



# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 16, 2025 † 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** — “What Wondrous Love Is This”

arr. Anna Laura Page

*Rejoice Ringers*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Confession and Forgiveness** — *Front of ELW hymnal, page 94*

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 613

“Thy Holy Wings”

## \*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

☐ God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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 15:1-12, 17-18

Spark Story Bible, page 30

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer

of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Psalmody** — Psalm 27, "God, My Light and My Salvation"

BEACH SPRING



God, my light and my sal - va - tion, in whose strength my hope is laid;  
Shel-ter me with - in the ha - ven of your house all time to come;



con - fi - dent in my sal - va - tion, I shall nev - er be a - fraid.  
on the rock of your pro - tec - tion, let me safe - ly find a home.



E - vil hosts may rise a - gainst me, wars dis - tress and flesh de - cays;  
Lift me high a - bove the le - gions who would rail a - gainst God's word:



yet the cruel - est death im - ag - ined but be - gins my song of praise.  
o'er the tu - mult of di - vi - sion make my cry for peace be heard.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Morgan © 1999 Witherspoon Press; Music: *The Sacred Harp*

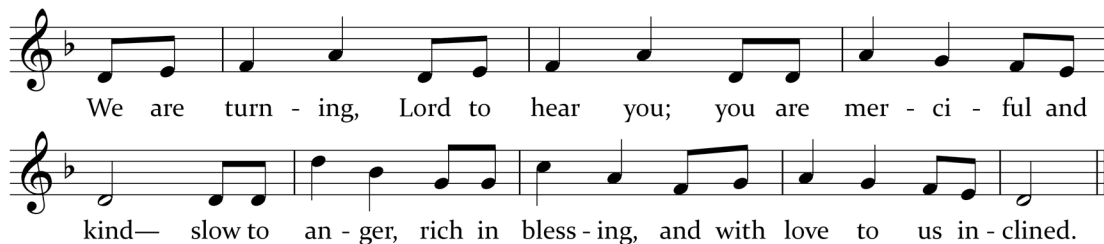
## Second Reading — Philippians 3:17—4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## \*Gospel Acclamation



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 — Luke 13:31-35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 566

“When Twilight Comes”

### \*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) Two Swedish Melodies:

arr. Jane McFadden

“Day by Day” and “Thy Holy Wings”

(10:45) “Thy Holy Wings”

David Cherwien

## \*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.

## \*Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

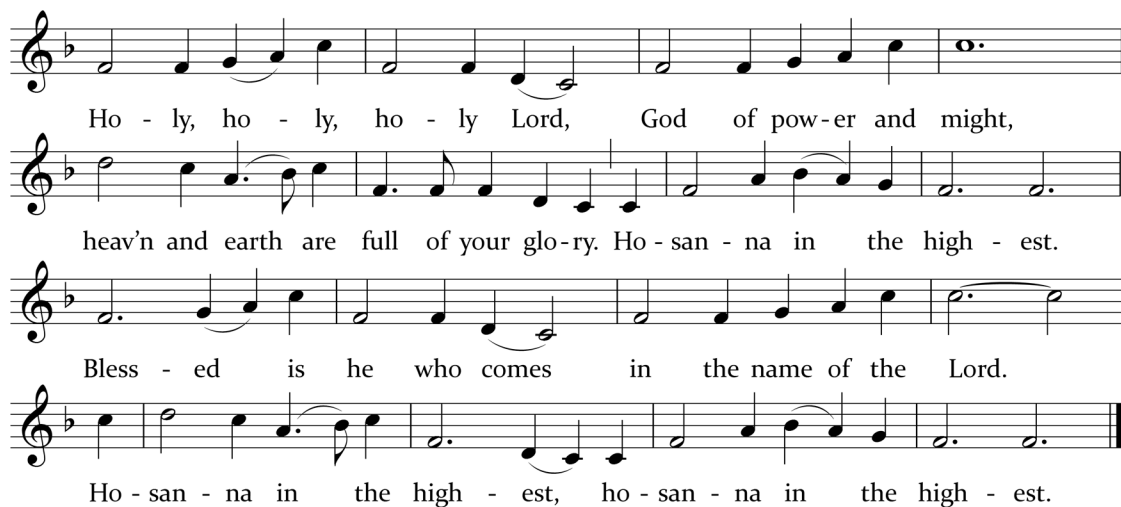
**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

# SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

## \*Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- 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:



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



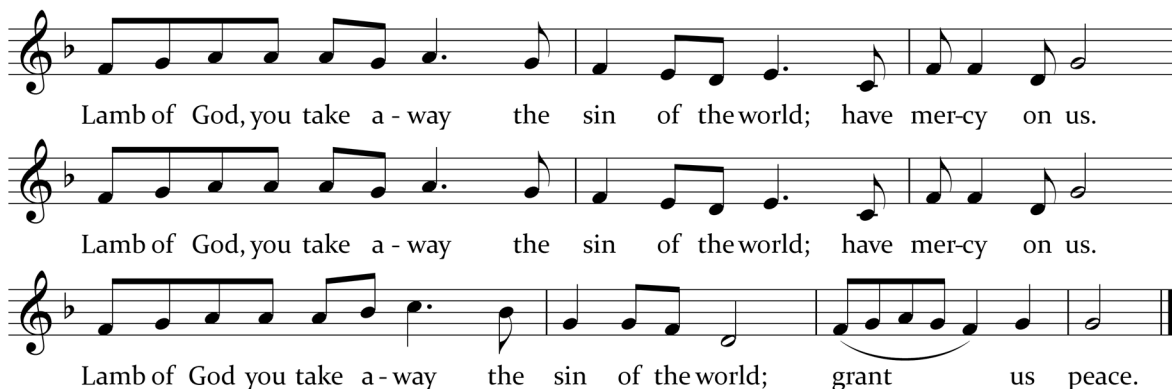
## \*The Lord's Prayer

**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.***

## 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. 468

"Around You, O Lord Jesus"

Hymn — ELW No. 471

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

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

**\*Prayer after Communion**

- ☐ Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ☑ 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** — Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Vincent Lübeck Jr.



### **Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 23):**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 55:1-9 † Psalm 63:1-8 † 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 † Luke 13:1-9

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

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Sara Bright (10:45) Becker Nelson Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, director Heather Wallace, Church Music Intern
Communion Prep	Jill Enestvedt
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) Mary Ellen North (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson, Fran Wood
Refreshments	Ruth Smestad Anglin, Tricia Peterson, Gerri Licke, Patrice Nordstrand
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Bob Tabery, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Cindy Clauson, Ruthie Neuger, John Ophaug (10:45) Mike Bull, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## **Learning and Fellowship Between Services**

### ***This Week (March 16)***

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 and Undercroft)

### ***Next Week (March 23)***

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

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

# **Announcements**

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

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given in memory of Ken Struss and Elmer & Cora Schultz by Marie Struss and 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), please contact Leah Garlie at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: March 30 and April 17, 18 & 27.

**TODAY** following the 10:45 a.m. worship service, there will be a BRIEF congregational and Foundation meeting in the Sanctuary. We will share final 2024 financial reports, the Audit Committee's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report, and conduct Foundation board elections. At our annual meeting on February 2, we were not able to offer a final financial and audit report from 2024. Those numbers are now complete and there is good news to share!

## **Easter Lilies 2025**

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, please complete the paper form available in the Commons, or contact the church office at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. The cost is \$10.

## **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. 2024 funds need to be directed by March 31. Log in to your account at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) to direct funds.

## **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.

## **Women's Day at Good Earth Village: "Crafting Wellness: Pathway to Self Care"**

**Saturday, March 29, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., \$40 per person (pre-registration is requested)**

Spend a day at Good Earth Village with other women relaxing, learning, and contemplating how creativity can enhance wellness and add joy to your daily life. No artistic or craft experience is necessary. Your host, Juli Seydell Johnson, is an artist, crafter, motivational speaker, lifelong camp counselor, and Parks and Recreation Director for over 30 years. The day will include devotions, presentations, hands-on activities, lunch, snacks, and fellowship. More information at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org).

## **LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: WORDS OF FAITH**

*“So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*

– Isaiah 55:11

The Word of God has an incredible capacity to speak to us again and again, to work on us over time and to speak into different moments of our lives. For this year’s Lenten Wednesdays, our speakers have been asked to tell us about a Bible text, hymn text, or worship experience that has led them deeper into their faith.

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from March 12 through April 9.

- March 19: Julie Zdenek
- March 26: Brett Norgaard
- April 2: Nancy Simpson-Younger
- April 9: Christine Engstrom

## **Children and Youth**

**Spring Break!** During Northfield School’s Spring Break, St. John’s also takes a break. Sunday school will not be meeting on Sundays, March 23 & 30. Wednesday programs will not meet on March 26.

### **It’s Kid’s Night Out at St. John’s!**

**Friday, April 5, 5:30–8:30 p.m., St. John’s Hall**

Kids in grades 1–5 are invited for games, pizza, crafts, along with more games and a movie! Please bring a snack to share with the group. Friends are welcome! Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by Sunday, March 30. Email Julie if you have questions: [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

### **Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registrations are Now Open**

**Northfield Week is June 22–27**

Good Earth Village, located in Spring Valley, has opened the 2025 summer registration site online. Check out the schedule and registration fees on Good Earth Village’s website at <https://goodearthvillage.org/summer>. St. John’s gifts each camper a portion of the fee.

Check out this Registration Discount:

- Siblings can receive 25% off with code SIBLING2025

### **Summer 2025 Summer Trip—Spots Still Available.**

This summer’s trip will be backpacking (for high school) and camping & hiking (for middle school) at Christikon in Montana. Youth and chaperones from St. John’s, St. Peter’s, and First UCC will adventure in the mountains July 19–27. Contact Kristin Partlo to sign-up at 507-645-4429 or [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## 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, Jo Kleber, Kent Rommereim,  
Carol Schoen, Jenn Cohorst (Family of Angie Gehring)

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

Bill Carlson, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Kathy Vang,  
Ruth Smestad Anglin, Ingrid Alberding, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff)

*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, March 19:  
*White Chicken Chili / Baked Potato Soup*

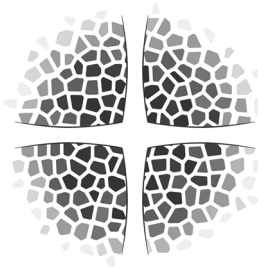
**All are welcome!**

*Wednesday Meals 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, Mar. 17</b>	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology, Eagles' Club BSA Troop #9313 Patrol Leader Meeting, Fireside Room
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 18</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.  6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room "Revelation Unveiled" Bible Study via Zoom Nfld High School Boys Track Team Potluck, St. John's Hall Stephen Ministers, St. John's Hall and St. John's Library NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 19</b>	3:45 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:10 p.m.  6:15 p.m.  7:00 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten - Grade 5), St. John's Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room Lenten Soup Supper, St. John's Hall Confirmation (Grades 6-8) High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12) Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary Faith & Politics Discussion Group, Fireside Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
<b>Thursday, Mar. 20</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
<b>Friday, Mar. 21</b>	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
<b>Saturday, Mar. 22</b>		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
<b>Sunday, Mar. 23</b>	8:30 a.m.  10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11.) Worship, Sanctuary



# St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD-MN

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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*  
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*  
Sally Lindell, *Parish 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.*