



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 31, 2025 † 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 — “Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

Chris Kovarik

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ACS No. 977 “Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”
Stanza 3 may be sung in harmony.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

G you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God’s children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

G Amen.

***Greeting**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

P O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a}for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

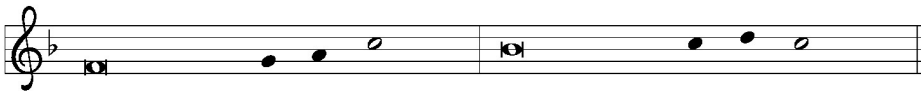
L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 112:1-8

Antiphon: Hal Hopson

Antiphon: Happy are they who delight in the law of God.



¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. *Antiphon*

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶For they will nev-¹er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast-¹ing remembrance.
⁷They will not be afraid of any¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting¹ in the LORD.
⁸Their heart is established and¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up-¹on their enemies. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

☐ 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. Al - le - lu - ia!

***Gospel — Luke 14:1, 7-14**

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1036

“Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment”

Installation of WELCA Executive Board

***Apostles’ Creed**

Front of ELW hymnal, page 105

*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

"Allegretto" from Sonata IV

Felix Mendelssohn

*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

L Let us pray.

C Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



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



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



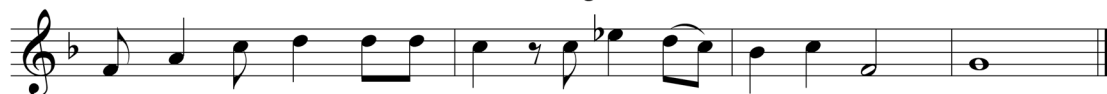
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Hymn — ELW No. 461

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Hymn — ELW No. 479

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℒ Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.
- ☒ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☒ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 548

“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — Trumpet Tune in C Major

David N. Johnson



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Kristin Partlo
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims
Communion Service	Craig Schultz
Greeters	Gary and Christine Engstrom, Doug Johnson
Coffee Service	TBD
Counters	Chris and Martha Erickson, Judd Lohmann
Ushers	Jon and Alison Kavanaugh, Eric Sponheim

2025-2026 St. John's Women of the ELCA Executive Board

President — Pam Groves-Gaggioli
Vice President — Sara Bright
Past President — Alison Kavanaugh
Secretary — Janet Lotegeluaki
Treasurer — Jennifer Edwins
Discipleship — Mary Hoff, Alison Kavanaugh, Beth Wessen
Stewardship/Missions — Sara Bright, Rhonda Reece, Nan Winsell
Justice — Jennifer Edwins, Jo Franklin, Margie O'Loughlin, Dawn Tommerdahl
Publicity — Sara Bright, Julie Zdenek / Publicity Aide — Sonia Wessen
Archivists — Jennifer Edwins, Pam Groves-Gaggoli



*Join Us for
Fall Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 14

8:30 A.M.

10:45 A.M.

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given memory of Burt Paulsen on Donna and Burt's wedding anniversary. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Next available dates: October 5, 12 & 26.

Today's altar flowers are given in memory of Jack Schwandt by family and friends.

Courageous Conversations Launches a New Season of Monthly Programs with the Theme, "Creating Community for Common Good"

Our kickoff speaker on Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m., will be Northfield School District Superintendent Dr. Matt Hillmann, who will present "Why Public Education Matters." Hillman will discuss why public education is a cornerstone of a successful democracy, how he stays positive in the face of challenges, and what community members can do to engage with the work of our schools.

A Request for Congregational Input from the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

Hello! We on the B&SC Board have been dreaming big for the last year and a half and recently realized we need your help. We have the potential to get even more active as a church in our community and make a meaningful difference. The question is, where? Or how? What do you see as the greatest needs in our community where St. John's could offer hope and support? Using our resources grounded in faith, what larger action could we as a congregation take to make a positive impact? If you feel moved to share an idea with us, email Andrea Hoff, Chair of the B&SC Board, at andrea.hoff37@gmail.com by September 9. We look forward to hearing from you!

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from September 8 through October 4. Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers. We have only two more slots to fill: September 12 and October 13, both for the Green Route. Sign up in CCB at: [Meals on Wheels Driver Sign-Up](#). If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact Andrea Hoff at andrea.hoff37@gmail.com or 612-743-5767 to schedule your delivery date(s). Printed-out driver instructions/information are available in the Commons. Thank you!

Volunteers Needed for the Old-Fashioned Meatball Dinner Hosted by WELCA

Wednesday, September 24, 5:15–6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

Help us recreate a night from the past for the congregation at the Wednesday Night Meal. We need Jell-O salads, brownies, serving help, clean up help, etc. Sign up online through CCB (link in the E-Voice) or contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli at 562-237-3781 or ladylynneg@gmail.com.

Announcements (continued)

Accompany Program Invitation for Newcomers this Fall

Sundays, October 19–November 23, 9:45–10:40 a.m. in the Undercroft

Accompany is our approach to welcoming those new to St. John's and for those possibly considering membership. The program consists of six gatherings that meet on Sundays between the worship services in which learning more about our church, making connections with others, and spiritual reflection are the focus. If you are interested in participating, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. We look forward to having you join us!

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 200 kits, so many supplies are needed (for example, 800 notebooks to put 4 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!

Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

Children and Youth

Registration is Open for Children and Youth Programs for the 2025–2026 School Year

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 by using this QR code or click on "Register" on our website.



Children and Youth Ministries 2025–2026 School Year Connections Night

Wednesday, September 10

Parents, children, and youth: come reconnect after the summer and launch the 2025–2026 program year. As a community we'll share information, questions and responses, and get a glimpse of the year to come. Snacks will be provided.

- **Wednesday Afterschool Programming and Catechism** at 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Confirmation and High School Youth Group** at 6:30 p.m.

Contact information for Children and Youth

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at youth@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

Cindy Clauson, Irene Dorantes Perez, Fred Huemoeller, Audrey Moe, Patrice Nordstrand, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, Mary Ellen North, Alice Rickert, Kathy Vang, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Ingrid Alberding, Kathy Applebee, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff)

All who are homebound, including

Bob Flaten, 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.

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

“ Giving freely is like tossing a pebble in a calm body of water: the ripples go on and on. You just know that you're helping to make a difference by giving what you have. ”

- Kristy Harms

This Week At-a-Glance

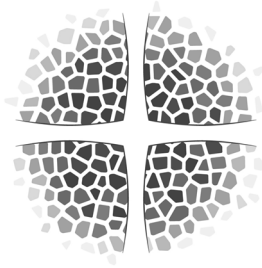
*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Sept. 1		Labor Day - Church Office and Building Closed
Tuesday, Sept. 2	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Wellspring Circle, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room
Wednesday, Sept. 3	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	NAIA, St. John's Hall Evening Knitters, St. John's Library
Thursday, Sept. 4	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
Friday, Sept. 5	9:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall CVRO Rehearsal, St. John's Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Sept. 6	6:30 p.m.	CVRO Concert, St. John's Hall
Sunday, Sept. 7	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons 6 th Grade Orientation, Fireside Room Personnel Committee, Undercroft

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (September 7):

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 + Psalm 1 + Philemon 1-21 + Luke 14:25-33



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*
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*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

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

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*