

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 29, 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 — Prelude and Fugue in G Major

Vincent Lübeck, Jr.

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “For the Beauty of the Earth” (#879)

DIX

For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher

*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

- ☐ O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

Psalmody — Psalm 15, “Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House” DOVE OF PEACE

Lord, who may dwell with - in your house or on your ho - ly
 Who do no wrong, but keep their word and seek no bribe or
 You pure in heart on Zi - on's hill, your joy - ful songs now
 hill? Those who do good and speak the truth, whose
 gain; all those who do such things shall live and
 raise. In one ac - cord lift up your voice, sing
 lives are blame - less still, whose lives are blame - less still;
 safe from harm re - main, and safe from harm re - main.
 forth your songs of praise, sing forth your songs of praise!

Psalm paraphrase: Christopher Webber and Hal Hopson, © 1986 CLW, © 2008 Birnamwood Publications

Second Reading — James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

- 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 — Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

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

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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 — “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (#772)

EVAN



Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.; Music: William H. Havergal

*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**

- 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:

“This Is My Father’s World”

Mark Sedio

***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 in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. 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 includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

***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

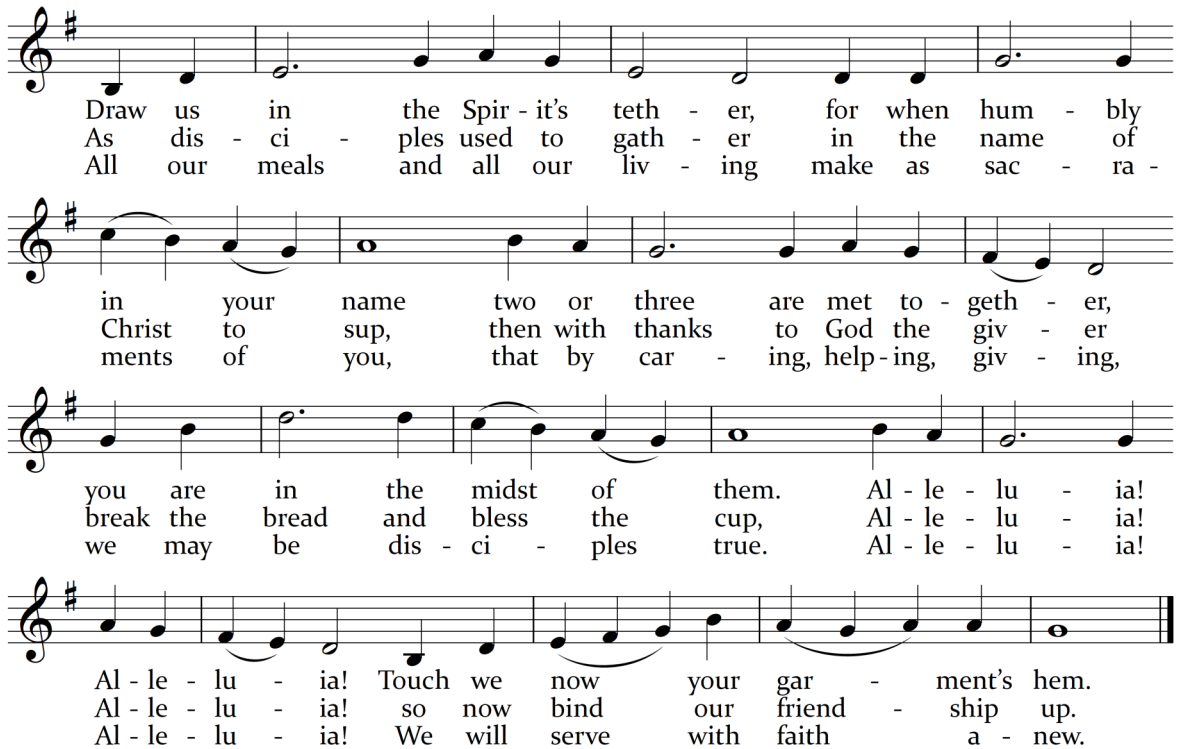
***Blessing**

Response:

☑ **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn — “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether” (#470)

UNION SEMINARY



Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -
in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er,
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,
you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, alt. © Oxford University Press; Music: Harold Friedell © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin

*Dismissal

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

Postlude — “Declamation on ‘For the Beauty of the Earth’”

Craig Phillips



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	Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Ushers	(9:00) Cindy Clauson, Ruth Dahl (10:30) Robert Nyvall

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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 a.m. 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 After School 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 by Howard and Julie Thorsheim in celebration of their 57th 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 located outside the Commons doors. Please contact Bill Carlson at carlsoncharbill@msn.com or Jodi Beach at 507-403-7868 for further information.

All Creation Sings Hymnal Orders - Last Chance!

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a copy of *All Creation Sings* in memory or in honor of a loved one so far. With only half of the amount needed for the sanctuary spoken for, there is still plenty of room for your dedications. This is the last week for getting orders in so that we can enjoy this new resource in September. Each book is \$15 and you can pick up an order form in the Commons or print one from our website and return it to the church office.

Meals on Wheels – It's Sign-Up Time!

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 12, through Saturday, October 8. Once again for everyone's safety, delivery is contactless. You can sign up online through our website, by contacting Carolyn Nitz at 507-664-0367, or by contacting the church office at 507-645-4429. Thank you for being a part of this important service to Northfield.

Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom

Mondays, Noon–1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a biblical discussion of the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

"Patio Theology" (Pub Theology Summer Edition)

Monday, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Home of Dan and Jo Franklin

We gather together outside for community and conversation led by the pastors around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. The topic and location will be emailed prior to the meeting. If you would like to be on the Patio Theology email list, please contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Announcements (continued)

School Supply Donations for LWR School Kits

This fall, St. John's will again have an intergenerational forum on Sunday, September 19, between services to pack school kits. Except for last year during the pandemic, up to 220 kits have been packed at this event. Please consider donating supplies. Purchased supplies can be left in the cardboard School Bus in the Commons. School supplies are on sale now through Labor Day. If you prefer, cash donations are also appreciated. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, write school kits on the memo line, and mail to Jennifer Edwins (106 Nevada St., Northfield, 55057), or leave in the church office. Thank you.

- 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks of wide-ruled or college-ruled paper, 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf notebook paper
- 30 centimeter rulers, or rulers with cm on one side and 12 inches on the other
- pencil sharpeners
- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- blunt Fiskar scissors (Fiskar brand preferred, as the other ones break easily)
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 28, 1:00–6:00 p.m., St. John's Hall.

Sign up for a timeslot online with this link: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>. Questions? Contact Sally Lindell at parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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, 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 Dorothy Ostlie

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

Lester Gunderson, Elaine Feroe, Tom Fjelde

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 (September 5):

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 35:4-7a † Psalm 146 † James 2:1-10, 14-17 † Mark 7:24-37

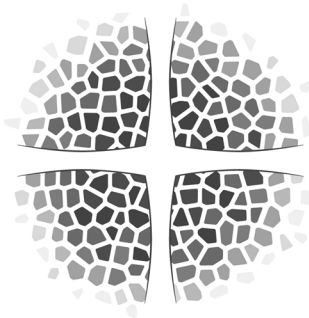
This Week At-a-Glance

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

Monday, Aug. 30	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Patio Theology, Home of Dan and Jo Franklin
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 31	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
Wednesday, Sep. 1	12:00 p.m.	NAIA, St. John's Hall
Thursday, Sep. 2	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
Friday, Sep. 3	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Sep. 4		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Sep. 5	9:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
Monday, Sep. 6		<i>Labor Day - Church Building and Office Closed</i>

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.