

SERVICE OF THE WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 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.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Today we rejoice in the gifts of baptism: the promise of God's faithfulness and forgiveness, the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit, and life together in the body of Christ. This year, as we cannot gather all our 10th graders and their families at once, we will be celebrating Affirmation of

Baptism with each student on separate Sundays—claiming God's promises for them at this moment in their lives. They have been through a long journey of catechesis in the faith, and many family members, teachers, and mentors have been part of this formation with them. We rejoice that they are ready to publicly claim God's promises to them stating their intentions to continue in the faith: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. They are:

**Mason Babbini, Ben Blomberg, Rhett Garlie, Lucy Messen,
Johann Schroeer, Thomas Weber, Gus Welbaum**

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Two settings of “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Hans Friedrich Micheelsen
David Cherwien

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (#858) LOBE DEN HERREN



Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, tr. Catherine Winkworth; Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

C **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 Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured
out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us
by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of
righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Exodus 32:1-14

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” ²Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. ⁷The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Second Reading — Philippians 4:1-9

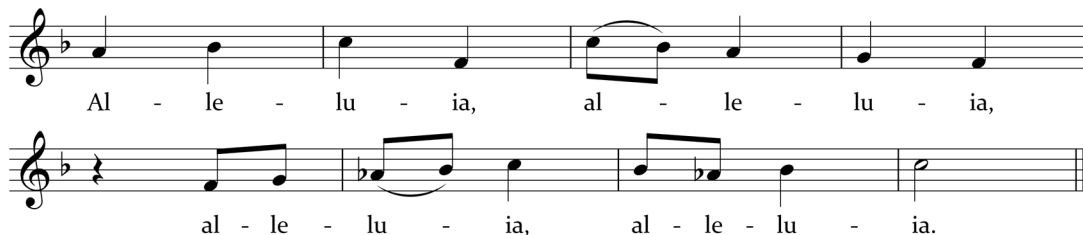
¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds

in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 22:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

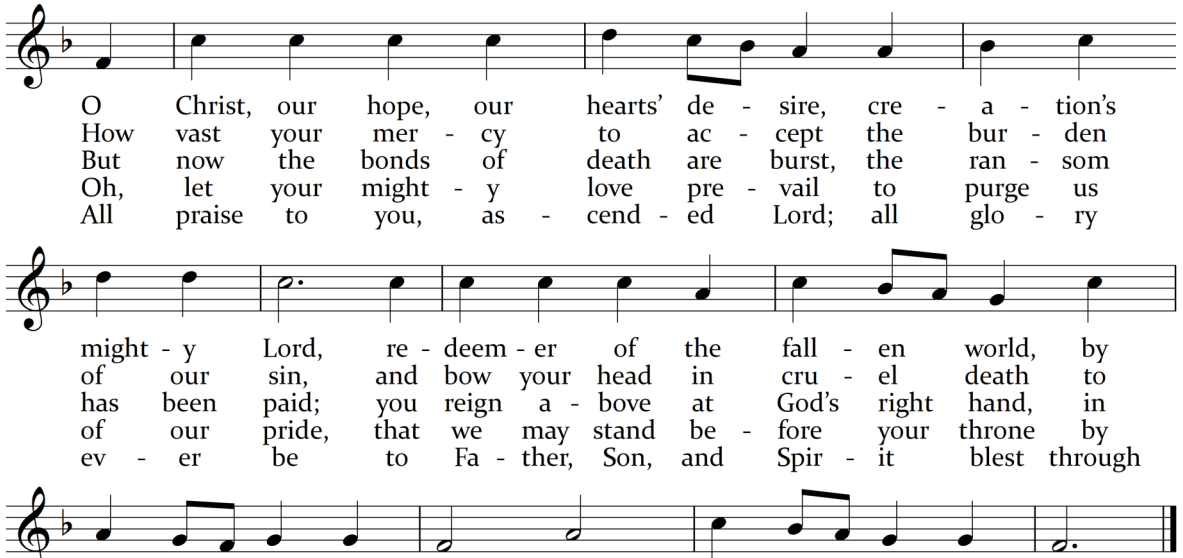
P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — "O Christ, Our Hope" (#604)

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN



O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry

might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through

ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, adapt.; Music: Nikolaus Herman

*Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Rhett Garlie

Prayer

Response:

☒ Amen.

Profession of Faith

☐ Lord, we believe.

☒ Help our unbelief.

- P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C** **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.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C** **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.**

Intent to Continue in Our Baptismal Covenant with God

Promise of the Assembly

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Rhett
and pray for him in his life in Christ?
- C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Prayer of Invocation

- P** We give you thanks, O God, that through water
and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth,
cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
- C** **Amen.**

Confirmation through Laying On of Hands and Prayer

Celebrating with the Confirmand

- P** Let us rejoice with Rhett, our brother in Christ.
- C** **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Musical Affirmation — “Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” (#814)

John Bell

Sung twice.

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song, and the second staff contains the final line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text and Music: John L. Bell, © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High”

Lyle Neff

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

P 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, you teach us in pastures green 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.

C Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

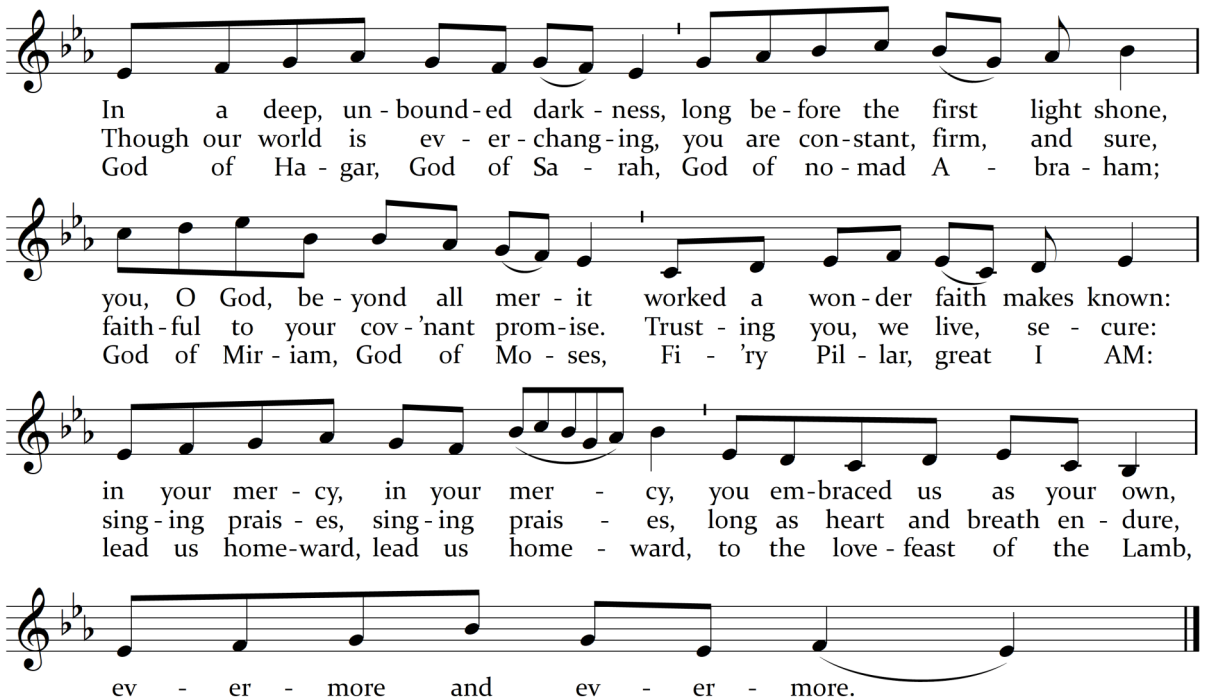
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:  Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness” (ACS #1093) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the first light shone,
Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant, firm, and sure,
God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad A - bra - ham;
you, O God, be - yond all mer - it worked a won - der faith makes known:
faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise. Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure:
God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses, Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM:
in your mer - cy, in your mer - cy, you em - braced us as your own,
sing - ing prais - es, sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and breath en - dure,
lead us home - ward, lead us home - ward, to the love - feast of the Lamb,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Anonymous, China; tr. Francis P. Jones, adapt. Mary Louise Bringle; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th century

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Finale” from *Das Holsteinische Orgelbüchlein* Hans Friedrich Micheelsen



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	Sue Brockman and Brian Evenson
Organist	Nathan Proctor

**Third Graders Receiving their Bibles
Today Include:**

Noelle Berger, Ava Damm, Elliot Davis, Jude Hassanally, Imogen Jackman,
Andrew King, Marin McBroom, Isabella Rudser, Greta Skoglund,
Wyatt Strese, Mila Strunic, Andrew Tacheny, Edie Taggart

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Shirley Falck. 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: January 24 & 31. 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.

Worship with Us on Sundays via Live-Stream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. will now be live-streamed via our website. We hope you'll join us via live-stream or radio on KYMN.

Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.

Virtual Sunday School takes a break today and next Sunday, October 18, and will resume after MEA break on Sunday, October 25.

Pub Theology Meets Twice this October via Zoom

Mondays, October 12 & 26, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Topic for October 12: Is Attention a Spiritual Issue? What holds your attention? How do you manage your focus with all the competition of the media for your attention? Is it getting harder for us to pay attention to what matters? Let's talk about the connection between attention, relationship, and prayer.

Reading the Bible Six Ways: No Meeting this Tuesday, October 13

Sessions will resume after the MEA break on Tuesday, October 20

Gathering Bible Study with Lydia and Paul Circles via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14, 10:00 a.m.

All members of St. John's are invited to join us for this month's Bible Study on "Holy Time." Contact Marilyn Calcutt at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com for the Zoom connection information and a copy of the Bible study.

Youth Bonfire Gatherings

Wednesday, October 14

Middle School Youth Meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

High School Youth Meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth families receive an email about the bonfire location. Questions? Contact Emmanuel Kaghondi at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Announcements (continued)

Growing Pumpkins this Year?

Julie Brehmer is looking for pumpkins to give to children at St. John's this year. If you are growing pumpkins and would like to donate a few, send her an email at: children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks so much!

Properties & Grounds Board Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, October 24, 8:00 a.m.

We are always looking for volunteers to help keep our property clean and appealing for everyone to enjoy. Bring along rakes, shovels, brooms, etc. Thank you!

November Courageous Conversations: Todd Lippert, MN House of Representatives District 20B

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Representative Lippert will speak on the November elections, Race, and where do we go from here? Registration required. Register at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated to Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits!

We collected 61 completed kits and we have enough items to bundle an additional 50, for a total of 111 kits. Thank you for your generosity.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

Message from St. John's Stephen Ministers

There are many losses we are all feeling with COVID-19 such as the death of loved ones, separation from family and friends, suspended worshipping at St. John's, and loss of income. St. John's Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you one-on-one or in small group sessions via Zoom where we can talk about these changes in our lives. If this would be helpful to you, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Thank You for supporting the Blessing Box at St. John's!

The Blessing Box is located on the north side of St. John's and contains hygiene and food products as a "stop and go" location for anyone needing a helping hand. It's been a busy site this summer! All donations have been greatly appreciated. Items that go quickly are: toilet paper, hand soap/sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine products, as well as take and eat food items. Feel free to donate items directly to the Blessing Box. Questions? Email Julie Brehmer: children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Marybeth Bremer

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Gloria Kiester

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

Lois Pearson, Gloria Porter, Lois Rand

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 (October 18):

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7 † Psalm 96:1-9 † 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 † Matthew 22:15-22

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, Oct. 12	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 13	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Board Meetings via Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 14	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, Oct. 15		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, Oct. 16		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Oct. 17		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Oct. 18	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Coffee Hour via Zoom: Connect with St. John's Friends



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

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.