

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 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.*

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 — on AUS TIEFER NOT

Jean Langlais

Katie Nail, organ

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 666

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

***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

☐ Eternal God, fountain of living water, we thirst for your peace. In the wilderness of this world, grant us courage and hope. Pour your Spirit into our hearts, that we might trust in your unending grace, and share your love with all your children.

☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone

me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 95:1-7a

from ELW Morning Prayer
setting by Carolyn Jennings

Refrain — all

Refrain



Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

Refrain — all

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours. The sea is yours, for you made it; and your hands have molded the dry land.

Refrain — all

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Refrain — all

Second Reading — Romans 5:1-11

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love

for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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 24:1-14**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

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

¹As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs. ⁹Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 600

“Out of the Depths I Cry to You”

*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:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** 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.



Children's Message

"Wonders of Worship"

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

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "For the Troubles and Sufferings" Rodolfo Gaede Neto, arr. Hal Hopson

Sung in English and Spanish.

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world, God, we call upon your mercy: the whole creation's laboring in pain! Lend an ear to the rising cry for help from oppressed and hopeless people. Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!

We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice, to cover and embrace us. Have mercy Lord! We pray for power, the power that will sustain your people's witness; until your kingdom come, Kyrie eleison. Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O God.

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Christus, der uns selig macht" BWV 620

J. S. Bach

"Christ, Who Makes Us Blessed"

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

FRANCKE

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

- ℒ Let us pray.
- ☑ **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.
- ☑ **And also with you.**
- ℙ Lift up your hearts.
- ☑ **We lift them to the Lord.**
- ℙ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- ☑ **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.

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.

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.

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. 611

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

Hymn — ELW No. 816

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound

*Prayer after Communion

- ℒ 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. 803 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”
Stanzas 2 & 4 may be sung in harmony.

*Dismissal

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

Postlude — on WONDROUS LOVE

Craig Phillips



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Christy Hall-Holt
Organists	Nathan Proctor Katie Nail, Church Music Intern
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Anthem Accompanist	(8:30) David Sims
Livestream	Mark Gleason
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) Judy Smith; (10:45) Dimi DeRose
Coffee Service	Pat Tabery
Treats	Gerri Licke, Rhonda Reece, Liz Rowley
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Dan Franklin, Bob Tabery
Ushers	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jon and Cindy McBroom, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Chris Tacheny, Andrew Tacheny

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.

- 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 our leaders at St. John's by Rose Berthelsen. 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 29 and April 19 & 26.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare Campaign is underway through April 6. Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. You are invited to join its efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity. You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf. Please write your check to St. John's and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. You can also give online through the St. John's website.

- St. John's 3-5 graders invite you to join them in a Minnesota FoodShare Mac'n Cheese Challenge! Donate standard classic Mac'n Cheese (or same size) boxes, or \$20 for 18 boxes. Our goal is to fill the St. John's Labyrinth by Wednesday, April 1, for a joyful Mac'n Cheese domino celebration. Donate boxes to the shopping cart in the Commons, or direct a check to St. John's with Mac'n Cheese Challenge in the memo line.

Kari Hong speaking on Friday, March 13, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Mass Deportation, Detention, and ICE: How We Got Here. What We Can Do. The Statue of Liberty welcomes the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Our immigration policy has strayed far from that promise. How did we get here? How can we return to a humane and fair immigration system?

For the past 25 years, Kari Hong has been an immigration attorney who has represented clients from 54 countries and six continents. Her scholarship and commentary has appeared in numerous publications including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, SCOTUS Blog, and CNN. She was a tenured law professor at Boston College for 10 years and is currently the Ninth Circuit attorney at the Florence Immigration & Refugee Rights Project. On a personal note, Kari grew up in Northfield, was confirmed at St. John's, and is the granddaughter of Howard and Edna Hong who were involved in St. John's refugee resettlement program following WWII.

St. John's Forum: A Public Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 15, 9:45-10:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

Local ISIAH MN leaders will describe in detail the planned events at the State Capitol on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 29, when thousands of Christians will gather to process, sing, pray, and worship together. The focus will be on Jesus' teachings to love and care for our neighbors. At this forum we will discuss the political meaning of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem and the parallels to today. We will also practice singing some of the music we will share at the event, which will be a powerful way to worship as one, across denominations. Finally, we will clarify our transportation plans (bus or carpool). Please join us. For more information go to www.palmsunday2026.com.

Announcements (continued)

St. John's Is Hiring: Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Our Director of Ministry with Youth & Families, Kristin Partlo, will be leaving her position at St. John's this July in order to continue her seminary education through Pastoral Internship at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing. This means we are looking to find our next Director of Ministry with Youth & Families! Please go to our website (<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/about/employment/>) to read the job description and to see how to apply!

Weekend Quilting Bee

Celebrate National Quilting Day on **Saturday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.–Noon in the Fellowship Hall**. St. Olaf students will be joining us! This is a chance for those who can't attend the quilting on Thursday mornings to have a chance to join in on the fun. We will be cutting out squares, sewing quilt tops, tying the quilts, and sewing on the bindings. Refreshments will be provided.

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.

Children, up to grade 5, are invited to St. John's for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs. Friends are welcome too! Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill over 1,000 eggs. A donation basket is in the Commons. If you can volunteer to help hide eggs on the day of the hunt, please contact Julie at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Easter Lily Orders 2026

If you would like to order an Easter lily to decorate the Sanctuary in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of Easter, the order form is available in the Commons or by scanning the QR code. The last day to place your order is Sunday, March 29.



Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 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)

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

Accompany (9:45–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

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St. John's Forum: *A Public Palm Sunday* (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

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, Avis Reed

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), Ingrid Alberding

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, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 15):

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 † Psalm 23 † Ephesians 5:8-14 † John 9:1-41



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

Menu for Wednesday, March 11:
Italian Wedding Soup / Lentil Soup

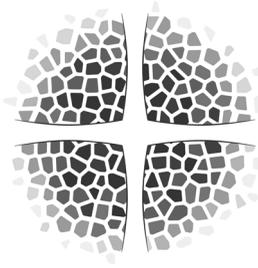
All are welcome!

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.

Monday, Mar. 9	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 10	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
	6:30 p.m.	CCB Orientation, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Church Board Meetings, St. John's Hall
Wednesday, Mar. 11	9:30 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Personnel Committee, Fireside Room
	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
Thursday, Mar. 12	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.	Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library
	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
Friday, Mar. 13	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Mary Circle, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Mar. 14		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Mar. 15	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 13.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



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*
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.*