

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 12, 2020 † 9:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

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

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

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

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



St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — on FAITHFULNESS

Dan Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (#733)

FAITHFULNESS



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!



Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas Chisholm; Music: William Runyan, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

*Thanksgiving at the Font

P We praise you, O God, for water—
the Cannon and Mississippi rivers,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.

C We praise you, O God, for water.

P We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.

C We praise you, O God, for water.

P We praise you, O God, for this font.
Breathe into this water, wash away our sin,
and bring Genevieve anew into your peace and joy.

C We praise you, O God, for baptism.

P O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, forever.

C Amen.

*Hymn — “Remember and Rejoice”

ST. THOMAS

Re - mem-ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Greeting

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

C And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and
grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

- L** The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 65:9-13

Antiphon: John Bell

*Antiphon: God has chosen me, and in my life is planted a seed
God knows that I need: its fruit shall be joy.*



⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; the river of God is | full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

¹⁰ You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.

¹¹You crown the year | with your goodness,
and your paths over- | flow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
them- | selves with grain;
let them shout for | joy and sing. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

℣ The word of the Lord.

✞ Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation — “Alleluia”

South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia'. Both staves are in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final half note. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff. The second staff also has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the staff.

***Gospel — Matthew 13:1-23**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!" ¹⁰Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹²For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ¹³The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' ¹⁴With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. ¹⁵For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn — and I would heal them.' ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

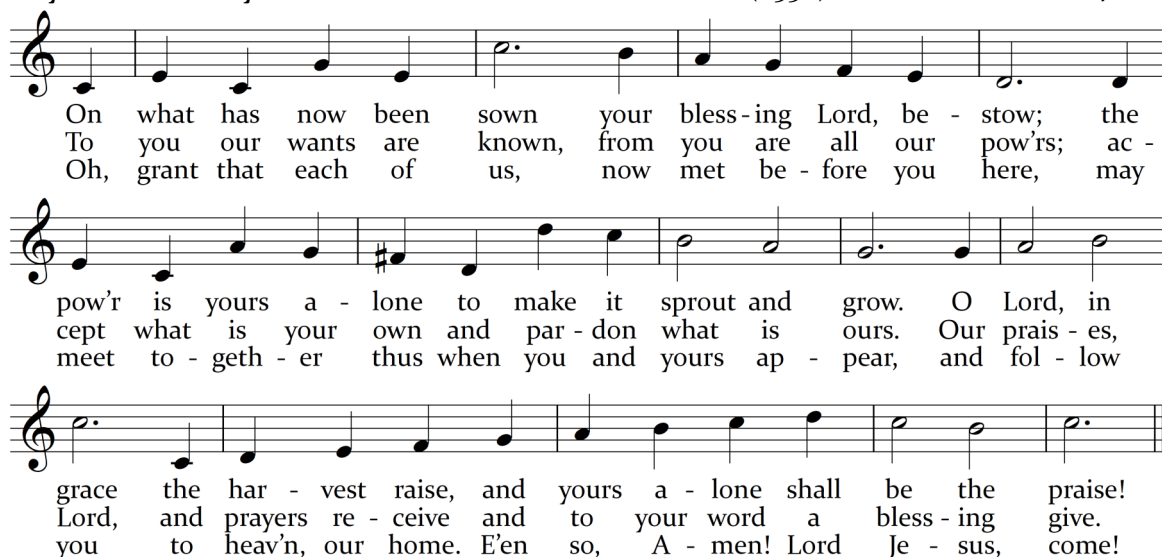
Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “On What Has Now Been Sown” (#550)

DARWALL'S 148TH



On what has now been sown your bless-ing Lord, be - stow; the
 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -
 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may
 pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in
 cept what is your own and par - don what is ours. Our prais - es,
 meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low
 grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
 Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.
 you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism — Front of hymnal pages 227-231

*The Triune God proclaims **Genevieve Alice Timmer** as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Genevieve's parents are Amanda and Joe Timmer, and her sponsors are Abbey Dibble, and Margaret and James Stansfield.*

Presentation

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Genevieve Alice and pray for her in her new life in Christ?
- C** We do.

*Profession of Faith

- P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- All** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- All** 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A 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.

***Thanksgiving at the Font**

Baptism

Welcome

P People of God, Genevieve is our new sister in Christ,
Let the people say, Amen!

A Amen!

P She is a worker with you in the kingdom of God,
Let the people say, Welcome!

A Welcome!

P Genevieve belongs to God forever,
Let the people shout, Alleluia!

A Alleluia!

***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:

"Harvest: Meditation on 'It Is Well with My Soul'"

David Evan Thomas

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- P** O God of growth and abundance,
like a mustard seed sown in a field,
the smallest of all the seeds becomes a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches,
C **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** Like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with
three measures of flour until all was leavened,
C **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** Like a merchant in search of fine pearls, finding one of great value,
sells all their possessions and buys the pearl,
C **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** We thank you for your Word,
which has come and is coming,
and continues to grow within us.
C **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.**

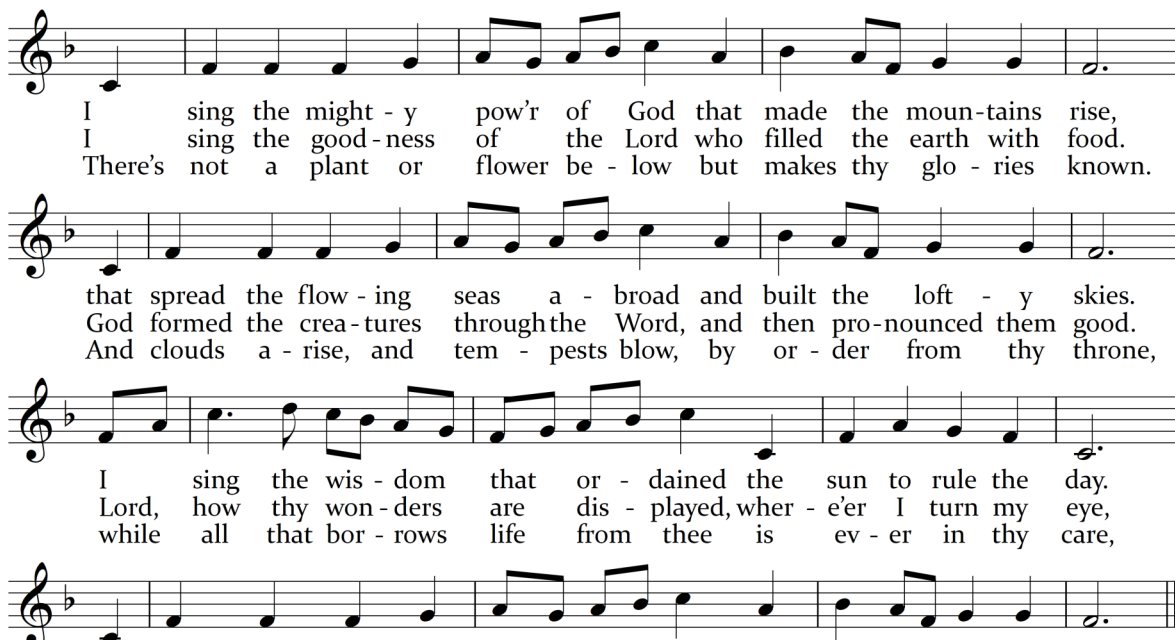
DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

- P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn — “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”**

FOREST GREEN



I sing the might - y pow'r of God that made the moun-tains rise,
I sing the good - ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
There's not a plant or flower be - low but makes thy glo - ries known.

that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the loft - y skies.
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
And clouds a - rise, and tem - pests blow, by or - der from thy throne,

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day.
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur - vey the ground I tread or gaze up - on the sky!
and ev - ery - where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.; Music: English folk tune, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. © Oxford University Press

***Dismissal**

- ☞ Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people; love and serve God, rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Postlude — Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Julie Zdenek
Organist	Nathan Proctor

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by David and Pat Halsor in celebration of their 64th wedding anniversary. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays thru August. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: November 15, 22 & 29. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Video of this week's service will be available from the home page at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available on the COVID-19 page on the St. John's website and on the St. John's Facebook page.

New Guidelines for Funerals have been developed by the Safe Operating Task Force, which will be valid at least until July 31. They are posted at the bottom of the COVID-19 page at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Grief Gathering

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

It can be strange to mourn a loved one without all the usual rituals of gathering with others, eating and sharing stories. Normally each summer St. John's invites those who have lost a loved one in the last year to gather in the Fireside Room. This year, for now, we are gathering via Zoom on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. We will tell stories about our lost ones, share the experiences of the past months, and pray. If you have lost someone you love during this pandemic (whether or not they are family), you are invited to join us. Contact Pastor Pam to RSVP.

Mark Your Calendars

An outdoor worship service is being planned for Sunday, August 2, at 11:00 a.m., on the property of the Welbaum family. Details are still to come, but we look forward to seeing many of you in person in a safer outdoor environment.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolates Continue

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

How Can You Help?

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

- First and foremost, stay safe and follow state guidelines for distancing. Connect with neighbors and friends and support each other remotely.
- St. John's continues to need your **regular financial gifts**. Although we can't be with you all in person, we want to continue to pay our staff. Giving online is easy at StJohnsNorthfield.org. Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 to set up automatic gifts. Or mailed offerings will continue to be welcomed. If you are in a position to pay ahead on your annual pledge, that will also help us get through this difficult time. Contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 if you would like to set-up automatic online giving.
- Local sewers are making **cloth face masks** for use by health care and other essential workers. Material can be picked up in the St. John's parking lot from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. each Monday. Finished masks are returned to the same spot. For details on this effort and to get instructions, email Kathy Ness at KJL.Ness@gmail.com.
- Many **prayer shawls** made by our knitters were distributed to members who are on lockdown in care facilities. If you would like to make one (the patterns are easy), contact Sue Sharrow to learn how.
- Our Sunday School's **Blessing Box** is seeing a high level of both donations and people receiving these blessings. Nonperishable foods, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene supplies, and toilet paper are especially welcome donations.
- The **Red Cross** still needs blood, maybe now more than ever. Go to the Red Cross website at www.redcross.com if you are eligible to donate. Drives are still happening locally.
- The **Community Action Center** is preparing for a deluge of needs. The quickest way to help is to donate financially. The CAC can make those gifts go further than your own grocery store donations. They are also building their volunteer base. [For more information visit their website.](#)
- **Local businesses**, especially the ones that are usually social hangouts, are trying to quickly pivot to serve you in different ways. Take advantage of all those take-out and delivery options. And if you can't use them now, buy a gift card that you can use in the future.
- **Relief Efforts for the Neighborhoods** of Minneapolis and St. Paul that have experienced fire and destruction are popping up in many places locally. St. John's will continue to listen for how to help our cities' partners. Our sister congregation Holy Trinity Lutheran on Lake Street has been at the center of relief. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to their relief efforts, you can do so through their website, htlcmpls.org - choose "other" in the fund designation options, and type in the word "justice." 100% of gifts will be used to help meet community needs.

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

Marlene Engstrom

Those celebrating the baptism of

Genevieve Alice Timmer daughter of Amanda and Joe Timmer

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Gene and Delores Nelson,
Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson,
Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Berta Diem, Virley Brown, Elouise Quinnell

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 (July 19):

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8 † Psalm 86:11-17 † Romans 8:12-25 † Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art "Sower and Seed" by John Maakestad, 2002.

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This Week At-a-Glance

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

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. through August 30 (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, July 13	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, July 14	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:45 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Board Meetings via Zoom
Wednesday, July 15	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, July 16		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, July 17		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, July 18		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, July 19	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Kitchen & Worship with Youth and Families via Zoom

**The church council has decided that the building will be closed
to in-person gatherings through at least the end of July.**

**The Safe Operating Task Force has recommended that
all access to the building be monitored during this time.
If you have a key or access code, please contact the church office
about the new protocols.**



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

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.