

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 † 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 — Variations and Fugue on RUSTINGTON

Brenda Portman

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 864

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

*Greeting

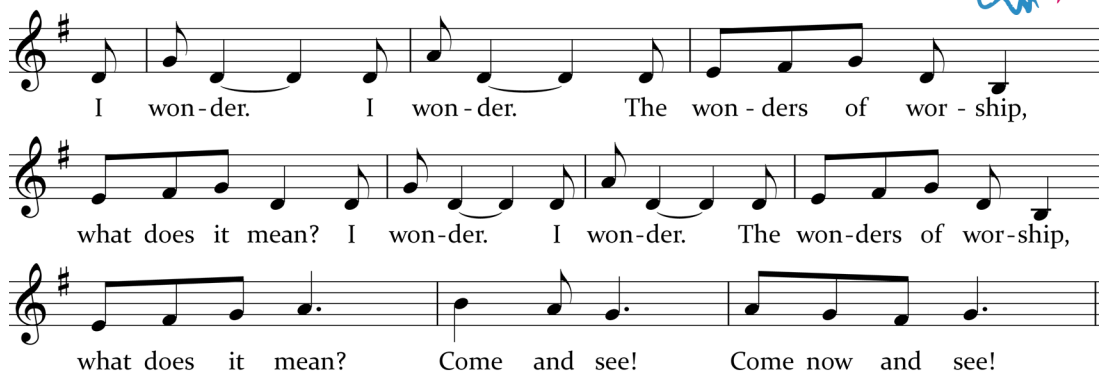
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

- P** God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love
for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to
your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

Children's Message

“Wonders of Worship”



I won-der. I won-der. The won- ders of wor- ship,
what does it mean? I won-der. I won-der. The won- ders of wor-ship,
what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!



Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 113

Antiphon: John Bell

*Antiphon: From the rising of the sun and until its setting,
let the servants of the Lord praise God's holy name.*



¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants [|] of the LORD;
praise the name [|] of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the [|] LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- [|] evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its [|] going down
let the name of the [|] LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high a- [|] bove all nations;
God's glory a- [|] bove the heavens. Antiphon**

⁵Who is like the [|] LORD our God,
who sits en- [|] throned on high,

⁶**but stoops [|] to behold
the heavens [|] and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out [|] of the dust
and lifts up the poor [|] from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them [|] with the rulers,
with the rulers [|] of the people. Antiphon**

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Luke 16:1-9

Spark Story Bible, page 384

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenschier

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 655

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

*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

(8:30) "There Are Children at the Door"

David Cherwien

There are children at the door, thousands, millions, many more, and my Jesus makes me think, "Take them eat and take them drink." Jesus, Jesus, I will go, when the heart is high and low. There are beggars at the gate, waiting long and waiting late, and my Jesus makes me say, "Take them coat upon their way." There are lonely at the tree, resting there to talk to me, and my Jesus makes me stay with him till the end of day. There are weary at my side, washed ashore in angry tide, and my Jesus makes me go where the storm and waters blow.

– Herbert F. Brokering

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

Benjamin Culli

*Offering Hymn — "For the Beauty of the Earth" stanza 1

DIX



For the beau-ty of the earth, for the beau-ty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher

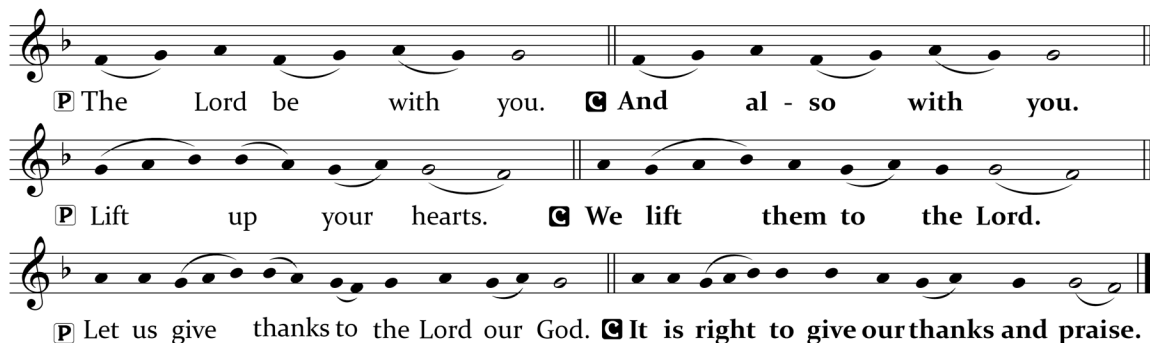
*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

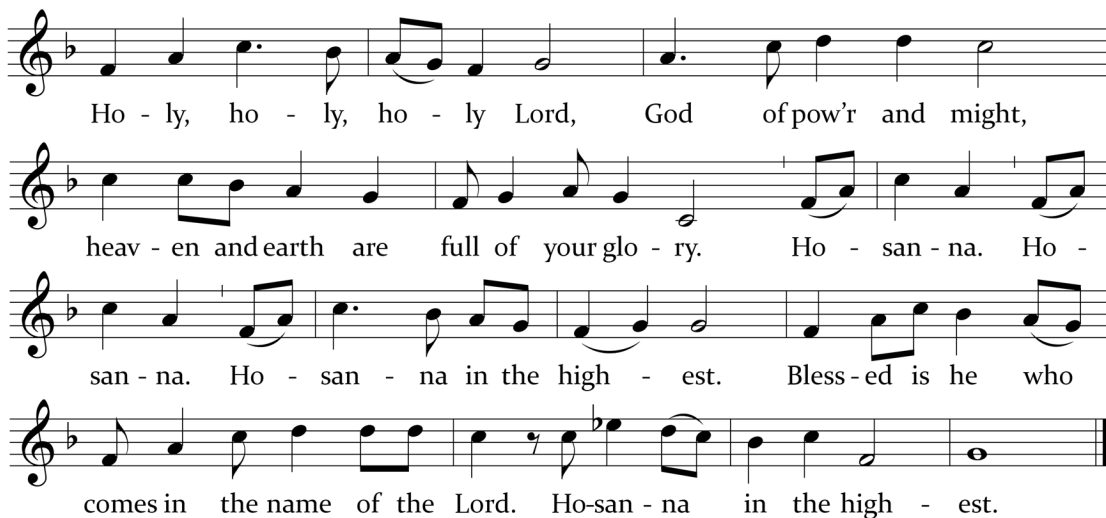


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

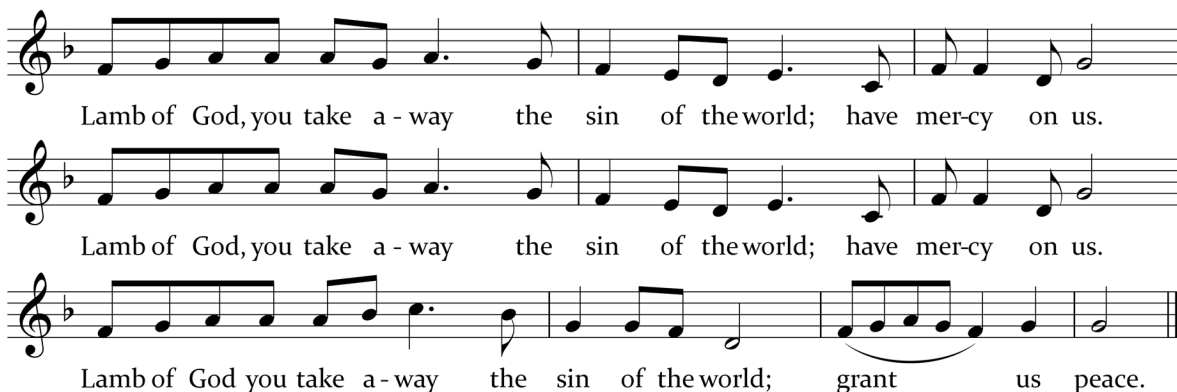
*The Lord's Prayer

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 is written on three staves in a single system. Each staff begins 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, aligned with the notes. The first two staves end with a double bar line, and the third staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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** — "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

Hymn — ELW No. 676

"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

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

***Prayer after Communion**

℣ O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

☞ **Amen.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response: ☞ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 678

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

***Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — Toccata and Fugue in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Scott Swanson (10:45) Simpson-Younger Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) David Sims
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) Christy Hall-Holt, Craig Schultz (10:45) TBD
Coffee Servicer	Ted Peterson, Karen Schuette
Refreshments	Rhonda Reece
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Chris and Martha Erickson
Ushers	(8:30) Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Mike Bull, Ruth Dahl, Gordon Moore

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (September 28):

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 † Psalm 146 † 1 Timothy 6:6-19 † Luke 16:19-31

Wednesday Night Supper
September 24, 2025

**Old Fashioned
Nordic Dinner**



**Celebrating 150 years
of good cooking by
St. John's Women**

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in honor of our pastors by David and Martha Brown. 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 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: October 5 & 26 and November 2.

St. John's Forum: *Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change*

Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Professor Kiara Jorgenson launches our series on responding faithfully to climate change in her talk, "*Toward Ecological Conversion*." Professor Jorgenson is the chair of Department of Environmental Studies and associate professor of religion and environmental studies at St. Olaf College.

Community Survey

What concerns do you and your family have about our common future? St. John's is asking adults in our community to respond to a survey about community needs ranging from housing to food to medical care. The results are anonymous and will be used to shape how we work with other faith-based communities to address common needs. You can fill it out online from the link sent in the E-Voice or today at the table in the Commons.

Please Sign the ELCA Immigration Advocacy Postcards on a Table in the Commons

The cards ask our legislators to protect legal pathways to immigration; ensure safety and due process for those seeking refuge; and advance policies to keep families together. The cards ask for your name and address and the name of your legislator. You can complete 3 cards, one for each senator and one for your house representative. Put the card in the large envelope on the table. They will be mailed to the ELCA Advocacy office in D.C. and then hand-delivered to the legislator's office.

St. John's Writing Group, "Inspired Pens"

Tuesday, September 23, 10:30 a.m.–Noon, St. John's Library

Inspiration for this season's monthly sessions will come from the book *Ladder to the Light* by Steven Charleston, an indigenous Choctaw Elder and former Episcopal bishop who has also taught at Luther Seminary. The group will focus on writing as a spiritual practice. Purchasing the book is not necessary. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Barb Kuhlman at bkuhlman47@gmail.com or Chris Engstrom at revchristea@me.com.

St. John's WELCA 150th Birthday Bash & Hotdish Hoedown

Saturday, October 11, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

Tickets on sale between services in the Commons. \$15 (they will be \$20 at the door).

Announcements (continued)

The Nominating Committee is beginning its work identifying leaders for next year's Church Council and Boards. There are opportunities to serve in every area of the church's ministry. If you have an interest in serving the church in this way, you can let the committee know by contacting Kristy Harms at nubbin75@gmail.com.

St. John's Forum: *Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change*

Next Sunday, September 28, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Dr. Trish Zimmerman explores the spirituality of tending to our natural surroundings in her talk, "*Entangled Divine. Meeting God through Prairie Habitat.*" Dr. Zimmerman is an associate professor of practice in the Department of Religion at St. Olaf College.

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!

Sunday Evening Gatherings

6:00–6:30 p.m., First UCC

Please join us on Sunday evenings for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and Communion. The Evening Gathering is facilitated by lay people in Northfield. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare for the coming week.

Children and Youth

Sunday School

Preschool–Grade 5 meet in their classrooms (lower level) at 9:45 a.m. Dismissal is at 10:30 a.m. St. John's uses a lectionary-based classroom style of learning, which makes it easy for kids to make connections between what they learn in Sunday school and what they learn in the worship services by using the same bible readings. **Today's lesson: *Two Masters—Luke 16:1-13***

Sunday Youth Gathering (Grades 6–12)

Sundays, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 for treats, highs and lows, and an interactive faith discussion. Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

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, Michelle Kramer-Prevost,
Patrice Nordstrand, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

Those celebrating the marriage of

Dylan Gehring and Therese Heiden

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Elaine Polzin (mother of Mark Polzin)

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, 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

Carolyn Jennings, Laila Burns Hedstrom

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



After joining St. John's a little over a year ago,
I became more aware of all the many ways
WELCA is alive and well here! I've joined a circle, the

quilting group, the WELCA board, and attend Boomer gatherings. I try to give in whatever ways I
can. And, do you know what? I have received SO much more - namely, friendships with some of the
most interesting, giving, and caring people I've ever met. The same goes for St. John's Chorale - what a
blessing to sing with Nathan and the Chorale!

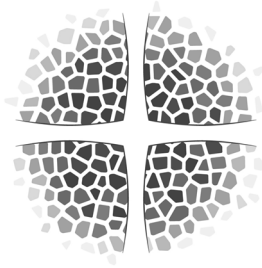


- Rhonda Reece

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. 22	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 23	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Inspired Pens, St. John's Library Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Church Council, Undercroft
Wednesday, Sept. 24	10:15 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite Communion at NRC, Offsite Communion at Kildahl Apartments, Offsite Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Meatball Supper ~ Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room Politics & Faith Discussion Group, St. John's Library St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Sept. 25	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library Book Buddies, St. John's Library Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Balcony
Friday, Sept. 26	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Sept. 27		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Sept. 28	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall Sunday School: Preschool-Grade 5, Lower Level Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6-12, Youth Room St. John's Forum, St. John's Hall Worship (3 rd Graders Receive CATEchisms), Sanctuary 10 th Grade Confirmation Retreat



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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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.*