



let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord
Psalms 98:8

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 9, 2021 † 9:00 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!

As we enter a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to follow CDC guidelines for public gatherings. We feel the different impacts of this time on our community and long for a time when we will be able to safely share in Holy Communion indoors, and to socialize without concern for public health. Whether this morning finds you in the sanctuary or joining in worship from home, please know that this is not our "new normal," but a time of gradually learning how to be together in-person while we wait for more vaccinations and fewer COVID infections in our community.

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.



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 — on HYFRYDOL

J. Bert Carlson

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (#631)

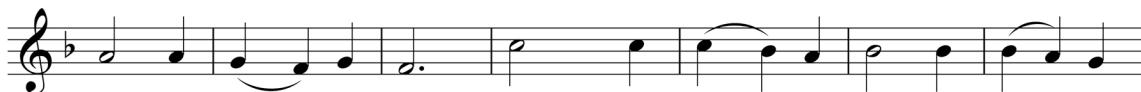
HYFRYDOL



Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Rowland H. Prichard

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

- ☐ Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

*Baptism Acclamation — “You Have Put On Christ” (#211)

You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap - tized.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: International Commission on English in the Liturgy © 1969; Music: Howard Hughes © 1977

*Prayer of the Day

- ☐ O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things,
we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

📖 The word of the Lord. 🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 98:1-8

Antiphon: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rock, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

³**You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.

⁷**Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.**

⁸**Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy be- | fore the LORD.**

Antiphon: He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

Second Reading — 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation (#174)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, © 1985 admin. OCP Publications

*Gospel — John 15:9-17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

HOLY MANNA



Called as part - ners in Christ’s ser - vice, called to min - is -
 Christ’s ex - am - ple, Christ’s in - spir - ing, Christ’s clear call to
 Thus new pat - terns for Christ’s mis - sion, in a small or
 So God grants us for to - mor - row ways to or - der



tries of grace, we re - spond with deep com - mit - ment
 work and worth, let us fol - low, nev - er fal - tering,
 glob - al sense, help us bear each oth - er’s bur - dens,
 hu - man life that sur - round each per - son’s sor - row



fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of shar - ing,
 rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth. Men and wom - en, rich - er, poor - er,
 break - ing down each wall or fence. Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion,
 with a calm that con - quers strife. Make us part - ners in our liv - ing,



side by side and friend with friend, e - qual part - ners
 all God’s peo - ple, young and old, blend - ing hu - man
 words of chal - lenge, said with care, bring new power and
 our com - pas - sion to in - crease, mes - sen - gers of



in our car - ing to ful - fill God’s cho - sen end.
 skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.
 faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

Text: Jane Parker Huber © 1981 admin. Westminster John Knox Press; Music: William Moore’s *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

***The 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:

℣ 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:

“Variation on a Theme of Corelli”

Aaron David Miller

*Thanksgiving for the Word

- ☐ Praise to you, O God, for your Word of life: creating a wondrous universe, proclaiming freedom from captivity, becoming the song of your people.

☑ **We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your Word is made flesh among us:

with Mary in the garden, you call us by name.

With Thomas beholding your wounds, you call us to believe.

With sheep of others folds, we are gathered by your voice.

Your Word names our death and our life.

☑ **We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

By your living Word, we are witnesses of these things.

Breathe into us your Holy Spirit. Fill us with strength to love,
not in word or speech alone, but in truth and action.

With every creature in heaven and on earth

and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them,

we join in the hymn of all creation:

☑ **We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word. 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.

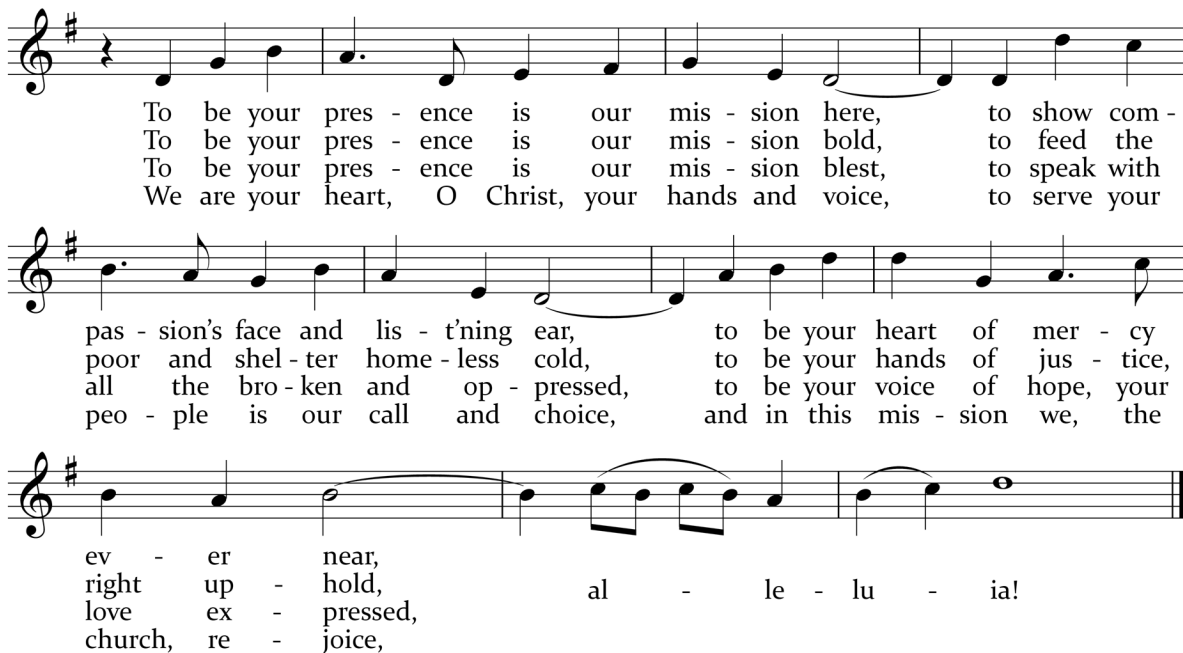
DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response: Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “To Be Your Presence” (#546)

ENGELBERG



To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak with
We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB © 2000 GIA Publications, Music: Charles V. Stanford

*Dismissal

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

Postlude — “Tuba Tune in D Major”

Craig Sellar Lang



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Patsy Ophaug
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantors	David Sims, Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image by Anne France from May 6, 2018.

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given with thanks for St. John's pastors, staff, and congregation. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Next available dates: August 1, 8 & 15. 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.

No Virtual Coffee Hour Today (We are taking a break for Mother's Day.)

In-Person Worship Sign-Ups

Sign-ups are now open for May Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. Beginning May 16, children are welcome with their vaccinated (or recovered) parents. If you are still completing your vaccination series, consider signing up for later dates. We will be adding capacity to worship after Memorial Day. **All are welcome** to attend the outdoor service planned for Sunday, June 13, at 11:00 a.m. at Goodtree Farm. For more information about the stages of re-opening for Safe Operating, see the letter mailed to the congregation last week and posted on our website.

Pub Theology via Zoom

Monday, May 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Pub Theology is a conversation led by the pastors around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy or theological biblical knowledge is needed to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences. The Zoom link can also be found on the church website calendar.

Lydia and Paul Circle Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Meet outside the Commons doors. Chairs will be provided.

Middle School and High School Youth BBQ and Youth Ministry

Saturday, May 15, Noon-1:00 p.m.

Middle School and High School youth are invited to come to church and work on meal packing for The Key, followed by a BBQ lunch. Friends are welcome!

Holden Village is Opening Registration for Late Summer 2021

Pastor Pam and some St. John's members are planning to visit the week of August 15. Because registration is limited and conducted online, those who are interested are urged to register themselves as soon as possible. Much more information about Holden's guest plans can be found at: <http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/guest-rates/>

Announcements (continued)

Outdoor Afternoon Coffee and Communion

Wednesdays, May 19, 2:00 p.m., Courtyard

The Adult Ministry & Education Board will host outdoor church coffee and communion. As a first step to reintroducing face-to-face fellowship, the gatherings will be limited to 24 people. Please bring your own coffee or tea, and wear a mask. The Adult Ministry & Education Board will set up appropriately spaced chairs in the Courtyard. After catching up a bit over coffee, Pastor Pam or Pastor Jonathan will lead communion. You can sign up the coffee and communion event on Sign-Up Genius (the link can be found in the E-Voice). Coffee and communion will be canceled in the event of inclement weather.

Worship and Ecology: A Reading and Experiential Journey

This summer Pastor Pam will be leading a reading group and series of events based on deepening our connection between worship and the earth. Each session will consist of a Zoom discussion of Ben Stewart's "*A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology*," followed (on a different day) by an outdoor experience connecting some of the elements of worship—water, light, bread, soil—with real world ecology. Each experience can be done by itself or as a series. Check the E-Voice for the link to order the book and express interest.

Lutheran World Relief May Fund Appeal

Needs around the world continue even as the pandemic abates in some areas. Lutheran World Relief is spreading help and hope. Here is one story of need:

- Elsa was just a child when her entire village in Honduras was destroyed by Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Today Elsa is 30 and has three young daughters. When back-to-back storms Eta and Iota swept through her village last fall, they brought a level of devastation that Elsa and her neighbors had hoped they'd never see again. With the impact of COVID-19 on top of the hurricanes' destruction, families have no idea how they'll feed their children or pay their bills.

Elsa's story is one among many. With a donation to Lutheran World Relief, we can help. Please consider an online donation or use the special offering envelope provided. Thank you.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea & Chocolates, and Thistle Farms Soaps

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

Recordings of WELCA's Courageous Conversations

Resisting Racism can be found on the St. John's Women Home page in the Programs section. Recordings include *Race Matters in Health Care* and *Race Matters in Education*. We invite and encourage you to listen to these powerful, insightful discussions.

See: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/programs/>

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

Marilyn Boschee, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Andy and Izzie Nelson, Susan Rudser

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Bobbie Jo Larsen (niece of Barb Kuhlman)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Elvin Heiberg, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Howard Thorsheim, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Janice Helgeson, Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson

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.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (May 16):

Seventh Sunday of Easter

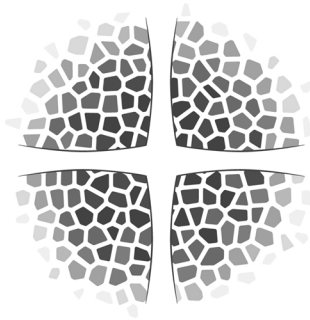
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 † Psalm 1 † 1 John 5:9-13 † John 17:6-19

This Week At-a-Glance

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, May 10	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. John's Hall Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, May 11	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Board Meetings via Zoom
Wednesday, May 12	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, Outside the Commons Doors Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, May 13	1:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Circle Meeting via Zoom Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
Friday, May 14		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, May 15	12:00 p.m.	Youth BBQ and Ministry Afternoon, St. John's
Sunday, May 16	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream Usher Training Coffee Hour via Zoom



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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Pam Fickenscher, *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 / Finance 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*

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