



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 15, 2023 † 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 — on ST. COLUMBA

David Evan Thomas

Welcome and Announcements

(10:45) **Anthem** — “Come Bless the Lord”

Come bless the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord; lift up your hands in the holy place, and bless the Lord. — Psalm 134:1-2

Alleluia Choir

***Gathering Hymn** — ACS No. 977

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

☞ Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

☞ **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed by the world’s violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

☞ Beloved in Christ, God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding. God’s compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

☞ **Amen.**

*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.**

(10:45) **Anthem** — “Come and See What God Has Done”

Michael Morris

*Come and see what God has done! See what wonderful things God has done!
Look up at the stars. Look up at the sun. Look around and you'll see God in
everyone! When you're with your friends, when you're having fun, look
around and you'll see God in everyone!*

Jubilate Choir

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 25:1-9

Pew Bible, page 568

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading — Philippians 4:1-9

Pew Bible, page 955

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel — Matthew 22:1-14

Pew Bible, page 803; Spark Story Bible, page 304

Before the reading:

- The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
- Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

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

Sermon

Kristin Partlo

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 468

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

(10:45) **Rite of Welcome**

Introduction of Newcomers

Signing of the Newcomers with the Cross

- Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.
It is Christ himself who now strengthens you with this sign of his love. Learn to know and follow him.
- Receive the sign of the cross on your ears,
that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes,
that you may see the glory of God.
- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your lips,
that you may respond to the word of God.
- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross over your heart,
that Christ may dwell there by faith.
- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders,
that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.
- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your hands,
that Christ may be known in the work which you do.
- ☐ Receive the sign of the cross on your feet,
that you may walk in the way of Christ.
- ☐ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Response Hymn — “God Welcomes All” (ACS No. 978)

AMEN THEMBA

Sung twice; harmonize freely.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
 God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Text: John L. Bell © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications; Music: South African traditional

*The 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

“For Everyone Born”

Brian Mann, arr. Tom Trenney

*For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead. And
God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes,
God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy! For young and for
old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song. The hands of a child
in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong. For everyone
born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak
out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free!*

– Shirley Erena Murray

Abby Carter, soprano

*Offering Hymn — “Praise and Thanksgiving” stanza 1

BUNESSAN

**Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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-er and might,



heav-en 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. 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.

Hymn — ELW No. 778

“The Lord’s My Shepherd”

Hymn — ELW No. 462

“Now We Join in Celebration”

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

ℒ Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 502

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Stanzas 5 & 6

***Dismissal**

ℒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God!

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



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Kristin Partlo
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Christy and Olaf Hall-Holt (10:45) Becker-Nelson Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	Abby Carter, Church Music Intern
Choirs	(10:45) Alleluia Choir; Arielle Loy, director (10:45) Jubilate Choir; Green Bouzard, director
Communion Service	Monica Holicky, Craig Schultz
Greeters	(8:30) Christy and Olaf Hall-Holt (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Bob and Pat Tabery
Counters	Jim Loe, Bob Tabery, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) John Ophaug, Cindy Clauson, Dave and Ruthie Neuger (10:45) Doug O'Leary, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Leif Knecht

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (October 15)

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., Sanctuary)
Accompany (10:00–10:45 a.m., Undercroft)

Next Week (October 22)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

RITE OF WELCOME

We welcome the following during the Rite of Welcome today:

Andi Carlson and Ron Hebensperger

Sylvia and Rich Erickson

Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard

Anne Olson

Katie and Kevin Sevcik

Joanne Smestad Claussen

Susanne Smith

Jenny Wright

Jeff Wood

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Mark and Terry Rydberg in celebration and gratitude for 50 years of marriage. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: November 12 and December 10, 17, 24, 25 & 31.

A Future With Hope

Autumn is a time of planning: school starts, youth programming starts up again, and we say good-bye to warm weather. Some of you might already be planning the garden for next summer. Here at St. John's we begin the Stewardship Campaign to commit our time, talent, and financial support for our church community each fall. Your letter from the Stewardship Board has been sent and we ask you to prayerfully consider your financial pledge for 2024. We ask you to share your written 2024 intention on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Not sure how to give, or how to decide the gift that works best for you? We share helpful information with you in the letter, online, and other ways to help you with this important plan.

St. John's Forum: Earl Schwartz—“Who is like your people Israel, a singular Nation?”: Jewish “Chosenness” as a Source of Inspiration and Tension

Today, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

The St. John's forum continues its series on interpreting the Bible with sensitivity to other faith traditions with a presentation by Professor Earl Schwartz, ““Who is like your people Israel, a singular nation?": Jewish ‘Chosenness’ as a Source of Inspiration and Tension.” Christians are familiar with the biblical story of how the tribes of Israel came to understand their origin and purpose as covenantal partners with a sole, sovereign God. In this presentation, Schwartz begins with the extraordinary endurance of the Jewish descendants of those Israelites, which has generated questions about *why* such an identity developed among these particular people. He explores three themes that have come to be associated with these questions: divine decree, ancestry, and an instructed way of life, and he asks what Christians—also heirs of Abrahamic traditions—can learn from the ways in which these themes have wended their way through this uniquely Jewish story. Before his retirement, Schwartz taught in the religion department of Hamline University and was the first director of Hamline's program in social justice studies. He has also served on the faculty of the Talmud Torah of St. Paul and has written extensively on Jewish moral education and social ethics.

Pub Theology

Monday, October 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Contented Cow

Pub Theology is a weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate.

Announcements (continued)

Trunk or Treat: October 29 during Sunday School 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 and trick or treat at a variety of decorated car trunks! Games and activities are also in Fellowship Hall. Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are willing to decorate your car trunk or help with games and activities. If you would like to donate candy, there is a collection pumpkin in the Commons.

A/V Team Update

Audio/Visual Team Mission: *Capturing the breadth and depth of St. John's ministry on video, ensuring we can share our mission outside our walls either on the radio or over the internet.* The heroes of the St. John's A/V team make this happen every week and sometimes more often. They would love to share the work. If our livestream, video, and audio recordings are important to you or someone you love, consider learning more about how you can help. Call or email Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org to get connected to the A/V team.

We want you Snapshots!

The Evangelism & Communications Board is working on updating the photos on the website and we need your help. We are looking for photos of the exterior of the building, pictures of the Sanctuary, and pictures of events. Photos can be submitted to photos@StJohnsNorthfield.org. All photographed children and adults will be contacted for approval before photos are used publicly.

Children and Youth

MEA Break

- No Wednesday Afterschool Programming, Confirmation, or High School Youth Group on October 18.
- No Sunday School or Sunday Youth Gathering on October 22.

First 3rd Grade CAT Retreat, "Intro to the Bible"

Saturday, October, 28, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

3rd graders will receive a Spark Bible the next day, Sunday, October 29, at the 8:30 a.m. worship service. Please let Julie Brehmer know if your child will not be attending.

Contact information for Children and Youth

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry at childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at youth@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

Shirley Anderson, John Ferguson, Roberta Morse, Donna Paulsen, Kent Rommereim, Wendy Scholz, Julie Zdenek, Gail Nemy (mother of Lori Skoglund), George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of John Barber

Those with ongoing health concerns

Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Greta Matzner-Gore, Donna James, Carolyn Jennings, Dolores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson, Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Rose Youngquist, Lester Gunderson, Lois Pearson

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

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.

Wednesday Night



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

Menu for Wednesday, October 18:
No Meal - MEA Weekend

All are welcome!

*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

This Week At-a-Glance

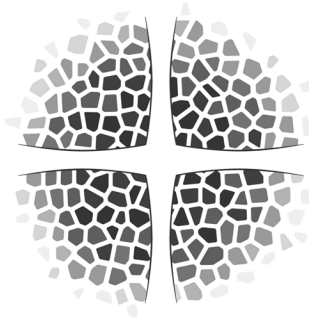
*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

Monday, Oct. 16	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology, Contented Cow Northfield High School Cross Country Team, St. John's Hall
Tuesday, Oct. 17	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Stephen Ministers, St. John's Library Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Oct. 18	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room Evening Knitters, St. John's Library Where Politics Meets Faith: Wed. Conversation, Fireside Room St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Oct. 19	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilters, Fellowship Hall Executive Committee via Zoom Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Oct. 20	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Oct. 21		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Oct. 22	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)</i> Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (October 22):

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*
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*
David Sims and Will Fecko, *Directors of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.