

# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2026 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

# *Welcome to worship at St. John's!*

*We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!*

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back  
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

*Ushers will gather these following worship.*

*In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal  
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,  
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.*

*An asterisk (\*) invites you to stand as you are able.*

**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** — “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

arr. Kevin McChesney

*Rejoice Ringers*

## Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 759

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

**\*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

☐ Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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

**First Reading** — Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall

live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’” <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalmody — Psalm 130



<sup>1</sup>Out <sup>|</sup> of the depths

I cry to <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, <sup>|</sup> hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my <sup>|</sup> supplication.

<sup>3</sup>**If you were to keep watch <sup>|</sup> over sins,**

**O LORD, <sup>|</sup> who could stand?**

<sup>4</sup>**Yet with you <sup>|</sup> is forgiveness,**

**in order that you <sup>|</sup> may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup>I wait for you, O LORD; <sup>|</sup> my soul waits;

in your word <sup>|</sup> is my hope.

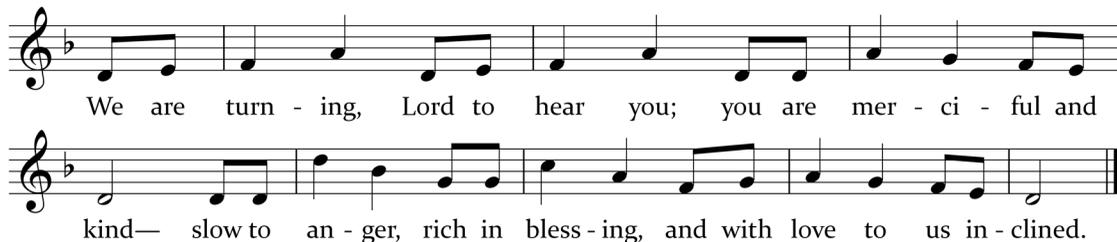
<sup>6</sup>My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch <sup>|</sup> for the morning,  
more than those who keep watch <sup>|</sup> for the morning.

<sup>7</sup>**O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is <sup>|</sup> steadfast love;**  
**with the LORD there is plen- <sup>|</sup> teous redemption.**

<sup>8</sup>**For the LORD shall <sup>|</sup> redeem Israel**  
**from <sup>|</sup> all their sins.**

## \*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 — Luke 23:39-43

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

☐ 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. 1016

“Cast Out, O Christ”

## (8:30) Rite of Welcome

**Introduction of Newcomers**

**Signing of the Newcomers with the Cross**

- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.  
It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with  
this sign of his love. Learn to know and follow him.

- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,  
that you may hear the voice of the Lord.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes,  
that you may see the glory of God.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your lips,  
that you may respond to the word of God.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross over your heart,  
that Christ may dwell there by faith.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders,  
that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your hands,  
that Christ may be known in the work which you do.
- Ⓟ Receive the sign of the cross on your feet,  
that you may walk in the way of Christ.
- Ⓟ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
- 🙏 **Amen.**

### **Concluding Prayer**

#### **\*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,
- ☩ **hear our prayer.**

### \*Peace

- ℒ 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) "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Spiritual, arr. Erik Whitehill

(10:45) "O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig," BWV 618  
"O Lamb of God"

J. S. Bach

### \*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.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
  
- P** It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sung first in English, then Spanish.*

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.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

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. 330

"Seed That in Earth Is Dying"

Hymn — ELW No. 464

"Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal"

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

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

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

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

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

(10:45) **Blessing and Sending for Jeff and Michelle Distad**

### **\*Blessing**

*Response:*

- ☞ **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 624

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

### **\*Dismissal**

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

**Postlude** — on SEELENBRÄUTIGAM

Paul Manz



### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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

Preaching and Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Charlotte DeVries (10:45) Eric Sponheim
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, director
Livestream	Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Service	Dave and Debby Nitz
Greeters	(8:30) Gerri Licke (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Jon and Cindy McBroom, Craig Schultz
Treats	Sue Brockman, Cindy McBroom, Rhonda Reece
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Reed Hagberg, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Leif Knecht, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Bob Nyvall, Kent Rommereim, Mark Rydberg

### **RITE OF WELCOME**

We welcome the following during the Rite of Welcome at the 8:30 service:

*Mary Broderius*

*Andrea Lee*

*Glenn & Lori Lieske*

*Jenna & Joey Paulsen*

*Chelsey & Dustin Hinrichsen*

*Courtney Lee-Fauver*

*Gary Mikkelsen*

### **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.

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 25: Anika Rychner

# **Announcements**

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

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given in honor of Carolyn Jennings by David and Martha Brown. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office at 507-645-4429 or [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Next available dates: April 2 & 3, and May 3, 10, 17 & 31.

## **Public Procession and Worship on Palm Sunday, March 29**

Thousands of Christians from across Minnesota and the nation will join in public witness on Palm Sunday, March 29. ISAIAH MN is organizing these ecumenical events on the model of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, when he contrasted his message of peace and love for our neighbors with the cruelty of the Roman empire. St. John's members will ride buses with others from our area, boarding at our parking lot at 12:30 p.m. Some will process in a 1 mile parade, others will go directly to the State Capitol to hear a choir before the 2:30 p.m. worship service. We will depart for home about 4:45 p.m. Please register for the event so that preparations can be made: [https://secure.ngpvan.com/GHX\\_DmnmOUGseSKbB\\_pzkgz](https://secure.ngpvan.com/GHX_DmnmOUGseSKbB_pzkgz). If you wish to ride the bus, please contact Ron Hebensperger: [ronhebensperger@gmail.com](mailto:ronhebensperger@gmail.com). The deadline for registration is today. If you have any questions, contact Ron or Rod Christensen: [chris719@charter.net](mailto:chris719@charter.net).

## **Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign**

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board is supporting the CAC's Month of Meals Themed Food Drive by encouraging and collecting grocery donations at St. John's. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart in the Commons and information about weekly food requests is in the Commons. This week, the theme is "*Good Mornings*"—cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, pancake mix, peanut butter. Of course, monetary donations are very welcome. 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.

## **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](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

# Announcements (continued)

## **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.



## **CPR and First Aid Class**

**Thursday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

Would you know what to do in an emergency? St. John's is offering a CPR and First Aid class for staff, ushers, and members of the congregation. Sign up in the office if you're interested.

## **St. John's Courageous Conversations: "On Bearing Witness to Inequities"**

**Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall**

Ibtisam Al Atayat, St. Olaf College scholar and sociology professor, will address the following questions: In a world marked by war, poverty, and racism—where no one can claim ignorance—how do we live with what we see and know? What does it mean to face what is before us, and not turn away?

**Something Special! Eyewitnesses to our Global Health Ministries Donations in Madagascar are Coming!** Join our spring Mission Morning on **Saturday, April 11, from 9:00–11:00 a.m.** We will have fellowship, pack kits, tie quilts, and roll bandages for the sake of others. You can also bring packages of toilet paper as a donation for our local Ruth's/Sara's Houses. Hope you can come!

## **The Property & Grounds Board Adopt-A-Garden Program**

In order to reduce maintenance costs each summer season, church members are asked to volunteer to maintain fifteen gardens on the grounds. As former gardeners retire from their duties, gardens become available for "adoption." For the 2026 season, there are a few gardens needing immediate adoption by individuals or by families. If you are interested in this program and seek more information, please contact board member Craig Schultz at 952-426-8834. Thank you!

## **Learning and Fellowship Between Services**

### **This Week (March 22)**

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall  
Lenten Book Read (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)  
Accompany (9:45–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

### **Next Week (March 29)**

Coffee and Fellowship, 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, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff)

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, Ruth Smestad Anglin,  
David Norman, Alice Rickert, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard), Ingrid Alberding

*All who are homebound, including*

Carol Johnson, Janice Helgeson

*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.

## Lectionary Readings for Next Week (March 29):

### *Palm Sunday*

Isaiah 50:4-9a † Psalm 31:9-16 † Philippians 2:5-11 † Matthew 21:1-11



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

*No Soup Supper on Wednesday, March 25*

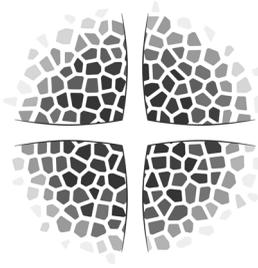
**All are welcome!**

*Soup Suppers are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.*

# **This Week At-a-Glance**

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed  
on our website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).

<b>Monday, Mar. 23</b>	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, Mar. 24</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall CVEC Course, Undercroft Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Church Council, Undercroft
<b>Wednesday, Mar. 25</b>	10:15 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite Communion at NRC, Offsite Communion at Kildahl Apartments, Offsite Gathering of Contemplation and Prayer, Fireside Room Lenten Book Read, Fireside Room Lenten Vespers, Sanctuary St. John's Chorale, Room 209 Faith & Politics Discussion, St. John's Library
<b>Thursday, Mar. 26</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Knitters, Youth Room Book Buddies, St. John's Library Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary New Moms Network, St. John's Library
<b>Friday, Mar. 27</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. 28</b>		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
<b>Sunday, Mar. 29</b>	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 13.) 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*  
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.*