



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 11, 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 — “Adagio”

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ACS No. 977

“Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table”

***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**

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Exodus 5:1-23

¹Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.”

²But Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should listen to him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and I will not let Israel go.” ³Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has revealed himself to us; let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the Lord our God, or he will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.” ⁴But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their work? Get to your labors!” ⁵Pharaoh continued, “Now they are more numerous than the people of the land and yet you want them to stop laboring!” ⁶That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people, as well as their supervisors, ⁷“You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as before; let them go and gather straw for themselves. ⁸But you shall require of them the same quantity of bricks as they have made previously; do not diminish it, for they are lazy; that is why they cry, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’ ⁹Let heavier work be laid on them; then they will pay attention to it and not to deceptive words.”

¹⁰So the taskmasters and the supervisors of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh: I will not give you straw. ¹¹Go and get straw yourselves, wherever you can find it, but your work will not be lessened in the least.” ¹²So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. ¹³The taskmasters urged them on, saying, “Complete your work, the same daily assignment as when you were given straw.” ¹⁴And the Israelite supervisors whom Pharaoh’s taskmasters had set over them were beaten and were asked, “Why did you not finish the required quantity of bricks yesterday and today, as you did before?”

¹⁵Then the Israelite supervisors came to Pharaoh and cried, “Why do you treat your servants like this? ¹⁶No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, ‘Make bricks!’ Look how your servants are beaten! But the fault is with you.” ¹⁷He said, “You are lazy, lazy; that is why you say, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the Lord.’ ¹⁸Go now and work, for no straw shall be given you, but you shall still deliver the same number of bricks.” ¹⁹The Israelite supervisors saw that they were in trouble when they were told, “You shall not lessen your daily number of bricks.” ²⁰As they left Pharaoh, they came upon Moses and Aaron, who were waiting to meet them. ²¹They said to them, “The Lord look upon you and judge! You have brought us into bad odor with Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.” ²²Then Moses turned to the Lord and said, “O my Lord, why have you mistreated this people? Why did you ever send me? ²³Since I first came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has mistreated this people, and you have done nothing at all to deliver your people.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 22:1-14

Spark Story Bible, page 304

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

G 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.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Katie Fick

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 462

“Now We Join in Celebration”

*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) "Good Shepherd, You Are Ever Near"

arr. Carolyn Jennings

*Good Shepherd, you are ever near, your goodness fails me never; I nothing lack,
for I am yours and you are mine forever. Where streams of living water flow,
through pastures green you lead me; so gently you refresh my soul, with heavenly
food you feed me. I do not fear death's shadowed vale when you are here
beside me; your rod and staff and strength prevail to comfort and to guide me.
And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever.*

– Henry W. Baker, from Psalm 23

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "We Now Pray to the Holy Spirit"

Dieterich Buxtehude

*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.**

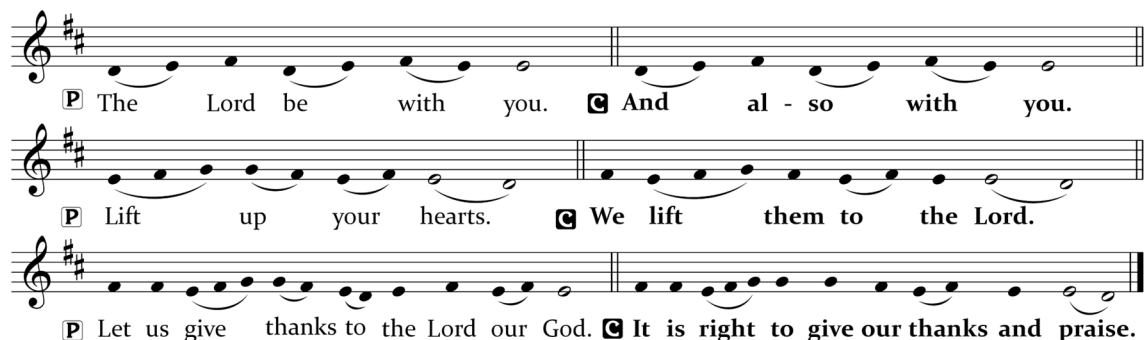
*Offering Prayer

☐ 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

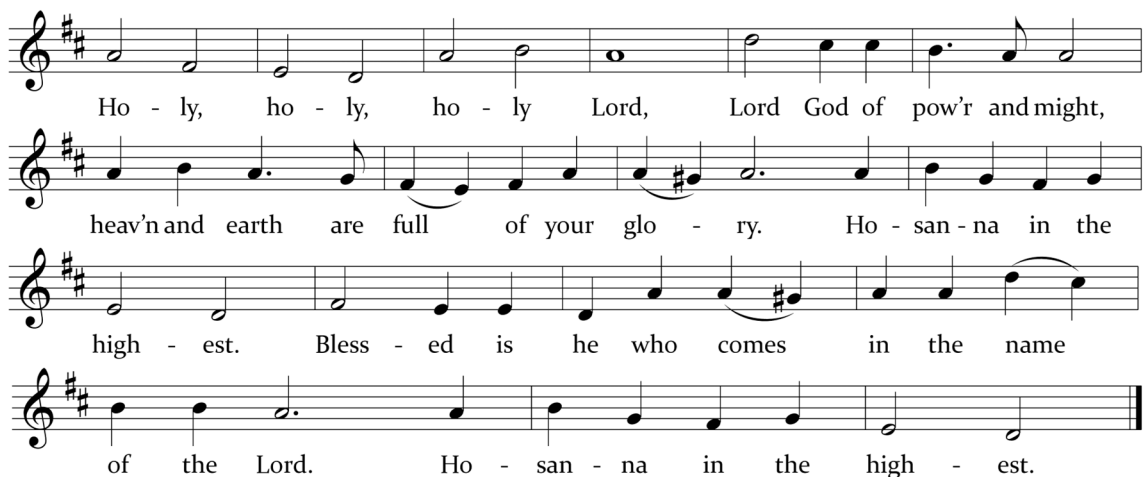


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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

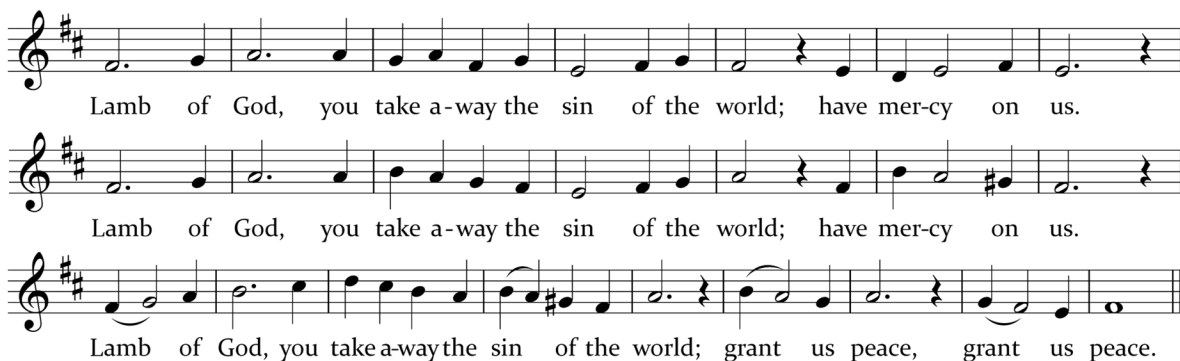
*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn — ELW No. 641

"All Are Welcome"

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Sending of Communion to the Sick and Homebound

***Prayer after Communion**

- ☞ 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. 502

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — “Praise to the Lord”

J. G. Walther



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Katie Fick
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Scott Swanson (10:45) Jenny Wright
Organist	Jim Hild
Choir Director	(8:30) David Clarke
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Prep	Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl
Communion Cleanup	Vicki Otis
Greeters	(8:30) Marie Benson, Gerri Licke (10:45) Judy Karlsen, Barbara Walters
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson, Craig Schultz
Refreshments	Doug Johnson, Gerri Licke, Rhonda Reece
Counters	David Becker, David Nitz, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jon and Cindy McBroom, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Andrew Tacheny, Chris Tacheny

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (October 11)

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 18)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)
Accompany (9:45–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (October 18):

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Tony Becker and Beckie Judge. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), contact the church office. Next available dates: October 18 , November 22 and December 6, 13, 20, 25 & 27.

St. John's Forum: Does God Send Plagues?

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

This fall, St. John's Forum returns to biblical drama in the pages of scripture with a series on the book of Exodus. This week's forum will be led by Prof. Nicholas Schaser.

- **Next Sunday, October 18:** Exodus 11–12: *The Fast of the First Born, The Final Plague, and The Escape from Egypt in Jewish Interpretation and Practice*, led by Prof. Sarah Zager

Summer 2027 Informational Meeting for Youth Families

Today, Noon, Fellowship Hall

We will be having a brief informational meeting to discuss the 2 summer trips for 2027: The ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis from June 28-July 2 and a canoe trip on the Flambeau River through Camp Amnicon from June 20-25. We hope that you can make it out to discuss these exciting opportunities.

From the Nominating Committee . . .

The Nominating Committee has begun their work contacting people to consider serving on a board starting in 2027. There are several opportunities on different boards to use your time and talents in areas you may have an interest in. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are asked by a committee member. If you are interested in serving and want to learn more, please feel free to contact one of the committee members: Dan Franklin, Kristy Harms, Christy Hall-Holt, Peter Skoglund, Susanne Smith, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, or Pastor Jonathan.

Accompany Program Begins Next Sunday

Sundays, October 18–November 22, 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!

Rice County Habitat for Humanity Dedication

Tuesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m., 315 Poplar Street

We are excited to do a house dedication for 315 Poplar Street. All are welcome!

Announcements (continued)

MEA BREAK is next week. St. John's children and youth programs will not meet on **Wednesday, October 14,** and **Sunday, October 18.** Enjoy the long weekend.

Trunk or Treat Fall Fest During Sunday School

Sunday, October 25, 9:45–10:30 a.m., at St. John's

Last year's Trunk or Treat was so much fun, we're doing it again this year. Kids are invited to dress in costume. Games and activities too! If the weather cooperates, we'll have a bouncy tent! Email Julie Brehmer at Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are willing to decorate your car trunk or help with games and activities.

Out'n About: Conversations with Minnesotans

Monday, October 26, 9:00–11:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Our first presenter will be Ellen Saul with "*Sand, Symbols, and Safe Limits: From Pain to Power.*" Ellen will weave together clinical practice, personal story, and practical tools to offer a hopeful path from wounding to wholeness. Our second presenter will be Sam Daly with "*Transforming Veterans' Lives Through Service Dogs.*" Believet founder Sam Daly joined the United States Marine Corps in 2010 as a civilian contractor providing bomb detection dogs to frontline units. Following his deployments, Sam partnered with his friend John Sinning, a local businessman and United States Army veteran, and they founded Believet Canine Service Partners to provide service dogs, free of charge, to American military veterans with PTSD, MST, and other disabilities. Register for this event by emailing outnabouto22@gmail.com or calling 507-301-9094. Cost is \$15 for speakers and refreshments or \$20 for speakers, refreshments, and lunch. This is payable the day of the event (cash or check only).

ELCA's Safer Together: *Beyond the Gun Control Debate*

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30–8:45 p.m., St. John's Hall or via Zoom

Join people from across eight ELCA synods for the launch of **Safer Together**, a regional initiative creating space for learning, conversation, and faithful action around gun violence. The evening will feature Dr. Jillian Peterson, presenting "*Mass Shooting in the United States: Sources and Solutions,*" followed by Q&A and guided conversation grounded in ELCA teaching. Participants are encouraged to gather with others where there will be opportunities for conversation and discussion. Those unable to attend a gathering site are also welcome to participate individually via Zoom. St. John's is a regional teaching site. Learn more at: NWMNSynod.regfox.com/Safer-Together-Free.

Supporting St. John's

Giving to St. John's supports regular worship services, enhances the spiritual lives of our members, and helps to improve the lives of neighbors in our local and global communities. Your meaningful support will make an impact, strengthen congregational life at St. John's, and help us serve our mission.



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

Barbara Dettle, Fred Huemoeller, Barbara Johnson, Barb Knaak,
Gordy Moore, Bruce Ohland, George Pinc, Karen Wingate

Those with ongoing health concerns

Ruth Smestad Anglin, Bill Carlson, 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, October 14:
No Meal - MEA Break

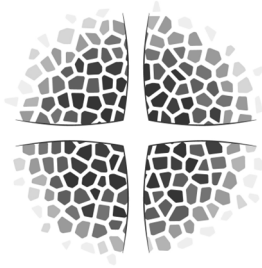
All are welcome!

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, Oct. 12	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 13	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
	4:00 p.m.	Enneagram Meeting, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	Church Board Meetings, St. John's Hall
Wednesday, Oct. 14	9:30 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Undercroft
	2:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Fireside Room
	5:45 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Fireside 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. 15	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom
	1:30 p.m.	CVEC Class, St. John's Theater
	4:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
	5:15 p.m.	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
Friday, Oct. 16	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Oct. 17	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
Sunday, Oct. 18	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
		<i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD MN

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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.*