



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FORTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 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 — “. . . beside the still waters.” from *Windows of Comfort*

Dan Locklair

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 502

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Stanza 1 — all

Stanza 2 — treble voices

Stanza 3 — bass voices

Stanza 4 — sung in harmony

Stanzas 5 & 6 — all

*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

☐ O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in peace to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 34:7-15

⁷Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ⁸As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

¹¹For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹²As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel — John 10:1-10

Spark Story Bible, page 436

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 789

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

(10:45) **Commissioning of Stephen Ministers**

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) “Reach Down, Lord” from *A Vision Unfolding*

Kyle Pederson

Reach down, Lord. Reach your justice down. When we walk on the broken road, reach your justice down. If we stumble into the pit and the dark is all we see, reach below and lift us up; reach your justice down. Reach down, Lord. Reach your justice down. When we walk in the shadow of death, reach your justice down.

– Robert Bode

St. John’s Chorale

(10:45) “Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Walter Pelz

***Offering Hymn** — “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Adoring praises now we bring and with the heav’nly blessed sing:
“Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!” Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD’S SUPPER

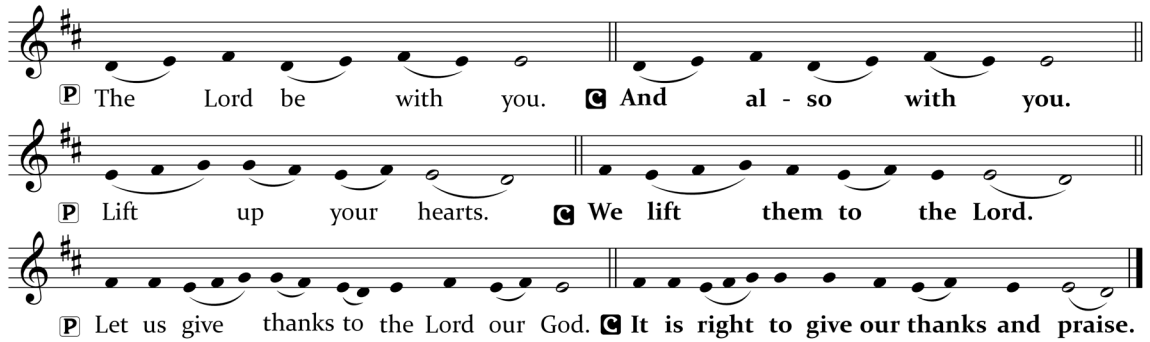


Children’s Message

I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? I won-der. I
won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!

Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

*Great Thanksgiving

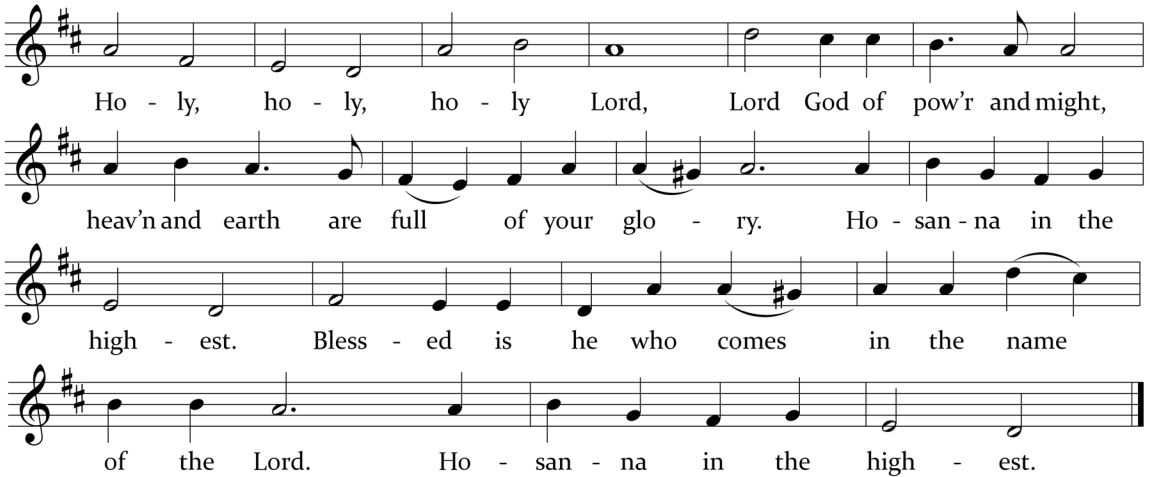


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

*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, grant us peace.

(8:30) **Anthem** — “Psalm 23”

Bobby McFerrin

The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need, she makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters, she will lead. She restores my soul, she rights my wrongs, she leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs. Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, there is nothing that can shake me, she has said, she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand. She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes, she anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows. Surely goodness and kindness will follow me, all the days of my life, and I will live in her house, forever. Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hymn — ELW No. 469

“By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

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

*Prayer after Communion

- ℒ Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us and are making
all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our
enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
- ☩ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

- ☩ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ACS No. 937

“Earth, Earth, Awake!”

*Dismissal

- ℒ Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- ☩ Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
- ℒ Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection.
- ☩ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “Finale” from *Das Holsteinische Orgelbüchlein* Hans Friedrich Micheelsen



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photograph of the St. John’s Good Shepherd Window by John Walters, 2019.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Scott Swanson (10:45) Olaf Hall-Holt
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Soloist	(8:30) Ian Carter, Church Music Intern
Anthem Accompanist	(8:30) Leif Olsen
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Prep	Angie Gehring
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) Marie Benson (10:45) Sandra Nyvall
Coffee Service	Angie Gehring, Pat Tabery
Refreshments	Rhonda Reece
Counters	Sue Brockman, Brenda Bultman, Bob Tabery
Ushers	(8:30) Leif Knecht, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Bob Nyvall, Kent Rommereim, Mark Rydberg, Eric Sponheim

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (April 26)

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)

Next Week (May 3)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

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)

NEW STEPHEN MINISTERS

We commission the following as new Stephen Ministers at the 10:45 service:

Cheryl Buck

Rhonda Reece

Chuck Cannon

Craig Schultz

Julie Cannon

Kathy Shea

David Nitz

Jeff Wood

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), contact the church office. Next available dates: May 10, 17, 31, and June 7.

A Note from the Treasurer:

The financial information through the first quarter of 2026 has been reported and I would like to provide a brief update on our giving. Typically, giving may be a bit under budget during portions of the year, but this year giving through the first quarter is lagging more than usual. Through March, offering is \$70,000 lower than the budgeted amount. Of slightly greater concern is that offering through the first quarter of 2026 is \$32,000 below the same time period in 2025. While not of great concern, it seems important to provide this update now, rather than later in the year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this or anything else pertaining to finances at St. John's.

Respectfully,

Judd Lohmann, Treasurer

Out 'n About: *Conversations with Minnesotans*

Tomorrow, 9:00–11:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Our first speaker will be Margo Krager, who will share information on fabrics used for costumes for movies, TV, and quilters in "*Fabric with the Look of Bygone Eras.*" Earl Weinmann will be the second speaker of the morning with "*Grading Papers to Grilling Wieners: A Retirement with a Purpose.*" Register for this event by emailing outnabout022@gmail.com or calling 507-301-9094. Cost is \$15 for speakers and refreshments or \$20 for speakers, refreshments, and lunch. This is payable the day of the event (cash or check only).

Pub Theology

Tomorrow, 6:00–7:15 p.m., Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

We will be taking time to process Alan Storey's visit in Minnesota. If you did not attend the Manna and Mercy retreat you can view a video segment from his visit on our website to be part of this conversation.

Kids' Night Out for Grades 1–5

Friday, May 1, 5:30–8:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

Games, pizza, crafts, along with more games and a movie! 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.

Announcements (continued)

Lifting Voices Very First Choir Concert

Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m., FiftyNorth

Join us for “Travelin’ Tunes” under the direction of Kristin Kivell with support from Dan Kallman at the piano. Lifting Voices, a new choir in Northfield for people living with dementia, their care partners, and volunteer singers, has been rehearsing since January. The group looks forward to sharing their music and stories with the community. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

YMCA End-of-Year Celebration for K–5th Grades

St. John’s children in grades K–5 are invited to the **Northfield YMCA on Wednesday, May 6**, for our End-of-Year Celebration! The Wednesday afterschool buses will pick up at the elementary schools as they normally do. Once kids have arrived at St. John’s, the bus will take us to the “Y.” All kids are invited even if you did not participate in Wednesday afterschool programs.

Here’s the plan:

- 3:40 p.m.: Bus leaves for the “Y” from St. John’s
- 4:00–5:15 p.m.: Kids can play either in the gym or in the pool—bring your swimsuit!
- 5:15 p.m.: Parent pick up at the YMCA (1501 Honeylocust Dr.)

Parents, let Julie Brehmer know if you are willing to chaperone!

St. John’s Courageous Conversations Book Group Summer Discussion

We invite you to join our summer discussion of *Nonviolent: A Memoir of Resistance, Agitation and Love* by the late Reverend James Lawson, Jr. and Emily Yellin. The group will meet every two weeks: May 7 & 21, June 4 & 18, July 2, 16 & 30, and August 13 on Zoom. Books are available at Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to sign up and receive the reading plan and Zoom link.

Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (June 2026 Edition): Due by May 15

Please send all submissions for the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletin, and *The Voice* to Leah Garlie electronically via email to office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Lectioary Readings for Next Week (May 3):

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 † Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 † 1 Peter 2:2-10 † John 14:1-14

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, Mary Ellen North, 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, Vicki Otis,
Ingrid Alberding, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

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

Contact 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**

Menu for Wednesday, April 29:
Chicken Pot Pie

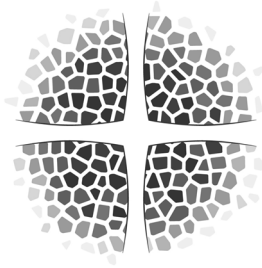
All are welcome!

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.

Monday, Apr. 27	9:00 a.m.	Out 'n About: Conversation with Minnesotans, St. John's Hall
		Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Apr. 28	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	CVEC Course, Undercroft
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
Wednesday, Apr. 29	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
		St. John's Foundation, Fireside Room
	6:15 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
		St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Apr. 30	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Suzuki Kids, Room 19
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
		New Moms Network, St. John's Library
Friday, May 1	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Kids' Night Out, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, May 2		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, May 3	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD MN

**500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057**

507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Steve Harner, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Sally Lindell, Faith Community Nurse

Arielle Loy, Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist

Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

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

Arturo Rosas, Custodial Associate

David Sims, Director of Rejoice Ringers

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

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*