



SERVICE OF THE WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 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 — "Voices Raised to You"

Marilyn Biery

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn — “Voices Raised to You” (#845)**

SONG OF PRAISE

Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the
 songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—
 for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., © 1997 GIA Publications; Music: Carolyn Jennings, © 1996 admin. Augsburg Fortress

***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** Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us
your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us
your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your
Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for

me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” ⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 145:1-8

Antiphon: Marcus Veenstra

Antiphon: Gloria a Dios en los cielos. (Glory to God in the highest.)



¹I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³**Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!**
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power. Antiphon

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

⁷**They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;**
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. Antiphon

Second Reading — Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L The word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter. **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but

each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

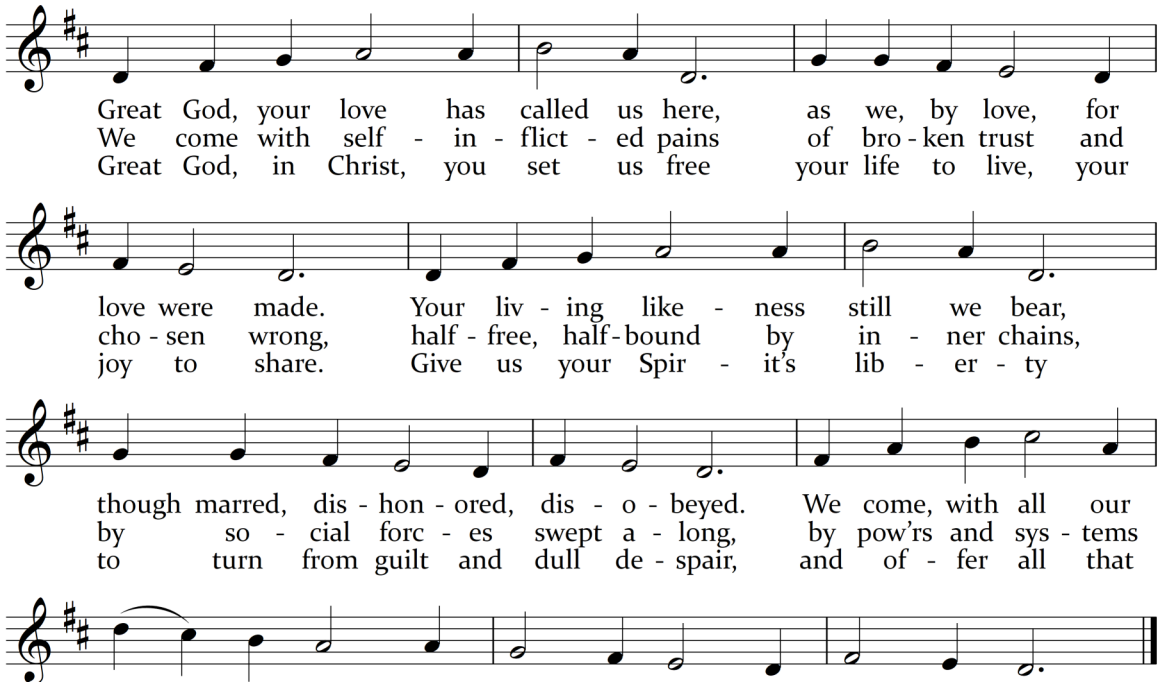
Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” (#358)

RYBURN



Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 Great God, in Christ, you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company; Music: Norman Crocker, © Oxford University Press

***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.

Words of Witness — Moment for Stewardship

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

Robert Powell, Kristina Langlois

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

☐ Gracious and merciful God,
slow to anger, rich in love,
we bless your name and give you thanks.
In our need, you make haste to help us.
You plant us beside streams of your wisdom,
teach us in pastures greenening with truth,
and guide us on the path of your promise.
By your Spirit awaken our faith,
that, feasting on your Word,
we may love you more fully
and serve our neighbor more faithfully;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ 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 — “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (#678)**

RUSTINGTON



God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
Trea - sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.




gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, © 1961, ren. 1989, admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry

***Dismissal**

 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “March for a Festival”

David N. Johnson



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	McLaughlin 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 at 9:00 am. on Sundays.** 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 for the grateful prayers for Marlene Engstrom by Duane and Marlene Engstrom. 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 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

Starting today, 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. The Zoom link can be found in this past week's E-Voice or on the church calendar on our website.

Virtual Sunday School for Grades K-5

Today, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Starting today, 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! Families should have received an email earlier this week from Julie Brehmer with the Zoom link.

Preschool children, ages 3, 4, and 5, are Invited to a Separate Video Experience

Today, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

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! Families should have received an email earlier this week from Julie Brehmer with the Zoom link.

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.

Courageous Conversations Book Group

Thursdays, 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.

Announcements (continued)

UN International Day of Peace: Tomorrow, September 21

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.” Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic. Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together. About the International Day of Peace: The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

For more information: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

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 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 26.

St. John’s Website

Please check out our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Our website contains additional information regarding events and programs, along with a link to our online church directory, Church Community Builder (CCB), in the top right hand corner. You can also access the church calendar.

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, Bev Sponheim, Julie Zdenek

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Gilbert Felton (father of Maribeth Beck)

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

Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson, Richard Olson

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 27):

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 + Psalm 25:1-9 + Philippians 2:1-13 + Matthew 21:23-32

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. 21	12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study Grief Support Group, Fireside Room Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Sep. 22	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Council via Zoom
Wednesday, Sep. 23	10:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite Communion at Kildahl, Offsite
Thursday, Sep. 24		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, Sep. 25		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Sep. 26	9:00 a.m.	LWR Personal Care Packages Drop Off, St. John's
Sunday, Sep. 27	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



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.