



SERVICE OF THE WORD

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 22, 2021 † 9:00 A.M. & 10:30 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 pew hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship),
page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section,
and hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

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 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 — “You Are Holy”

Rick Seaton

*You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna to our God!*

—ELW #525, Per Harling

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table” (ACS #977) COPELAND



Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries that they bring.
Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low - ers ap - pear,
Their sad stor - ies are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand dif - ferent ways,
Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to be sur - prised



Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing; some have songs they want to sing.
saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
but they share one thing in com - mon: they all end in thanks and praise
by the host whose hands are wound - ed, who will o - pen wide your eyes



Oth - ers ask why they're in - vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done.
Pe - ter tells of his de - ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight;
for the host who has in - vit - ed north and south and east and west
when he bless - es bread and breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!—



Christ in - sists they all are wel - come. There is room for ev - ery - one.
Paul re - lates his fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
to con - verge a - round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
and then pass - es wine that wak - ens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas Troeger © 2002 Oxford University Press; Music: Michael Corzine © admin. Augsburg Fortress

*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

- ☐ Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

- ☐ The word of the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 78, “We Will Tell Each Generation”

RESTORATION

We will tell each gen - er - a - tion all that you, our
 Tell the grace that falls from heav - en, an - gels' food as
 We will tell each gen - er - a - tion all that you, our

God, have done; how you called and led your peo - ple,
 faith's re - ward; tell how sins may be for - giv - en
 God, have done. As a shep - herd you have led us;

chose us out to be your own.
 through the mer - cy of the Lord.
 by your hand still lead your own.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Perry © 1989 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing; Music: W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*

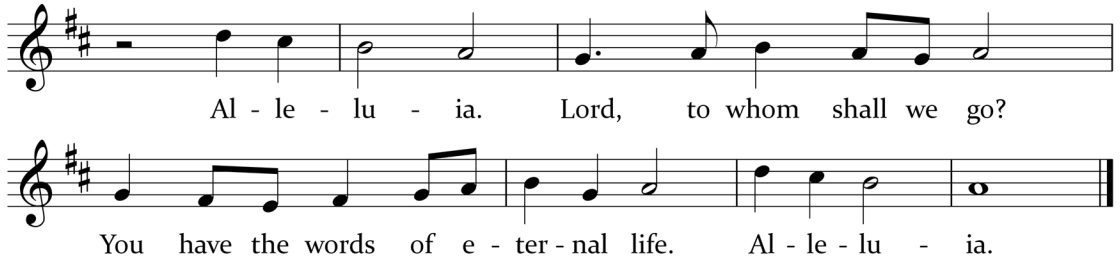
Second Reading — Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

- The word of the Lord.
- 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.

***Gospel — John 6:56-69**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Let Us Enter In” (ACS #985)

LET US ENTER IN

Stanza 1 — Cantor; then repeat Stanza 1 — All



Let us en - ter in to the song of thanks - giv - ing and free - dom.
Let us en - ter in to the place where our God has pre - ced - ed.
Let us en - ter in to the heart of a world that is bro - ken.



Let us en - ter in to the long line of peo - ple in need.
Let us en - ter in to the face of the fear and the pain.
Let us en - ter in to the start of a hope we can share.



Let us en - ter in to the strong mind that God is still liv - ing.
Let us en - ter in to the grace of the love when it's need - ed.
Let us en - ter in to the part where we call one an - oth - er



Heal - ing, for - giv - ing— Let us en - ter in.
Death is de - feat - ed! Let us en - ter in.
sis - ter and broth - er. Let us en - ter in.

Text and Music: Ray Makeever © 1983, 2020 admin. Augsburg Fortress

*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:

Ⓔ 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:

“Come, Let Us Eat”

Billema Kwillia, arr. Edwin Childs

*Offering Hymn — “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” OLD HUNDREDTH

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be-low; praise God a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men." The score concludes with a double bar line.

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

☐ O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way
through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need,
awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

☑ **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☑ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (#632)

ST. ANNE



O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;
O God, our help in ag - es past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - 'ning day.
still be our guard while trou - bles last and our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.; Music: William Croft

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Fanfare for a New Day”

J. Wayne Kerr



Today, in an effort to mitigate risk of infection while offering the bread of life to everyone, we will hold brief Holy Communion liturgies outside immediately following the 9:00 and 10:30 services. If you wish to partake in Communion, linger under the front door canopy for a time of sharing the bread and wine.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(9:00) Rudser Family (10:30) Bash/Goodrich Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Ushers	(9:00) Ruth Dahl, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin (10:30) Monica Holicky, Todd Menssen, Robert Nyvall, Mark Rydberg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image "Feast of the Universe" by Daniel Erlander. Used by permission.
From *A Place for You*, Christ presiding at a table in the midst of creation evokes the French Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin's vision of Christ in the Eucharist as the radiating, unifying center of all humanity and the entire universe.

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Planning for Fall is in Progress

The St. John's staff is busy planning for fall programming. Due to the uncertainties of the Delta surge, we are starting regular Wednesday and Sunday Children/Youth/Family programming a little later than usual. Our focus will be on opportunities to re-connect with old friends and welcome newcomers in our community. Please note the key dates listed, and watch for more news and registration information by the end of the month:

- **September 18:** "God's Work. Our Hands." Celebration with Habitat for Humanity and our fellow ELCA Congregations
- **September 19:** Fall Worship Times Resume at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.; Packing of Lutheran World Relief School Kits Between Services; Habitat for Humanity Build Continues
- **September 26:** Fellowship Event
- **September 22:** Orientation for Wednesday Afterschool Programming and Confirmation
- **September 29:** Wednesday After School Programming and Confirmation Classes Begin
- **October 3:** Sunday School Begins

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in celebration of David and Genevieve Quarberg's wedding anniversary. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863. Next available dates: October 10, 17, 24 & 31. 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.

Habitat for Humanity - "God's Work. Our Hands." Event on September 18 & 19

Sign-Up Today Between Worship Services

St. John's and other Rice County ELCA congregations are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity for a special "God's Work. Our Hands." weekend build the weekend of September 18 & 19. Volunteers are needed in construction and to prepare and serve meals and snacks. More information and sign-ups are available in the Commons. Please contact Bill Carlson at carlsoncharbill@msn.com or Jodi Beach at 507-403-7868 for further information.

All Creation Sings Hymnal Orders

In 2020, Augsburg Fortress released a new hymnal titled *All Creation Sings* as a supplement to our current hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. You've experienced many of these new hymns in worship over the past year and now it's your chance to help us buy the books for the Sanctuary. Books can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each book is \$15 and you can pick up an order form in the Commons or print one from our website.

Meals on Wheels

Coming soon! Meals on Wheels will be delivered by St. John's members September 12–October 9. Watch for the link in the E-Voice next week for online sign-up. Sign-up will also be available by contacting Carolyn Nitz. As in 2020, we will be doing contactless delivery. Our congregation has long supported this important service, and certainly this year will be no exception.

"Patio Theology" (Pub Theology Summer Edition)

Monday, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Home of David and Debby Nitz

Topic: *Religion in Public Education*

Although the removal of prayer from public schools is seen by some as the landmark of secularization, there is an educational question that has remained unresolved: what, if anything, should public school students learn about the role of religion in history, culture, and American life? Some argue that a basic education in world religions, and even in biblical literature, is essential to being an informed citizen. Others see anything in regard to religion as a sort of third rail which must never be touched. Join us to discuss whether religious education in a secular public system is desirable, or even possible.

Announcements (continued)

Bridge Chamber Music Concert

Wednesday, August 25, 7:30 p.m., St. John's Sanctuary

The Bridge Chamber Music Festival will present a concert by guest cellist Christine Lamprea on August 25 at 7:30 p.m. Christine will perform the Piano Trio Op. 100 by Franz Schubert, the Cello Sonata by Manuel Ponce and *Moyugba Orisha* by Alejandro Cardona, with Northfield musicians Francesca Anderegg, Esther Wang and Nicola Melville. Christine Lamprea, 2018 Sphinx Medal of Excellence Winner, is an artist known for her emotionally committed and intense performances. She has performed with the Costa Rica National Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, National Symphony of Michoacan, New Jersey Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and such musicians as Shmuel Ashkenasi, Sarah Chang, Itzhak Perlman, Roger Tapping, and Carol Wincenc.

Your Gifts are Already Making a Difference

The St. John's Benevolence Board regularly sends gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, and Lutheran World Relief. All of these organizations are part of our global church network that provides aid in wildfires, earthquakes, and humanitarian crises. When you read the latest news from Ethiopia, Haiti, and Afghanistan, know that your gifts are already at work to provide life-saving aid. You can also donate directly to any of these organizations through their websites: lwr.org, lirs.org, and community.elca.org

TORCH Program Donations Requested

St. John's partners with TORCH through our 150th Grace Overflowing Anniversary. This program helps high school graduates who are the first in their families to go to college. The TORCH program provides encouragement and support to them throughout their continued education. Each year St. John's sends students a gift, along with an encouraging personal note to help them with their school year needs. This year we are requesting gift cards for the following: Target, gas, coffee, etc. You can also write checks to St. John's WELCA, memo "TORCH program gift" for WELCA to purchase gift cards. Mail checks and/or gift cards to Julie Zdenek, or drop off at the church office. Thank you!

Courageous Conversations Book Group Begins

Thursday, September 30, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

This time our book is *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. Books are available at Content Bookstore. The group will meet five times, every other Thursday: September 30, October 14 & 28, November 11 & 18. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to sign up and receive the reading plan and zoom link.

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

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

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

Guenther Moesler, Dorothy Ostlie, Lois Rand, Eldora Seitz, Scott Quinnell, Caroline Thielhelm (niece of Betsy Gasior), Mark Wegner (son of Roberta Wegner), Emily Zdenek (daughter of Dave and Julie Zdenek)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Alvhild Sherve

Those with ongoing health concerns

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

All who are homebound, including

Richard Olson, 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 (August 29):

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 † Psalm 15 † James 1:17-27 † Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

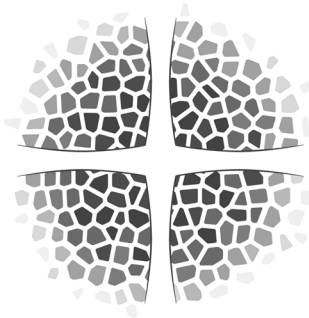
This Week At-a-Glance

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

Monday, Aug. 23	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Patio Theology, Home of David and Debby Nitz Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 24	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Church Council, Undercroft
Wednesday, Aug. 25	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Intergenerational School Kit Planning Meeting, Fireside Room Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite Communion at Kildahl Apartments, Offsite Bridge Chamber Music Concert, Sanctuary
Thursday, Aug. 26	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Communion at Three Links, Offsite Book Buddies, St. John's Library
Friday, Aug. 27	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Aug. 28		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Aug. 29	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Worship, Sanctuary

Church Office Hours

During the summer, the office will be staffed Monday thru Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The building will be accessible outside of office hours by appointment or if you have a scheduled meeting. Groups may schedule events in the church building, following current CDC guidelines, which recommends masks for all unvaccinated persons.



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

Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistant

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

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