



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2020 † 8:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.

Video of this week's service will be posted for one week only on the home page of our website www.stjohnsnorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available at the St. John's Facebook page.



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 — “Be Thou My Vision”

Craig Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor Hull, tr. Mary Byrne

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness
to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C Amen.

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your
resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.
Amen.

P Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

C Amen.

***Greeting**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.
By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness
of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

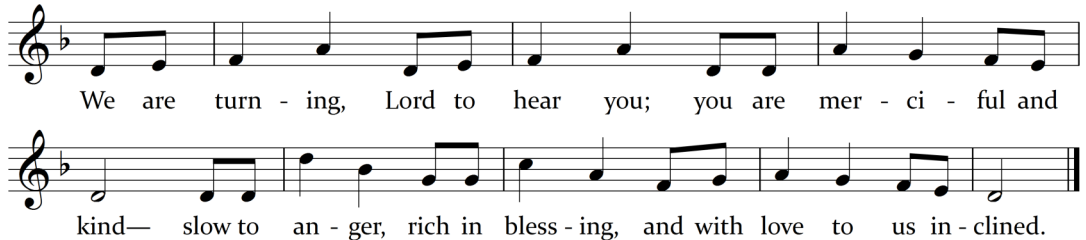
After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA



Children's Message

*Gospel — John 9:1-41

Before the reading:

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

After the reading:

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

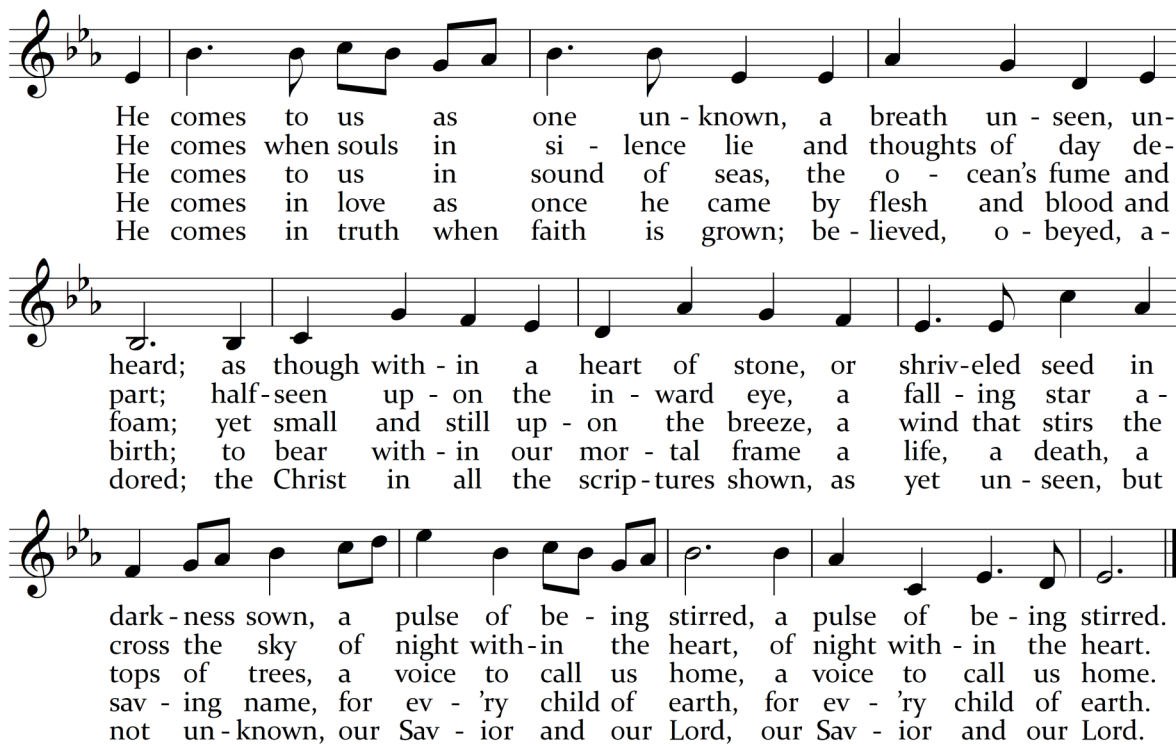
Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

REPTON



He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un-seen, un-
He comes when souls in si-lence lie and thoughts of day de-
He comes to us in sound of seas, the o-cean's fume and
He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
He comes in truth when faith is grown; be-lieved, o-beyed, a-
heard; as though with-in a heart of stone, or shriv-eled seed in
part; half-seen up-on the in-ward eye, a fall-ing star a-
foam; yet small and still up-on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with-in our mor-tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip-tures shown, as yet un-seen, but
dark-ness sown, a pulse of be-ing stirred, a pulse of be-ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav-ing name, for ev-'ry child of earth, for ev-'ry child of earth.
not un-known, our Sav-ior and our Lord, our Sav-ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, © 1994 Hope Publishing Company

***The 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:

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

David N. Johnson

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

☐ O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

☑ Amen.

***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.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☑ Amen.

***Sending Hymn — “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

ST. COLUMBA

The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear
Thou spreadst a ta - ble in my sight; thine unc - tion
And so through all the length of days, thy good - ness
fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my
grace be - stow - eth; and, oh, what trans - port
fail - eth nev - er. Good Shep - herd, may I
I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.
of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
sing thy praise with - in thy house for - ev - er.

Text: Henry W. Baker

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Finale” from *Das Holsteinische Orgelbüchlein*

Hans Micheelsen



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Minister	Kristin Partlo
Organist	Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 29):

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 † Psalm 130 † Romans 8:6-11 † John 11:1-45

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Sharon Bishop in honor of her daughter's birthday on Sunday, March 15. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: April 5, 12, 19 & 26. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV) - cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Video of this week's service will be posted for one week only on the home page at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available at the St. John's Facebook page.

Here at St. John's the pastors and staff are closely following the recommendations from the CDC for the preparation for and prevention of the spread of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus. Important tips for us all to remember are: wash hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds, cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue when possible and then throw it in the trash, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and stay home if you are sick. The recommendations do not include stockpiling food or other supplies and wearing a mask as a protective measure to prevent infection. We are following all updates from the CDC closely and will keep you informed of any changes.

Thrivent Member Reminder

Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2019 Choice dollars in their accounts to charitable non-profits. St. John's welcomes your Choice dollars which are used to support of our ministry among youth and the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church. To learn more, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after prompt. If you need assistance or have questions, Brad Kmoch will be happy to help you. Just send him an email (bkmoch@gmail.com) or call him (952-807-4702). Note that your 2019 Choice dollars will disappear if not directed, so act before March 31.

Interested in forming a St. John's team for the Northfield Church Softball League this summer?

Please indicate your interest to Rob Quanbeck by email or phone (507-301-3625 or rob.quanbeck@gmail.com) by Monday, March 23. In addition to players, a team manager is needed. The organizational meeting for the team managers will be held before Easter so time is of the essence if St. John's is going to field a team for Summer 2020! Spring will be here shortly – it's time to pull out your bat and glove! *Northfield Church Softball League is dedicated to fellowship, the spirit of competition and serving others while developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.*

How Can You Help?

This question continues to be asked everyday. It's heartening to know that we have a community that is ready to step up in a crisis.

First and foremost, you've all heard the reminders about allowing for physical distance and minimizing direct contact, even if you are currently well. That must be everyone's first priority. Item two is to connect with neighbors and friends, especially health care workers, those who are at risk, and people with small children who suddenly find themselves 24/7 together.

Other things that are happening.

- This week many prayer shawls made by our knitters were distributed to members who are on lockdown in care facilities. If you would like to make one, the patterns are easy; what better way to pass the time when you are stuck at home yourself? Contact Sue Sharrow at sue_sharrow@msn.com to learn how.
- The Red Cross still needs blood, maybe now more than ever. Go to the Red Cross website www.redcross.org if you are eligible to donate. Drives are still happening locally.
- The Community Action Center is preparing for a deluge of needs. The quickest way to help is to donate financially. The CAC can make those gifts go further than your own grocery donations. They also are building their volunteer base here: <https://communityactioncenter.org/community-response-to-covid-19/>
- Local businesses, especially the ones that are usually social hangouts, are trying to quickly pivot to serve you in different ways. Take advantage of all those take-out and delivery options. And if you can't use them now, buy a gift card that you can use in the future. The Northfield Chamber of Commerce is also offering a special on chamber bucks, which can be given to others and used at wide number of local businesses.
- St. John's continues to need your regular financial gifts. Although we can't be with you all in person, we want to continue to pay our staff. Giving online is easy at StJohnsNorthfield.org. Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 to set up automatic gifts. Or mailed offerings will continue to be welcomed. If you are in a position to pay ahead on your annual pledge, that will also help us get through this difficult time.

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 with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam,
Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Dorothy Ostlie, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Carol Carlson
Richard Olson, Berta Diem, Virley Brown

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;
Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

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**

*Lenten Soup Suppers are canceled
until further notice.*

All are welcome!

This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

All previously scheduled in-person activities for the week of March 23-March 29 are canceled.

The building is open by appointment only.

Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 if you need to enter the building.

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

**The 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, March 29, will be a radio broadcast only (www.kymnradio.net)
and the 10:45 a.m. service is canceled.**

Virtual Pub Theology – Monday, March 23, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

During this season of keeping physical distance, we think it is important to connect to each other and our faith more regularly. Therefore, for now, we will have weekly Virtual Pub Theology via ZOOM from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Monday nights. Pub Theology is a space where we gather for connection and conversations around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. A topic and a link to ZOOM will be emailed out on Sunday and shared on Facebook. If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study – Monday, March 23, 12:00 p.m.

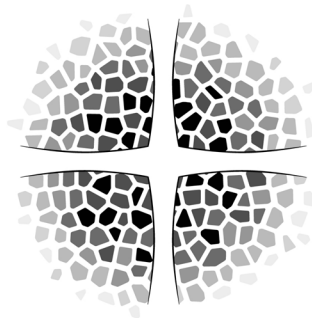
Our weekly Manna and Mercy Text Study will gather on Monday from 12:00-1:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Manna and Mercy Text Study is a time to read and wrestle with the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. Together we will wonder about what these texts have to say to us in this particular time and place. No Biblical experience necessary! The link to ZOOM will be emailed out on Monday morning and shared on Facebook. If you would like to be added to the email list or have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

St. John's Virtual Church Coffee Break

Join us on your computer, tablet, or phone for St. John's Virtual Church Coffee Break throughout the week. For 30 minutes, we will simply check in, connect, and have a thought for the day. If you cannot stay the whole time, but simply want wander through and say "hello!," please do! The link to ZOOM will be posted on Facebook each morning. If you have questions about using ZOOM, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Virtual Coffee gathering times will be:

Tuesday @ 2:00 p.m., Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m., Thursday @ 2:00 p.m., and Friday @ 10:00 a.m.



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Northfield, MN 55057

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenschier, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Carol Benson, *Director of Jubilate Choir*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager*

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*

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

Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*

Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, *Security and Custodial Assistants*

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

Bernie Renander, *Finance Manager*

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