



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



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 — “A Solemn Melody”

Henry Walford Davies

*Gathering Hymn — “Arise and Welcome Now the Year”

PUER NOBIS

A - rise and wel - come now the year with joy and
Though years bring heart - ache and dis - tress, though trou - bles
When truth is mocked, and neigh - bor scorned, when sing - ing
Let peace and par - don be our way; let joy and
God's love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the vol - ume
gra - ti - tude sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
grow and fears op - press, they can - not with - er
stops and deaths are mourned it grieves the heart, but
jus - tice fill each day. For this shall be, what -
of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of God's good grace.
or e - raise an - oth - er year of God's good grace.
can't ef - face an - oth - er year of God's good grace.
e'er we face, an - oth - er year of God's good grace.
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of God's good grace.

Text: W. Bruce Benson, stanzas 2 and 3 new 2020, used with permission

*Confession and Forgiveness

☞ Blessed be the ✙ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

☞ Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Source of all life,
C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of
love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn
the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us.
Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak
for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your
whole creation. Amen.

***Absolution**

***Greeting**

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

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain
of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love
and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

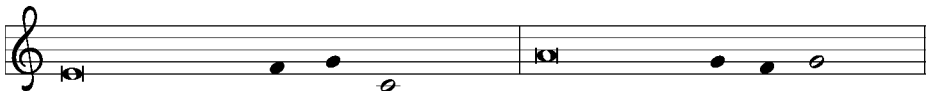
First Reading — Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him,

© Thanks be to God.

Antiphon: Daniel Kallman

Antiphon: LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.



**⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.**

**11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.**

¹³As a parent has compassion | for their children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

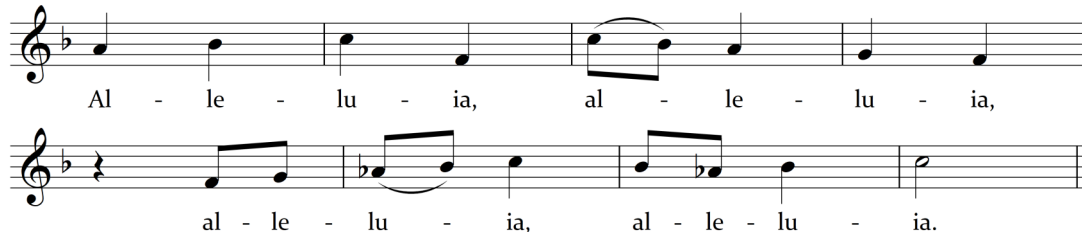
⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the

Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured

until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenschner

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (#807)

NETTLETON



Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: “Hith - er by thy help I’ve come”;
Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I’m con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d’ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d’ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson; Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

***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:

ON NETTLETON

Aaron David Miller

***A Blessing for the New School Year**

L God of Goodness,
 bless the new school year that lies before us.
You are Alpha and Omega.
 Bless the firsts and lasts this year will bring.
You are Wisdom and Life.
 Bless the lessons we will learn and the ways we will grow.
You are Truth and Justice.
 Bless our study of the past and our work toward the future.
You are Teacher and Guide.
 Bless our teachers, our parents, and coaches.
You are Healer and Reconciler.
 Bless our friends and enemies, our relationships and conflicts.
You are Rock and Refuge.
 Bless our homes and our families, our schools and communities.
You are Caller and Companion.
 Bless the decisions we make and the struggles we face.
You are Creator and Spirit.
 Bless our changes and challenges, our questions and dreams.

C 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

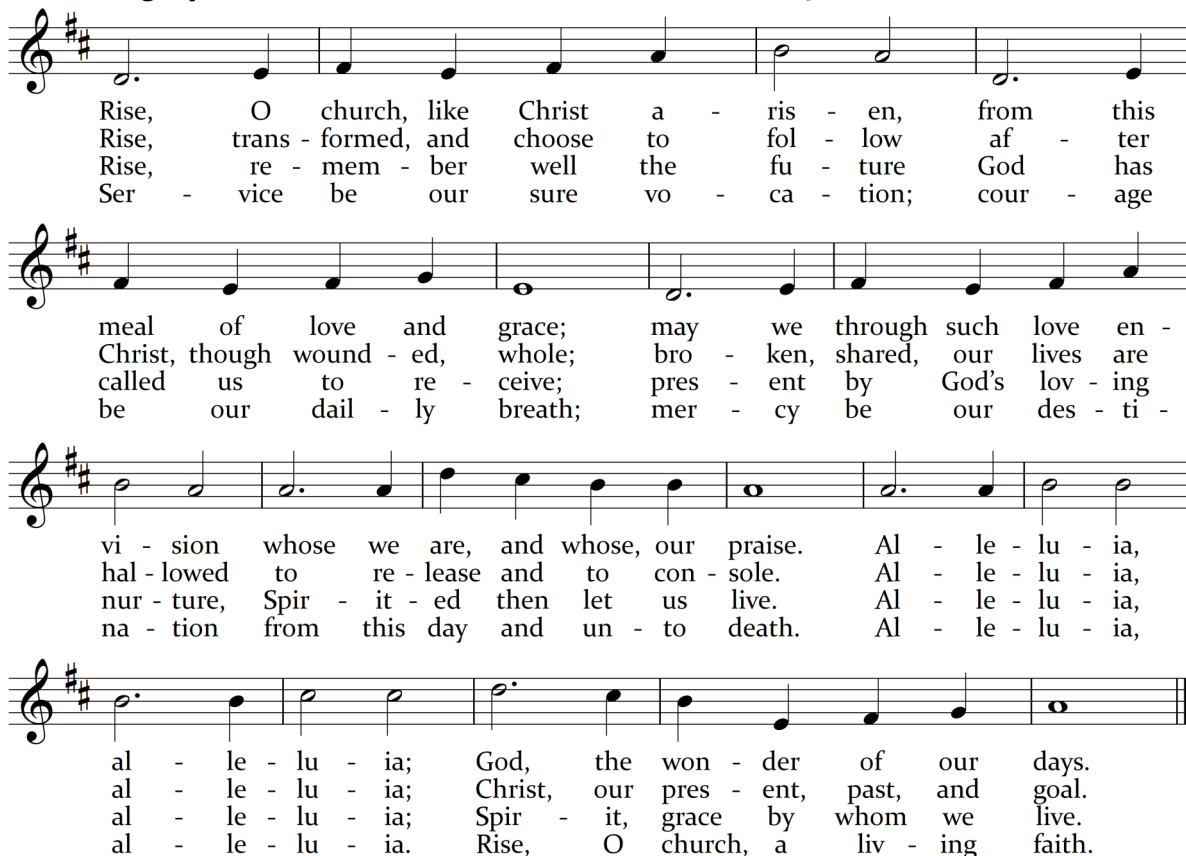
***Blessing**

Response:

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn — “Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen” (#548)**


SURGE ECCLESIA



Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age
 meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dail - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -
 vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le - lu - ia,
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le - lu - ia,
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le - lu - ia,
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia; God, the won - der of our days.
 al - le - lu - ia; Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 al - le - lu - ia; Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, © admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Timothy Strand, © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

***Dismissal**

 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — Fanfare on “Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

David Sims



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Ministers	Bash/Goodrich Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims

Ways to Stay Connected with St. John's

- **Listen on KYMN Radio: 95.1 FM/1080 AM (kymnradio.net) to the worship service on Sundays at 9:00a.m.** The worship bulletins will be available online and can be accessed on our home page.
- **Videos of Sunday Services and Audio of Sermons.** Video of Sunday services and audio of the sermons are posted on the website. Video recording can be accessed from the top of the home page. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website.
- **For a full list of weekly ongoing opportunities to stay connected or to see the funeral guidelines,** go to the website's COVID-19 page: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/covid19/>. This can also be accessed from the top of the website's home page.
- **Worship Bulletins for Sunday services will now be available outside the Commons doors in a plastic bin each Friday by 3:00 p.m.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by John and Patsy Ophaug. 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 the church office. Dates available: December 25 & 27. 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.

Coffee Hour via Zoom: Connect with St. John's Friends

Beginning next Sunday, September 20, at 10:30 a.m. we will have a virtual coffee hour on Sundays in the Fall. All are invited. After 5 minutes, you will be distributed randomly into small conversation groups. Watch for the Zoom link in next week's E-Voice.

New Bible Study Opportunity: Reading the Bible Six Ways

Most of us think we "should" read the Bible but are at a loss as to "how" to read the Bible. Just as the Scriptures are themselves very diverse, there are many different ways to faithfully read them. This study will take a look at six different approaches, from meditative to scholarly. To sign up go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PcgTjL-5J2mCjCEhZ27Yd-AE5NPRm1rf6qIEXo6FR8M/viewform?edit_requested=true&pli=1.

Lydia & Paul Circles Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.

Join Lydia & Paul Circles for a Zoom Bible Study led by Luther Peterson. The study will be based on the Gather Magazines Bible Study. If you do not have the Gather Magazine, a copy of the Bible study can be emailed to you prior to Wednesday. All members of St. John's are invited to join us for this study. Please send an email to Marilyn Calcutt at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com to receive a copy of the study and to be on the list for Zoom connection information.

Courageous Conversations Book Group

Thursdays, September 17, October 8, 22 & 29, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Read/Discuss *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and its Urgent Lessons for Our Own* by Eddie Glaude. Books are available at Content in Northfield. Cost is \$27 but discount applies. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com for more information and Zoom links.

Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5

Starting on Sunday, September 20, St. John's will be hosting a Virtual Sunday school for children in grades K-5. Listen to the Worship Service at 9:00 a.m. on KYMN, then jump on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. to virtually be with your St. John's friends! More information, along with a registration form, will be sent via email to families soon.

Announcements (continued)

Preschool children, ages 3, 4, and 5, will be invited to a separate video experience.

We'll be exploring the story of Creation; God made the Heavens and the Earth and God made YOU! Join in on a joyful time of songs, stories, and giggles! Registration and information will be sent via email to families.

Youth Ministry and Confirmation Registration and Upcoming Events This Week

Pastor Jonathan has sent out an email with registration for youth ministry and Confirmation activities this year at St. John's. Please fill out the form if your youth plans to attend any events (either in-person and/or virtual) this year.

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BON-FIRE, September 16, 6:00-7:00 p.m.: Middle Schoolers are invited to a bon-fire at the Vatter household THIS Wednesday. Details sent out via email.
- HIGH SCHOOL BON-FIRE, September 16, 7:00-8:00 p.m.: High Schoolers are invited to a bon-fire at the Lindell household THIS Wednesday. Details sent out via email.

If you did not receive the email, please contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Pub Theology via Zoom

Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

On September 14, 21, and 28, St. John's member Rod Christensen will be leading a 3-week Pub series on Faith and Politics. Questions to think about will be sent out a couple of days beforehand. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org. This is such a big topic we will divide it into 3 sessions:

- September 14 - How Do My Personal Faith and Politics Interact?
- September 21 - How Should St. John's (or any faith community) Address Politics?
- September 28 - However We Feel Faith and Politics Should Interact, How Can We Grow?

LWR Personal Care Kits

During the Beirut chemical explosion on August 4, three containers of Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits consisting of more than 47,000 items were destroyed. Through WELCA, St. John's Women have been supporting LWR by donating gifts of quilts, school backpacks, personal care kits, and baby care kits. This month we're asking you to build and donate a Personal Care Kit. Make it a family affair! Please include the following items in each kit:

- 1 light-weight, dark colored bath towel (sizes 20"x 40" and 52"x 27")
- 1 metal nail clippers (remove the packaging)
- 1 sturdy wide-tooth comb (remove the packaging)
- 1 adult size toothbrush sealed in original packaging (new toothbrushes from a multi-pack can be removed from packaging and then sealed in a business-size envelope)
- 2 or 3 bars of soap (8 or 9 oz.) of any brand, sealed in original packaging

Drop off your bundled kit at the church between 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 19 and

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

David Halvorson, Dao Hella

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James,
Gene and Delores Nelson, Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam,
Joanne Sommers, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Dorothy Ostlie, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Janice Helgeson

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.

Meals on Wheels Drivers are Needed from September 13 - October 10

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board is organizing our annual time to help with this program. Please sign up on CCB. Drivers will pick up meals at the main entrance to the hospital at 12 noon. Each meal is in a plastic grocery bag and will be left on a door handle or in the building lobby. You will not enter private homes and are asked to maintain the 6 ft. social distance from others. More complete instructions are on the Driver's Information Form you will see when you sign up. Please call Kathy Shea 507-581-6047 if you have questions.

This Week At-a-Glance

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

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, Sep. 14	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Sep. 15	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Stephen Ministers via Zoom
Wednesday, Sep. 16	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Lydia and Paul Circles via Zoom
Thursday, Sep. 17	6:30 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
Friday, Sep. 18		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Sep. 19	9:00 a.m.	LWR Personal Care Packages Drop Off, St. John's
Sunday, Sep. 20	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Virtual Sunday School via Zoom Sunday Youth Programming via Zoom Coffee Hour via Zoom: Connect with St. John's Friends

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (September 20):

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10—4:11 † Psalm 145:1-8 † Philippians 1:21-30 † Matthew 20:1-16



St. John's
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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

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

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

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