



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 † 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 — Two settings of “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 833 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Stanza 1 — all singing

Stanza 2 — bass voices

Stanza 3 — treble voices

Stanzas 4 & 5 — all singing

*Greeting

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

☑ And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

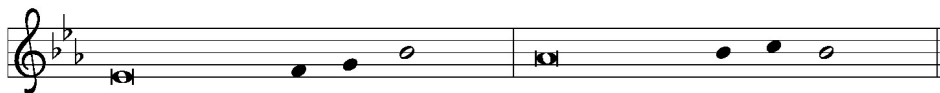
☐ God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.
Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things
that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Antiphon: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.



- ¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
- ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.** *Antiphon*
- ⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of
your good- | ness, O LORD.
- ⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is

Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 1005

“Ask the Complicated Questions”

***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) "The Kingdom"

André Thomas

Righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost, that's the kingdom of God. Don't you want to be a part of the kingdom? Come on everybody! Oh, yes, there's joy in the kingdom! Oh, yes, there's peace in the kingdom! Oh, yes, there's love in the kingdom! The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. We are part of the earth, and it is a part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle: these are our brothers. All things are connected. Rivers our brothers, earth our mother. The earth is the Lord's. That's the kingdom of God!

– based on Romans 14:17, Helena Barrington

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"

Craig Phillips

***Offering Hymn — "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

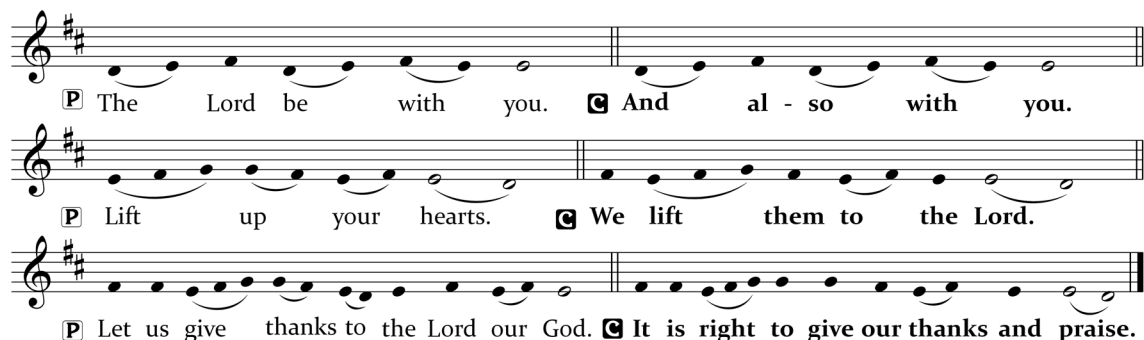
*Offering Prayer

☐ Let us pray.

☑ **God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

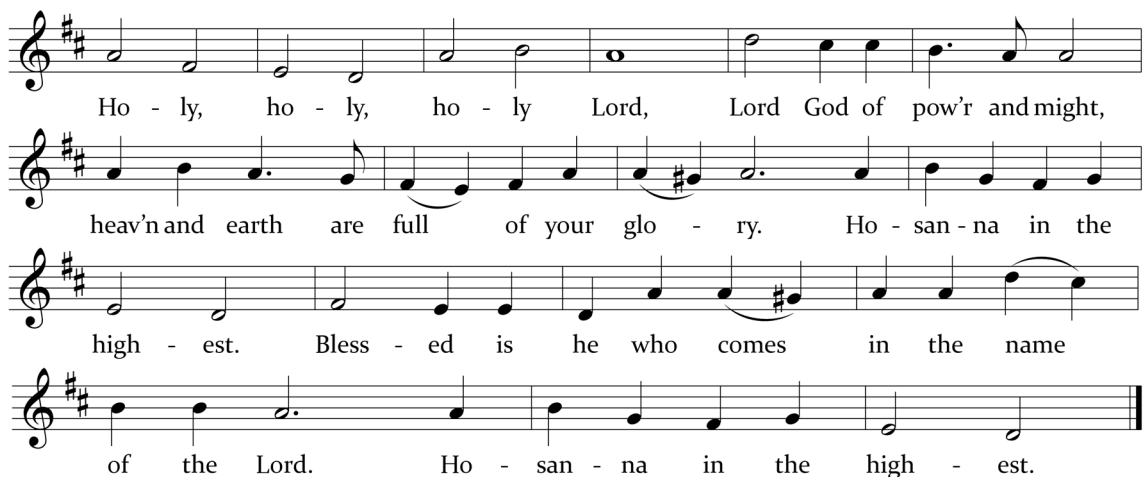


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n 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.

*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, grant us peace.

(8:30) **Anthem** — "You Are Holy"

Per Harling, arr. John Helgen

*You are holy, you are whole. You are always, ever more than we ever understand.
You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead. You are holy,
you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna to our God!*

Hymn — ELW No. 584

"The Son of God, Our Christ"

*Post-Communion Blessing

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

***Prayer after Communion**

- ℒ Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us
living signs of your healing and love, following the way of Jesus.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 551

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Tuba Tune”

Craig Sellar Lang



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art design by Judy Swanson.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Katie Fick
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Brenda Nelson (10:45) Susan Canon
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Livestream	Jenny Carlson, Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) Gerri Licke, Cora Scholz (10:45) Sandra Nyvall, Vikki Van Veldhuizen
Coffee Service	Angie Gehring, Kristy Harms
Refreshments	Rhonda Reece
Counters	Sue Brockman, Brenda Bultman, Judd Lohmann
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Johnson, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (10:45) Chuck Cannon, Kent Rommereim, Mark Rydberg, Eric Sponheim

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (October 4):

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 + Psalm 80:7-15 + Philippians 3:4b-14 + Matthew 21:33-46

TODAY

Meatball Luncheon

Sunday September 27 Noon - 1:30



**\$5.00 per person \$3.00 for children 5 - 12 yrs
(payable at the door)**

**Fundraiser for scholarships to the 2027
ELCA Youth Gathering in the Twin Cities**

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Fred Gaggioli, Jr. by Pam Groves-Gaggioli and Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office at 507-645-4429. Next available dates: October 11 & 18 and November 22.

St. John's Forum: *A Forgetful Pharaoh, Protesting Midwives, and the Boy Who Lived* Today, 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

This fall, St. John's Forum will return to biblical drama in the pages of scripture with a series on the book of Exodus. Many of these you might remember from Sunday School, but we hope to dig deeper into these stories with details you might not have noticed and questions you never knew you could ask. Did you know that two rule-breaking midwives helped to save the Hebrew people? Did you know that Moses was a murderer? Can God really part the waters of the sea and does God really send torturous plagues upon people? We hope you will join us in opening your Bibles and minds to the rich meaning in these foundational stories that can still speak to us today.

- **Next Sunday, October 4, Forum:** *Exodus 3—Moses the Murderer, the Burning Bush, and the Call of God*, led by Prof. Nicholas Schaser

Pub Theology: *Salvation*

Monday, September 28, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

We are continuing the Pub Theology series on words of faith. This week we are talking about the word salvation. What does it mean to be saved? Saved from what? Who is saved, and who decides who receives salvation? Come with your questions and ponderings! We will once again be using Marcus Borg's book *Speaking Christian* as a springboard for conversation. Copies are available at the Welcome Desk.

Fika for Parents

Fika is the Swedish tradition of taking a break for coffee, treats, and conversation. We invite parents of young children to come and take a "Fika" break with other parents during our Sunday School time, 9:45–10:30 a.m. starting today. We'll meet in the lower level next to the Nursery. Childcare will be provided. Questions? Ask Arielle (arielleloy@gmail.com).

You're invited to join the next Courageous Conversations book discussion of Ben McBride's *Troubling the Water: The Urgent Work of Radical Belonging*

The book is available at Content Bookstore. Discussion dates are Thursdays October 1, 15, 29 and November 5 from 4:00–5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com if you'd like to participate and to get the reading plan and Zoom link.

From the Evangelism & Communications Board. . .

Our new STJ video worship business cards feature a custom QR code that takes you straight to our online services so anyone can join our vibrant faith community from anywhere, anytime.

Announcements (continued)

Courageous Conversations: *Supporting Immigrant Neighbors Now*

Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Co-founder Rachel Matney will share the story of Northfield Supporting Neighbors (NSN) and some ways neighbors came together to help protect and support our immigrant and vulnerable neighbors during Operation Metro Surge. She will update us on current needs, actions, and how to get involved. NSN received the Northfield Human Rights Commission's organization award for 2026.

Share Your Talent(s)

Saturday, October 10, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Talents will shine at this free WELCA event—monetary, culinary, musically and more! Bring your “Cherish All Children” mugs full of coins to the gathering. St. Olaf interns will share their amazing musical talents. If you'd also like to perform at this event with your ensemble contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli. If you'd like to help cook, clean, etc., please sign up in CCB or contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli. Lunch will be provided.

Mindful Walk in Hauberg Woods

Saturday, October 10, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Enjoy an opportunity for quiet contemplation in the spirit of community, while observing the natural world as we enter the season of autumn. This gentle walk is approximately 1 mile in length. Wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes. Questions? Contact Debra Miller at debra.ehret@gmail.com. Sign up in the Commons or online through CCB.

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (September 27)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Fika for Parents (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level Commons)

Next Week (October 4)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)

St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Fika for Parents (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level Commons)

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

Bill Carlson, Barbara Dettle, Fred Huemoeller, Barbara Johnson,
Joanie Lee, Gordy Moore, Bruce Ohland, George Pinc

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Thomas Barvir (father of Scott Barvir)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Ruth Smestad Anglin, Mary Cisar, Greta Matzner-Gore, Lowell Johnson,
Dagfinn Moe, Dolores Nelson, David Norman, Mary Ellen North, Rachel Peterson,
Alice Rickert, Ingrid Alberding, Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

All who are homebound, including

Laila Burns Hedstrom, Janice Helgeson, Carolyn Jennings

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;
Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.



**Served from 5:15–6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

Menu for Wednesday, September 30:
Taco Boats
(Vegetarian Option Available)

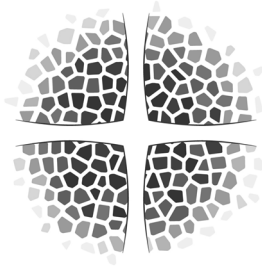
All are welcome!

Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

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. 28	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Sept. 29	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
Wednesday, Sept. 30	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Undercroft
	2:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee, 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
	5:45 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Fireside Room
	6:15 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Offsite at Bethel Lutheran Church
		High School Youth Group, Youth Room
	6:30 p.m.	Faith & Politics Discussion Group, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Oct. 1	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	1:30 p.m.	CVEC Class, St. John's Theater
	4:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
		Just for Kix Dance Class, Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group (AA Meeting), Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Courageous Conversations, St. John's Hall
Friday, Oct. 2	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Oct. 3		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Oct. 4	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
		<i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 13.)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	CVEC Annual Meeting, St. John's Hall



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 (On Sabbatical through October 17, 2026)*

Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*

Katie Fick, *Bridge Pastor*

Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*

Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*

Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Nick Gilbert, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

Sally Lindell, *Faith Community Nurse*

Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*

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.*