. John's did one PEEL event last spring. It was a deepening and eye-opening experience to slow down and intentionally connect with another person we didn't know well before. Would you like to participate? All it takes is the time (Friday evening, much of Saturday, and Sunday afternoon) and the openness and curiosity to get to know another person and yourself as you learn about photography and poetry. No special experience or talent needed. The next PEEL weekend will be March 24–26. If this weekend works for you, sign up by scanning the QR code or contact Kristin Partlo or one of the pastors.



LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: WATERY WORDS

The Season of Lent is traditionally a time of baptismal preparation and baptismal renewal. We recommit to spiritual practices that remind us of our need for God and each other during these six weeks as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection.

This year we have invited five members of St. John's to speak around the themes of water, bringing together a watery word, or Scripture verse with their own experience.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from March 1 through March 29.

- March 1: David Legvold
- March 8: David Zdenek
- March 15: Patsy Ophaug
- March 22: Ashley Gallagher
- March 29: Kathy Shea

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

Joanne Rodland, Don Sahling, Doris Ellingboe (mother of Karen Schuette),
Aarin Morse (son of Roberta Morse), Melisa Simonet (daughter of Julian Trangsrud)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Scott Barvir, Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Donna James,
Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson, John Quam, Scott Quinnell,
Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Lyla Arneson Paulson, Janice Helgeson, Carol Johnson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.



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

Menu for Wednesday, March 1:
Turkey & Rice (Gluten-Free)
Vegetarian Tomato

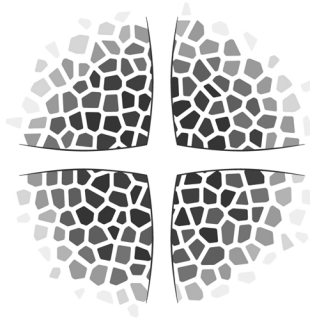
All are welcome!

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.

Monday, Feb. 27	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Feb. 28	7:30 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
Wednesday, Mar. 1	12:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	4:30 p.m.	Lenten Book Discussions, 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 (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Sanctuary
		Where Politics Meets Faith Discussion, Fireside Room
Thursday, Mar. 2	7:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstream, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
	7:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Courageous Conversations, St. John's Hall
Friday, Mar. 3	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Kids' Night Out, St. John's Hall and Lower Level
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Mar. 4		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Mar. 5	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary



St. John's

ELCA · NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Children's Music Director and Early Childhood Specialist*

Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.