



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 30, 2023 † 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

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 705

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

***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**

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **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

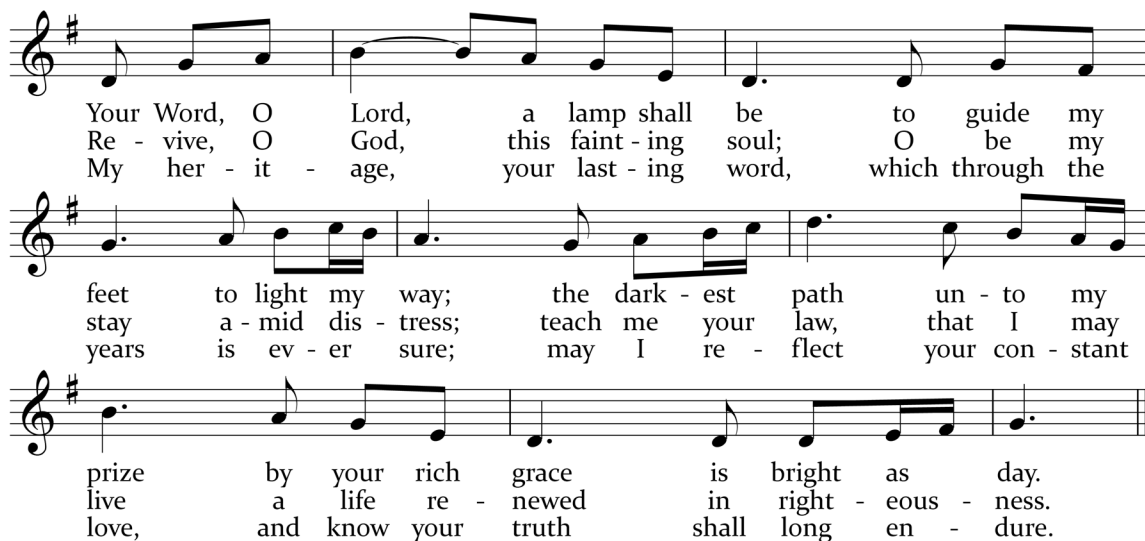
the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 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.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 119:129-136

O WALY WALY



Your Word, O Lord, a lamp shall be to guide my
 Re - vive, O God, this faint - ing soul; O be my
 My her - it - age, your last - ing word, which through the
 feet to light my way; the dark - est path un - to my
 stay a - mid dis - tress; teach me your law, that I may
 years is ev - er sure; may I re - flect your con - stant
 prize by your rich grace is bright as day.
 live a life re - newed in right - eous - ness.
 love, and know your truth shall long en - dure.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Morgan © 1999, *Psalter for Christian Worship*

Second Reading — Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. ²⁹For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²God

who did not withhold God's own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will God not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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. Al - le - lu - ia!

***Gospel — Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

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

C 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 someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, 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.

⁴⁷Again, 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 been trained for 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.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1047

“What Is the World Like”

*The 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:

L Lord, in your mercy,

C 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

*Offering Hymn — “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.
Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

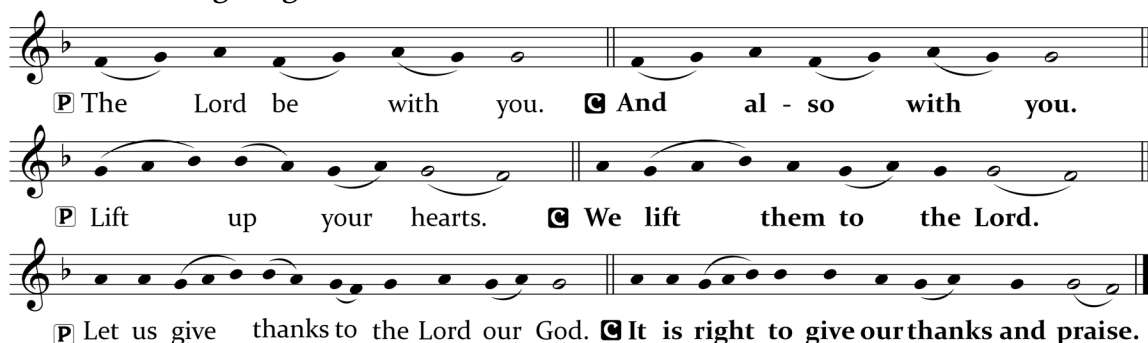
*Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

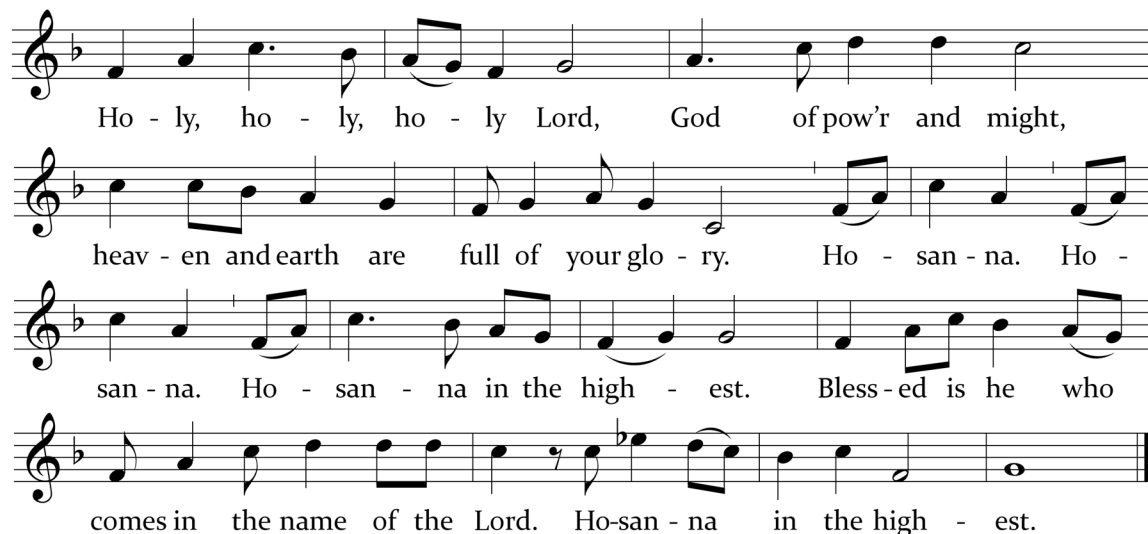


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. 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.

Hymn — ELW No. 793

"Be Thou My Vision"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

ℒ We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☩ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 542

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

***Dismissal**

ℒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God!

Postlude



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Co-Presiding	Kristin Partlo
Assisting Minister	Brenda Nelson
Pianist	Christina Brantner
Communion Service	Craig Schultz
Greeters	TBD
Coffee Service	TBD
Refreshments	TBD
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Jane Rizzo, Bob Tabery
Ushers	Christy Hall-Holt, Olaf Hall-Holt, Rick Hillard

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork by Judy Swanson.

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Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2023-2024!

Check out St. John's website at:
stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/.
Click on "Children" or "Youth" to find out more
about the programs available.
Register your children/youth by using the
QR code or by visiting our website!



Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Howard Thorsheim by David and Martha Brown. 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), please contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: September 24 and October 15 & 29.

Help Us to say "Thank you" and "Farewell" to Emmanuel Kaghondi

As a gift to Emmanuel for his 4 years of service with youth and families, the Youth Ministry & Education Board invite you to write a word of gratitude, blessing, and goodbye to Emmanuel in a journal for him, that he can take with him. This journal booklet will be out in the Commons the next few Sundays and during the week - please stop by to write share any memories with him and words of appreciation!

Church Softball League Games

Today, 7:10 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2

St. John's vs. Emmaus

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on! For the full summer schedule, check the bulletin board in the Commons.

Birthday Brunch: All are invited!

Please join us for brunch in St. John's Hall following worship next Sunday, August 6, in honor of the late Ruth Hansen's posthumous 100th birthday. Whether she knew you or not, she would have insisted that you come!

~Ruth's Family & St. John's Staff

Pub Theology: Theology of Friendship

Monday, July 31, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Contented Cow

Who is the best friend you have ever had? What makes them such a good friend? How do you know when someone is a friend rather than an acquaintance or just someone you know from the community? I can remember in Seminary a professor of mine said that the biggest hole he saw in theology was around a *theology of friendship*. What is a friend and why do we have them? Can God or Jesus be described as a friend? Jesus says in the gospel of John to his disciples, "There is no greater love than this - to lay down one's life for one's friend...I do not call you servants, I call you friends." Is friendship part of the life of God? To ground our discussion, please read this article by Peter Wehner, "[Why Jesus Loves Friendship](#)," which can be found at the Welcome Desk.

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Wednesday, August 2, 12:15-12:45 p.m., First United Church of Christ (300 Union St.)

Organist: Stephen May

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

Announcements (continued)

Congregational Finance Update

- Offering received through the end of June is 42% of our \$966,500 offering budget. At the halfway point in the year we would hope to see this number at 46%. This puts us more than \$41,000 behind budget, slightly worse than what we reported in April.
- Expenses are on target at 48% of budget; in order to avoid another year-end deficit, the Council will begin to review budgets, potential cuts, or other ideas for savings in the second half of the year.
- The cost to repair hail damage to the roof will be covered by our property insurance.

Night to Unite

This Tuesday, August 1, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

St. John's will again be hosting this annual event which is part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together in order to strengthen connections and increase safety in our neighborhoods. The celebration includes a picnic-style meal along with kid-friendly games and activities, and a chance to see emergency vehicles up close in our church parking lot! To make this night run smoothly we need helpers! You can sign up online by [clicking here](#) or contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you can provide help with one of the following:

- Help set up tables, chairs, and other needed items outside beginning around 3:30 p.m.
- Help with clean-up beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from September 11 through October 8. Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers. You can sign up online thru CCB (https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=97). If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date(s). Printed driver instructions and information are available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons. If you have any questions about volunteering please contact Peter Skoglund at skoglund.peter@sbcglobal.net or 925-989-6131, or Cynthia Neubecker at redduncan936@gmail.com or 612-327-0169. Thank you!

Electronic giving is a great way to support the ongoing ministry of St. John's, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at 507-645-4429, or by email at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. "I Give Electronically" cards are now available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.

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.

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

John Ferguson, Keke Judge, Aiden Mandsager, Greta Matzner-Gore,
David Quarberg, Wendy Scholz, Noah Tracy, Karen Wingate,
Aarin Morse (son of Roberta Morse), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Scott Barvir, Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Donna James,
Carolyn Jennings, Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson,
John Quam, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom,
Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Elouise Quinnell, Rose Youngquist, Lester Gunderson

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (August 6):

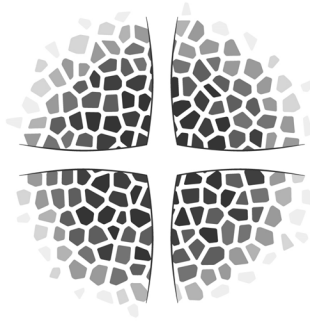
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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 31	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology, Contented Cow Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 1	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Undercroft S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Visitation - Ann Ness, Commons Funeral - Ann Ness, Sanctuary Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Night to Unite, Outside at St. John's Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room Northfield Rotary, St. John's Library
Wednesday, Aug. 2	6:00 p.m.	Evening Knitters, St. John's Library
Thursday, Aug. 3	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilters, Fellowship Hall Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite Girl Scout Troop #27485, Fellowship Hall
Friday, Aug. 4	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Aug. 5		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Aug. 6	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons Girl Scout Troop #27532, Undercroft



St. John's

ELCA · NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*

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, *Parish Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*

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

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