



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 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 — Trumpet Tune in D Major

David N. Johnson

Ian DiMundo, trumpet

Welcome and Announcements

*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 - rase 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; Music: European tune; adapt. Michael Praetorius

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

P Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C 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.

C 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 — Romans 14:1-12

Pew Bible, page 923

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on two staves in a G-clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below the notes.

*Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible, page 800

Before the reading:

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

- 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. 1049

“Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

(8:30) ***The Apostles' Creed**

Front of ACS hymnal, page 17

(10:45) **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism** — *Front of ELW hymnal, pages 227–231*

*The Triune God proclaims **Levi Ryan Little** as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Levi's parents are Bethany Hodnefield and Ethan Little, and his sponsors are Ava Little, Kailee Little, Cole Little, Aubrey Smith, and Sammy Hodnefield.*

Presentation

P People of God, do you promise to support Levi
and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

***Profession of Faith** — *Front of ELW hymnal, page 229*

***Baptismal Hymn** — “You Have Put on Christ”



You have put on Christ; in him you have been bap-tized. Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

Text: International Commission on English in the Liturgy © 1969; Music: Howard Hughes © 1977

(During the hymn, all children are invited to join the baptismal group at the font.)

***Thanksgiving at the Font** — *Front of ELW hymnal, page 230*

Baptism

Welcome

P People of God, Levi is our new brother in Christ,
Let the people say, Amen!

All Amen!

P He is a worker with you in the kingdom of God,
Let the people say, Welcome!

All Welcome!

P Levi belongs to God forever,
Let the people shout, Alleluia!

All Alleluia!

Baptismal Hymn — “You Have Put on Christ”

*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

(8:30) "God, You Made All Things for Singing"

arr. John Ferguson

God, you made all things for singing, even canyons carved from stone. Thunder sets the hard rock ringing with the hymn the skies intone. Alleluia! Yours the praise and yours alone. As the clap and roll of thunder give the rocks their notes to start, Spirit, free the songs of wonder waiting in the thankful heart. Alleluia! Help each voice to sing its part. Join with us in all our singing. Make our music, Lord, your own. Be the bass note deeply ringing. Be the highest overtone. Alleluia!

Yours the praise and yours alone.

—Thomas Troeger

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" BWV 147

J. S. Bach

*Offering Hymn — "Praise and Thanksgiving" stanza 1

BUNESSAN

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

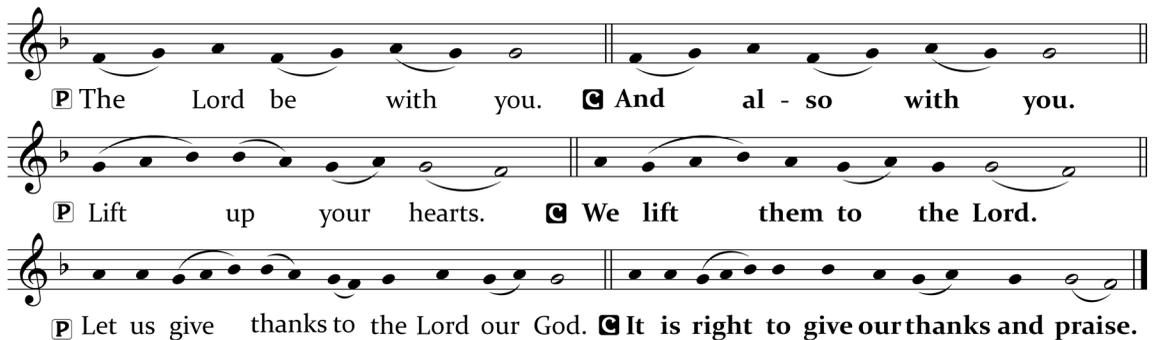
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

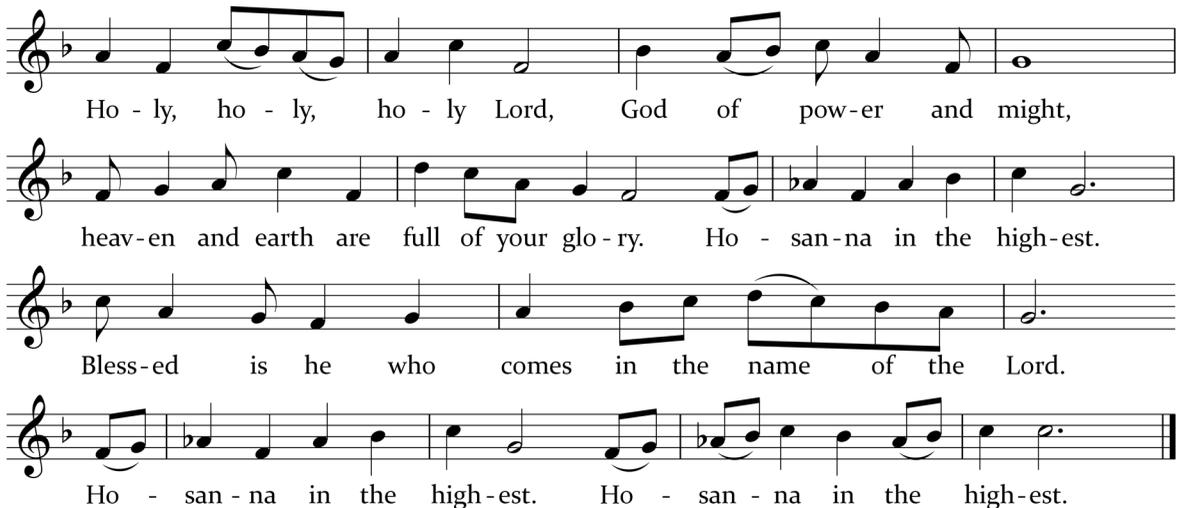


P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

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-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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. 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”



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.

(8:30) **Anthem** — “Thee We Adore”

arr. Ralph Johnson

*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee, who in thy sacrament art pleased to be,
both flesh and Spirit in thy presence fail, yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.
Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God: cleanse us, unclean, with thy most
cleansing blood; increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace
which from thy presence flow. O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see: may what
we thirst for soon our portion be, to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face, the
vision of thy glory and thy grace. Amen.* —Thomas Aquinas

Hymn — ELW No. 466

“In the Singing”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

- ☞ Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 548

“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — March

F. Melius Christiansen



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Scott Swanson (10:45) Eric Sponheim
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) David Sims
Trumpet	Ian DiMundo
Communion Prep	Georgene Johnson, Vicki Otis, Judy Smith
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
WelcomeFest Breakfast	St. John's Youth and Parents
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Dan Franklin, Jane Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) John Ophaug, Cindy Clauson, Dave and Ruthie Neuger (10:45) Doug O'Leary, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Leif Knecht

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover artwork "Shore" by Willa Kmoch, 2019.

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Children and Youth

Registration is Open for 2023–2024 Children and Youth Programs

Register online at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

What's Happening:

- **Today**
 - * First day of Sunday School, for children ages 3 (by 9/1/23) to grade 5, starts with an open house at 9:45 a.m. in the lower level of St. John's.
 - * First day of Sunday Youth Group at 9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room.
- **Wednesday, September 20**
 - * "ROCK," our Wednesday After School Program begins.
 - * Confirmation and High School Youth Group begin.

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Doris Ellingboe, mother of Karen Schuette, by Gerri Licke and Patrice Nordstrand. 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), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 645-4429. Available Dates: November 12 & 19 and December 3, 10, 17, 24, 25 & 31.

WelcomeFest

Today Between Services

WelcomeFest kicks off the start of the new school year at St. John's! All are welcome!

- **9:30–10:30 a.m.: WelcomeFest Breakfast, hosted by St. John's Youth.** Everyone is invited to St. John's Hall for a hearty breakfast of pancakes and sausages starting at 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.
- **9:45–10:00 a.m.: Open House for the First Day of Sunday School.** Preschool (age 3 by 9/1/23) through grade 5 (accompanied by a parent) begins in the lower level with an Open House. Check out where your classroom is and connect with your classroom leaders and friends!
- **10:00–10:30 a.m.: Children's activities in St. John's Hall!** Cakewalk, Scavenger Hunt, Glitter Tattoos, and more!

Hope to see you there!

Wednesday Night Meals Return

September 20, 5:15–6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

Menu: Macaroni & Cheese, Hot Dogs, Potato Chips, Fruit, and Dessert

Let's get together for dinner—come share a meal! It's a fantastic time for fellowship for all ages.

2023 St. John's Ministry Fair

Next Sunday, September 24, 9:30–10:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

Have you ever wondered about all of the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes at St. John's? Would you like to learn more about the variety of opportunities to get involved? There is something for everyone! Come to St. John's Hall between services to enjoy a beverage and a treat while checking out the displays, gathering information, and talking with group leaders, board members, and volunteers about what each ministry has to offer!

Wondering How to Get Involved at St. John's?

The Nominating Committee of St. John's is responsible for forming the church boards and Church Council that lead our congregation. They begin their work this fall and will be reaching out to members in the coming weeks. To learn more about our ministries, attend the Ministry Fair on September 24 or ask a staff member to connect you with the Nominating Committee.

Announcements (continued)

You Are Already There . . . When disasters like the floods in Libya or the earthquake in Morocco strike, Lutheran World Relief is our global partner for disaster assistance. Thanks to your designated offerings earlier in the year, you are already there. This week the Benevolence board released another \$4,495 to LWR for help where it is needed most. Thank you for your generosity!

The Politics & Faith Conversation Resumes

Wednesday, September 20, 6:30 p.m. Fireside Room

We're a small, friendly group of about eight. All are welcome. If you would like more information contact David Sudermann at dsudermann@charter.net or call 507-663-1097.

St. John's Courageous Conversations Book Group Begins Again

Thursday, September 28, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

This fall we're expanding on a topic from last year's WELCA presentation on Christian Nationalism. We will read *The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism* by Katherine Stewart. The group meets every two weeks: September 28, October 12 & 26, and November 9 & 30. Books are available at Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to sign up and receive the reading plan and Zoom link.

Return of the Sunday Evening Gatherings

Tonight, Sunday, September 17, 6:00–6:30 p.m., First UCC (300 Union St.)

Please join us on Sunday evenings for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and communion. The first Sunday of the month we will follow a traditional Taizé format, which focuses on repetitive singing, minimal spoken word, and does not include communion. The Evening Gathering is led by laypeople from First UCC and other local churches. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare for the coming week.

St. John's Forum

Dr. Deanna Thompson – Martin Luther's Anti-Judaism and Our Contemporary Response

Sunday, October 1, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

The Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to join us as Dr. Deanna Thompson launches our series of forums on the legacy and consequences of Christian anti-Judaism. Speaking on "Martin Luther's Anti-Judaism and Our Contemporary Response," Dr. Thompson will describe Luther's anti-Jewish stance by focusing on his 1543 pamphlet, "On the Jews and their Lies," explore the legacy of Luther's anti-Judaism, and, finally, discuss ways the ELCA has been working to repair Luther's legacy. Dr. Thompson is Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community and Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy at St. Olaf College. For more on this series, please check out the September edition of *The Voice*.

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

Shirley Anderson, John Ferguson, Lester Gunderson, Aiden Mandsager,
Mary Ellen North, Donna Paulsen, Wendy Scholz, Noah Tracy, Karen Wingate,
Aarin Morse (son of Roberta Morse), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those celebrating the baptism of

Levi Ryan Little, son of Bethany Hodnefield and Ethan Little

Those with ongoing health concerns

Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Greta Matzner-Gore, Donna James,
Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson, John Quam, Scott Quinnell,
Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

David and Pat Halsor, Rose Youngquist

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

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 24):

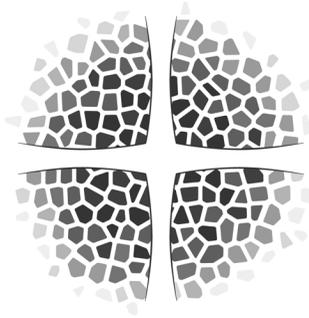
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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. 18	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	American Red Cross Blood Drive, St. John's Hall
	5:15 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #27517, Undercroft
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Contented Cow
	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Sept. 19	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting, Fireside Room
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Sept. 20	12:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Knitters, St. John's Library
	6:15 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room Where Politics Meets Faith: Wed. Conversation, Fireside Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Sept. 21	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Faith, Fact & Fiction Book Group, St. John's Library
	4:00 p.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Champion Force Athletics, St. John's Hall
Friday, Sept. 22	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Sept. 23		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Sept. 24	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary
	9:30 a.m.	Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School (Preschool-Grade 5), Lower Level Sunday Youth Group (Grades 6-12), Lower Level
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary
	2:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop #27500, Undercroft



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*

Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*

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*

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