



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 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 — Galliard on “Gather Us In”

James Biery

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 532

“Gather Us In”

*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

- ☐ God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☑ Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Genesis 45:1-15

Spark Story Bible, page 60

[After Judah offered himself in place of his brother Benjamin,] ¹Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 133, “Oh, Look and Wonder”

Pablo Sosa

Refrain — first time: cantor, **then all singing.**

¡Mi - ren qué bue - no, qué bue - no es!

Oh, look and won - der how good it is!

Words and Music: Pablo Sosa © 1972 GIA Publications

*Cantor: How good it is when brothers dwell in peace with one another:
it is like precious oil when running fresh on Aaron’s beard. **Refrain** — all*

*How good it is when sisters dwell in peace with one another:
fresh like the morning dew that falls on Zion’s holy hill. **Refrain** — all*

*How good it is when all earth’s people dwell in peace together:
there is where God will pour the blessing, life forevermore. **Refrain** — all*

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 15:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

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

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Katie Fick

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 587

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Installation of Nick Gilbert, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

***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

II. "Quietly moving" from *Sonata II*

Paul Hindemith

*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.

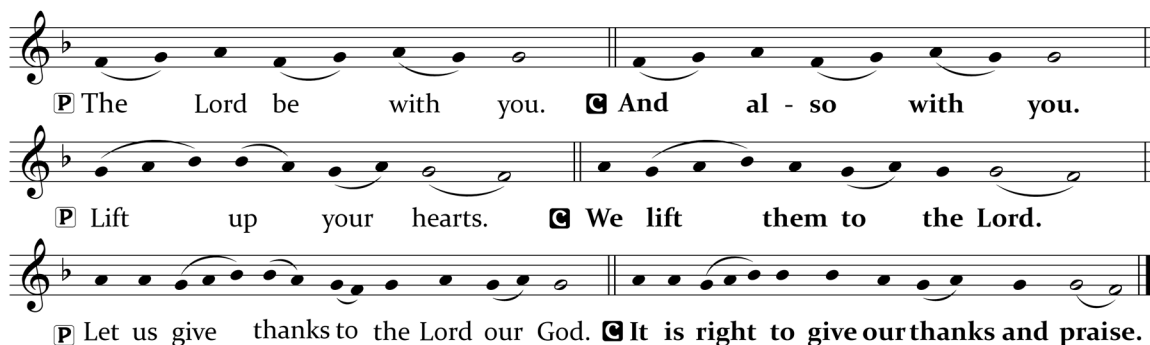
*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **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

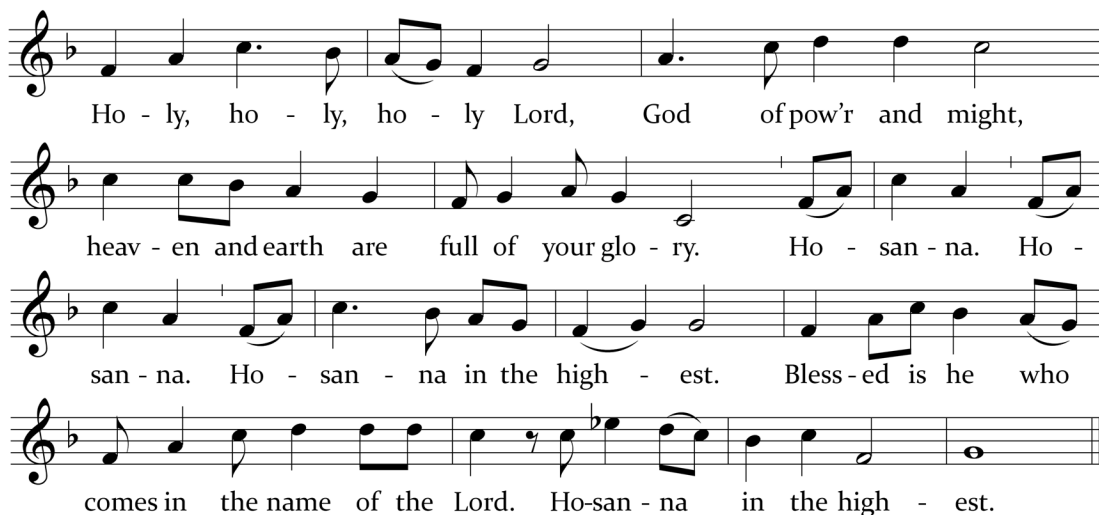


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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'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"



The musical notation for "Lamb of God" is presented in three parts, each on a single staff 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 the staves.

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 — ACS No. 1062

"Build a Longer Table"

Hymn — ELW No. 469

"By Your Hand You Feed Your People"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound

***Prayer after Communion**

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

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ✠ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 650

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Fanfare on MCKEE”

Charles Callahan



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Katie Fick
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	Ruthie Neuger and John Bjorlie
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims
Livestream	Mark Gleason
Communion Service	Craig Schultz
Greeters	Terrence Hassanally, Jude Hassanally, Micah Hassanally
Coffee Service	Marie Benson, Chris Engstrom, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Doug Johnson, Craig Schultz, Dawn Tommerdahl, Fran Wood
Refreshments	Julie Cannon, Sylvia Erickson, Pat Fick, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Doug Johnson, Gerri Licke, Dodie Mickelsen, Tricia Peterson, Rhonda Reece, Cora Scholz, Karen Schuette, Dawn Tommerdahl
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Marilyn Calcutt, David Nitz
Ushers	Rick Hillard, Robb Nutt, John Ophaug



**Fruit Sunday
TODAY**

**Come and enjoy a dessert in
St. John's Hall after worship!**



Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Erik Moe by David and Martha Brown. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office at 507-645-4429. Next available dates: September 20 and October 11, 18 & 25.

Today is Fruit Sunday! We invite all to come to St. John's Hall and enjoy an array of delicious fruit desserts during our coffee fellowship time after worship.

Pub Theology

Tomorrow, Monday, August 17, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

We are continuing the Pub Theology series on words of faith. Some of the most used and powerful words in the Christian faith raise lots of questions and are interpreted with a wide variety of meanings. How we use these words can have a profound impact on us personally and communally. This week we are talking about the word righteousness. It's all over the Bible. How is it used by Christians today? What does this word mean to you? How is it helpful? Can it be harmful? We will once again be using Marcus Borg's book *Speaking Christian* as a springboard for conversation. Copies are available at the Welcome Desk.

Summer Choir Invitation Next Sunday, August 23

You are invited to our next summer choir opportunity. Come join your friends or try out the choir for the first time. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room to rehearse and then sing for the 9:30 a.m. service. Anyone is welcome to participate! You don't have to be in the St. John's Chorale to join us. Questions? Contact Nathan Proctor at music@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Public Discipleship Formation Opportunity

Tuesdays, August 25, September 1 & 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church

You are invited to attend a series of three sessions which will explore the question: "What does it mean to truly follow Jesus . . . today?" Using materials designed by ISAIAH MN, members of Bethel Lutheran Church will lead a group experience where participants may discern how to live out their faith and spiritual values in everyday public life, work, and community spheres. All are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Mary Loven at mary.e.loven@gmail.com.

School Supply Donations Requested for Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Purchased supplies can be left in the cardboard School Bus in the Commons through Sept. 7. A list of needed items is at the School Bus. Cash donations are also welcome, and the WELCA team will make the purchases for you. Make checks to St. John's WELCA and write school kits on the memo line. Checks may be left in the church office or the offering plate on Sundays. Our goal is to pack at least 250 kits, so many supplies are needed (for example, 800 notebooks to put four in each bag). These kits make a huge difference to the children in developing countries who receive them. St. John's children in grades K–5 will pack the bags. Thank you for your support!

Announcements (continued)

St. John's "Volunteer Build Day" for Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, August 22, 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Lunch provider(s) are still needed! The meal can be store-bought or homemade for up to 12 people. Lunch time is 11:45–12:30 p.m. The meal should include a main dish, a side dish, and a simple dessert. One person could bring this, or 2–3 people could team up and each bring one portion of the meal. Please include a gluten-free option as part of the meal, as one volunteer has specified this dietary need. The meal provider(s) are encouraged to stay and eat and visit with the crew. Habitat provides the plates, eating utensils, napkins, and beverages. If you would like to help provide food, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Meals on Wheels—It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 7, through Saturday, October 3. Sign up today in the Commons! Sign-ups are also available in CCB at: [Meals on Wheels Driver Sign-Up](#). If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Andrea Hoff at 612-743-5767 or andrea.hoff37@gmail.com or Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

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.



Children and Youth

Registration for 2026–2027

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



CAC Food Shelf Shifts—Volunteers Needed in August

Who: St. John's youth of all ages, friends, and family

What: Greet, stock, and clean up at the Northfield CAC Food Shelf

When: Tuesdays in summer 3:00–5:00 pm

Where: Drop-off and Pick-up at the CAC, food shelf doors

To Do: Sign up online

More helpers are needed to staff the Northfield Food Shelf on Tuesday afternoons. There is still plenty of space for August.

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

Barbara Dettle, Fred Huemoeller, Barbara Johnson, Joan Kark,
Joanie Lee, Bruce Moe, George Pinc, John Walters

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, 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.

Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2026-2027!

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!



SCAN ME

This Week At-a-Glance

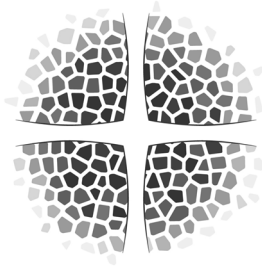
*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Aug. 17	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Visitation - Kathryn Thompson, Commons
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral - Kathryn Thompson, Sanctuary
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Aug. 18	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.	Visitation - David Halsor, Commons
		Staff Meeting, Undercroft
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral - David Halsor, Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Aug. 19	6:00 p.m.	Roman & Christians, St. John's
	6:30 p.m.	Believe It Canine Partners Board Meeting, Fireside Room
Thursday, Aug. 20	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
Friday, Aug. 21	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Aug. 22	4:00 p.m.	Victoria Erickson Voice Recital, Sanctuary
Sunday, Aug. 23	9:00 a.m.	Summer Choir Rehearsal, Room 209
	9:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (August 23):

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6 + Psalm 138 + Romans 12:1-8 + Matthew 16:13-20



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 17, 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

Nick Gilbert, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Faith Community Nurse

Arielle Loy, Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist

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.*