



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 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.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

We begin with Matthew's story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. After we share in Holy Communion, we change the chancel paraments, an act which marks the change in mood inherent to the day, and a shift from Lent into Holy Week. Our worship ends without a benediction as our journey towards the cross continues. We urge you to attend the full progression of worship this week. (See page 11 for a worship schedule.)

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

Prelude — “Processional”

Grayston Ives

*All who would like to process with palm branches
are invited to meet the pastors in the narthex during the prelude.*

Please turn and face the entrance.

*Greeting

- P** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **Hosanna in the highest!**

***Processional Gospel** — Matthew 21:1-11

Spark Story Bible, page 454

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” ¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Blessing of the Palms

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn — “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

You are the king of Is - ra - el and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain

now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, alt.; Music: Melchior Teschner

*Prayer of the Day

P O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the passion of your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Message

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 50:4-9a

Pew Bible, page 594

After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 118, "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made"

ELLACOMBE



This is the day the Lord has made, the hours are all God's own;
Blest be the Lord, who comes in power with mes - sag - es of grace,



let heaven re - jice, let earth be glad, and praise sur - round the throne.
who comes in this ac - cept - ed hour to save our sin - ful race.



Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed king, to Da - vid's ho - ly son!
Ho - san - na in the high - est strains the church on earth can raise!



Help us, O Lord; de - scend and bring sal - va - tion from the throne.
The high - est heavens in which God reigns shall now re - sound with praise.

Text: Isaac Watts; Music: German melody, 18th cent.

Second Reading — Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 343

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

*Nicene Creed

Front of ELW hymnal, page 104

*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.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. Robert Scholz

What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul? When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing.

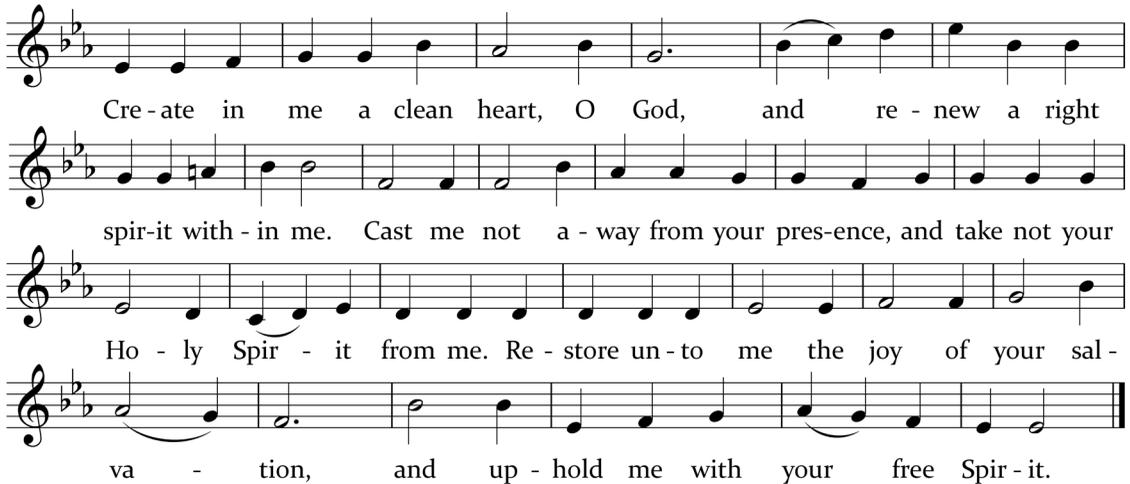
– American folk hymn

(10:45) "What Wondrous Love Is This"

arr. David N. Johnson

*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.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen

*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:

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 chords and single notes.

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. 264

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

Hymn — ELW No. 345

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

*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.

The Changing of the Paraments

*The paraments are changed from purple to scarlet,
marking the beginning of Holy Week.*

Musical Reflection

(8:30) **Anthem** — “We Shall Walk Through the Valley” Spiritual
arr. Undine Smith Moore

*We shall walk through the valley in peace. If Jesus himself shall be our leader,
we shall walk through the valley in peace. There will be no trials there. If Jesus
himself shall be our leader, we shall walk through the valley in peace.*

(10:45) **Solo** — “Were You There” Spiritual, arr. Craig Phillips

*The congregation leaves in silence.
Our worship continues on Maundy Thursday.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork: *John 8—The King* © 2010 P. Solomon Raj | Eyekons

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and
Seasons* © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (March 29)
Coffee and Fellowship, St. John’s Hall

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	Rudser Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Pat Fick, Ted Peterson
Treats	Rhonda Reece
Counters	Sue Brockman, Chris and Martha Erickson
Ushers	(8:30) Dan Franklin, John and Cindy McBroom, Dean Schoeb, Don Sahling (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Chris Tacheny, Andrew Tacheny

Holy Week and Easter

Thursday, April 2—Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion

12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

(7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Friday, April 3—Good Friday

Liturgy of Good Friday

12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

(7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Celebration of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 5—Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

(8:30 a.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Easter Breakfast from 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in celebration of Alan Alberg's 100th birthday on March 26. 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. Next available dates: April 2 & 3, and May 3, 10, 17 & 31.

Today is Palm Sunday

You are invited to be part of the palm processional for either the 1st or 2nd service. Please meet in the Narthex ten minutes before the start of the service.

Palm Sunday at the State Capitol

Four buses will leave the St. John's parking lot at 12:30 p.m. today as we join with thousands of Minnesotans for an ecumenical procession and worship event. We will follow Jesus' example and peacefully witness to our love and care for all our neighbors. If you have questions, contact Rod Christensen (chris719@charter.net) or Ron Hebensperger (ronhebensperger@gmail.com).

Poems for the Passion—Music for Holy Week

Wednesday, April 1, 12:00–12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Nathan Proctor will play a contemplative program featuring organ music by J. S. Bach and poetry by Rev. John Thornburg on Wednesday. Join us as we prepare to journey through Holy Week.

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 Sunday Breakfast

April 5, 9:00–11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

Please join us for the Youth Fundraiser Easter Breakfast. Youth will be serving a breakfast of veggie, meat, and gluten-free egg bakes, muffins, fruit, orange juice, milk, and coffee. The proceeds from this breakfast will help decrease the cost of this year's summer trips. The suggested donation is \$5/individual and \$20/family. This breakfast is one way we celebrate Easter together as a congregation and welcome those who visit St. John's that morning.

- **Egg Bake Donations Needed:** While youth serve and provide the fruit and muffins, we rely on the congregation's generosity to provide the egg bakes. We'll provide an empty pan and recipe, and you bring it back cooked and warm on Easter morning by 8:30 a.m. Sign-ups and pans are located in the Commons.

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 **TODAY**.



Scan Me

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?

Mission Morning

Saturday, April 11, 9:00–11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Join our spring Mission Morning! 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!

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. 2025 funds need to be directed by **March 31**. Log in to your account at [thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) to direct funds.

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 which can be placed in the grocery cart in the Commons. This week, the theme is "*Good Mornings*." Of course, monetary donations are very welcome. 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.

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

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

All who are homebound, including

Carolyn Jennings, Laila Burns Hedstrom

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 (April 5):

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 † Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 † Colossians 3:1-4 † Matthew 28:1-10



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

April 1: No Meal - Holy Week

April 8: Meals Resume

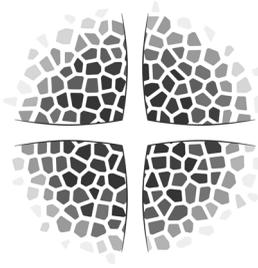
All are welcome!

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. 30	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. John's Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Mar. 31	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 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
Wednesday, Apr. 1	11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Gathering of Contemplation and Prayer, Fireside Room <i>Poems for the Passion</i> —Music for Holy Week, Sanctuary Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Evening Knitters, Fireside Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Apr. 2	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Sanctuary Suzuki Kids, Room 19 Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room New Moms Network, St. John's Library Maundy Thursday Worship Service, Sanctuary
Friday, Apr. 3	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Good Friday Worship Service, Sanctuary Good Friday Worship Service, Sanctuary NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Apr. 4	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Easter Breakfast Prep, St. John's Kitchen Easter Egg Hunt, St. John's
Sunday, Apr. 5	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship, Sanctuary Easter Breakfast, St. John's Hall Easter Sunday 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.*