



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 2026 † 9:30 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 — on SLANE

Craig Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

*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** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the

people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

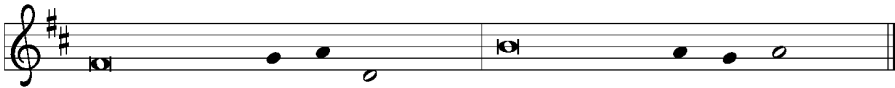
ℒ The word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 119:129-136

Antiphon: Thomas Attwood

Antiphon: Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes.



¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name. Antiphon**

¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching. Antiphon**

Second Reading — Romans 8:26-39

Pew Bible, page 919

After the reading:

ℒ The word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

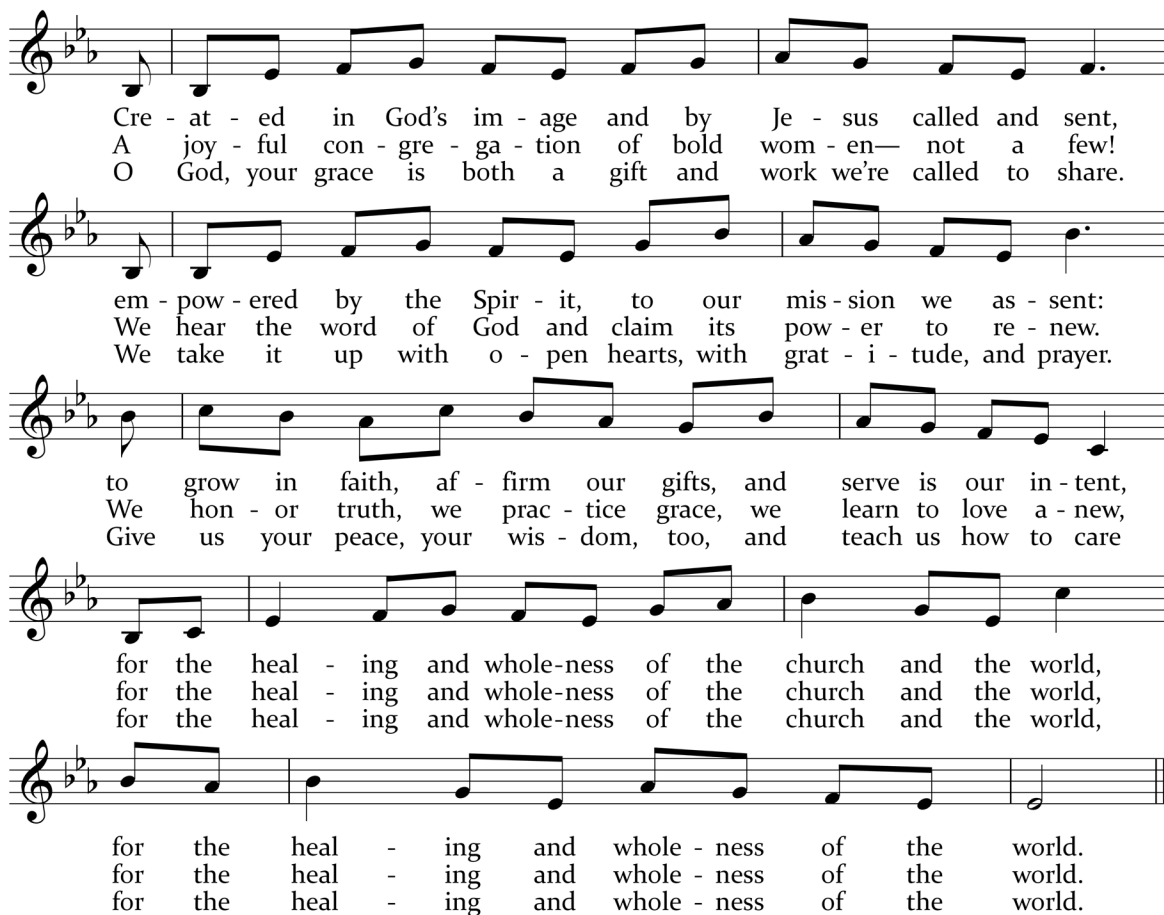
Sermon

Rev. Katie Fick

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “For the Healing and Wholeness of the World”

LOVE ANEW



Cre - at - ed in God's im - age and by Je - sus called and sent,
A joy - ful con - gre - ga - tion of bold wom - en— not a few!
O God, your grace is both a gift and work we're called to share.

em - pow - ered by the Spir - it, to our mis - sion we as - sent:
We hear the word of God and claim its pow - er to re - new.
We take it up with o - pen hearts, with grat - i - tude, and prayer.

to grow in faith, af - firm our gifts, and serve is our in - tent,
We hon - or truth, we prac - tice grace, we learn to love a - new,
Give us your peace, your wis - dom, too, and teach us how to care

for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,

for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.

Text: W. Bruce Benson; Music: David Sims

Installation of WELCA Executive Board

***Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- ℣** 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

"The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field"

James Biery

***Offering Hymn — "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

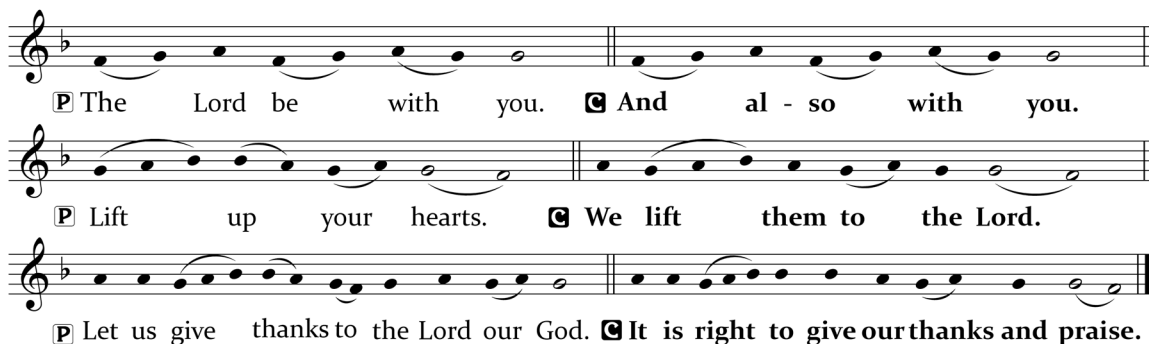
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C 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

*Great Thanksgiving

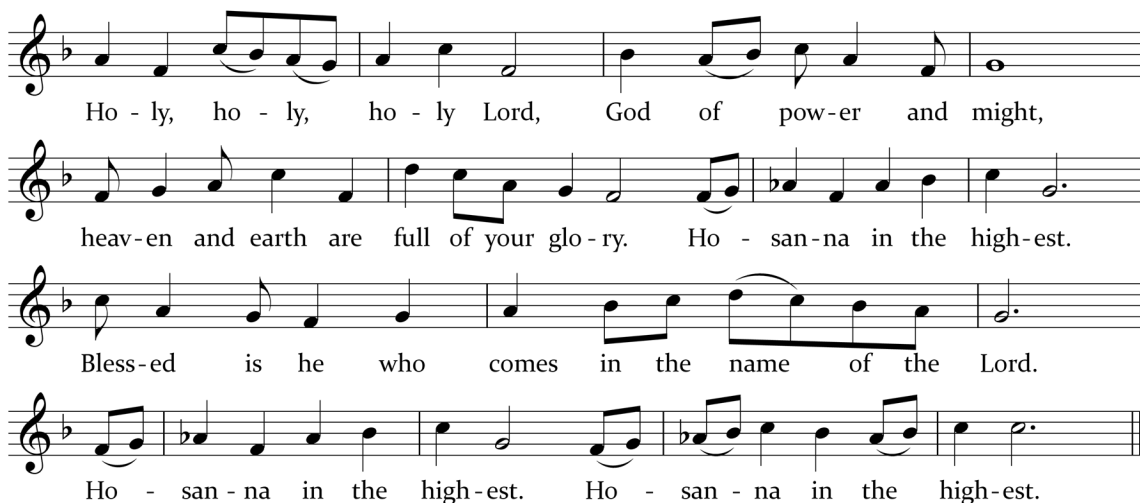


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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. 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"



The musical notation for "Lamb of God" is presented in three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below each staff.

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.

Hymn — ELW No. 462

"Now We Join in Celebration"

Hymn — ELW No. 685

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℣ 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 and Sending for Kristin Partlo

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☩ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ACS No. 952

“The Reign of God, like Farmer’s Field”

***Dismissal**

- ℣ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
☩ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “Festival Voluntary”

Flor Peeters



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Rev. Katie Fick
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Alison Kavanaugh
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	Kristin Partlo
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Service	Grant Aaseng and Ruth Bretheim Aaseng
Greeters	Loy Family
Coffee Service	Angie Gehring, Nancy Simpson-Younger
Refreshments	Gerri Licke, Rhonda Reece
Counters	David Becker, Marilyn Calcutt, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	Mike Bull, Rick Hillard, Eric Sponheim

TODAY



**You're invited to come join us for
Root Beer Floats as we cheer on
the St. John's Softball Team!**

**SUNDAY, JULY 26
6:00 P.M.
SECHLER PARK, FIELD 2**



**Brought to you by the St. John's
Evangelism & Communications Board.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork by Judy Swanson.

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Liturgy setting: Holy Communion Setting 2, Festival Setting by John Ferguson.

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Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Chuck and Anita Hellie. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office at 507-645-4429. Next available dates: August 2, 9 & 30 and September 20.

Church Softball League

Tonight, 6:00 p.m., Sechler 2

St. John's vs. Northfield Community Church

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on! For the full summer schedule, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/northfieldchurchsoftballleague/home>.

Out'n About: Conversations with Minnesotans

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

Our first speaker will be Dan Bergeson who will give us an overview of the Vintage Band Festival for the last 20 years! CC Linstroth will be the second speaker and is excited to share information about Age-Friendly Northfield and how that committee is working on improving quality of life for older adults and community members with disabilities. Register for this event by calling 507-301-9094 or emailing outnabouto22@gmail.com. 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).

Habitat for Humanity Needs Volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 28 & 30 and Aug. 4 & 6

Four construction volunteers are needed for staining trim and/or other light tasks, along with a lunch provider for the August dates. If you can help with construction and/or lunch, please use the sign up links at habitatricecounty.org/Volunteer. If you are volunteering and have not yet completed the yearly waiver, please do so. If you have any trouble using the sign-up, email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Bearing Witness: Stories of Faith, Accompaniment, and Hope from Palestine

St. Peter's Lutheran Church: Saturday, August 1, 2:00 p.m.

St. John's Forum: Sunday, August 2, 11:00 a.m.

A rare opportunity to hear from Shadin Nassar, a member of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and a Middle East and North Africa Regional Associate at the ELCA's Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Nassar will discuss the realities, challenges, and Sumud ("resilience") of Christian communities across the Middle East. Drawing on both personal experience as a Palestinian Christian and her work with church partners throughout the region, Shadin will share stories of faith and accompaniment, offering a deeper understanding of the people, ministries, and relationships that shape the ELCA's partnerships. Ms. Nassar is a daughter of the family that hosts the Tent of Nations in the occupied West Bank.

Announcements (continued)

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals with Organist Richard Collman

Wednesday, July 29, 12:15–12:45 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church

See the Community bulletin board in the Commons for the full recital schedule.

Intergenerational Activity

Sunday, August 9, 10:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

Build an Infant Kit or 2 or 3! WELCA is helping Global Health Ministries reach their goal of 20,000 infant kits this year. All the materials have been provided by Global Health Ministries so all we have to do is put them together! Come, have fun and be part of giving a new little one a warm start in life.

Supporting St. John's

Giving to St. John's supports regular worship services, enhances the spiritual lives of our members, and helps to improve the lives of neighbors in our local and global communities. Your meaningful support will make an impact, strengthen congregational life at St. John's, and help us serve our mission.



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.

Children and Youth

Good Earth Village is Bringing Summer Camp to Northfield for Kids completing grades K–5

When: August 3–6, 8:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church

Cost: \$70 / Camper (Scholarships Available)

Good Earth Village Day Camp brings the energy, joy, and spiritual impact of summer camp to Northfield! GEV summer staff lead a week of songs, Bible study, worship, crafts, games, and connection—all designed to help children grow in faith and friendships. We are teaming up with Bethel, St. Peter's, and United Methodist Churches! Contact Julie Brehmer to register.

Summer Camp for PreK too! Snowball Mountain Challenge! (VBS)

Who: For kids age 3 by 9/1/26–age 5

When: August 3–6, 9:00–11:00 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15/Child, Max of \$30/Family (Scholarship Available)

Contact Julie Brehmer to register.

Registration for 2026–2027

Registration is officially open for St. John's children and youth programming next year, 2026–2027. Check out St. John's website for more information and to register.



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, Barbara Dettle, Fred Huemoeller, Barbara Johnson, George Pinc

Those with ongoing health concerns

Ruth Smestad Anglin, Mary Cisar, Greta Matzner-Gore, Lowell Johnson,
Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, David Norman, Mary Ellen North, Rachel Peterson,
Alice Rickert, John Walters, Ingrid Alberding, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

All who are homebound, including

Laila Burns Hedstrom, Janice Helgeson, Carolyn Jennings

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.

2026–2027 St. John's Women of the ELCA Executive Board

President — Sara Bright

Vice President — Michelle Kramer-Prevost

Past President — Pam Groves-Gaggioli

Secretary — Janet Lotegeluaki

Treasurer — Jennifer Edwins

Discipleship — Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Mary Hoff, Alison Kavanaugh

Stewardship/Missions — Rhonda Reece, Nan Winsell

Justice — Jo Franklin, Jennifer Edwins

Publicity — Sara Bright, Julie Zdenek

Archivists — Jennifer Edwins, Pam Groves-Gaggioli

This Week At-a-Glance

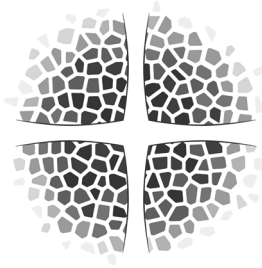
*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, July 27	9:00 a.m.	Out'n About: <i>Conversations with Minnesotans</i> , St. John's Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, July 28	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	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, July 29		No Scheduled Activities
Thursday, July 30	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	4:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
Friday, July 31	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Aug. 1		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Aug. 2	9:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
		Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons
	11:00 a.m.	St. John's Forum, Sanctuary

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (August 2):

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 † Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 † Romans 9:1-5 † Matthew 14:13-21



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 (On Sabbatical through October 16, 2026)

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Katie Fick, Bridge 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

Nick Gilbert, 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.*