



SERVICE OF THE WORD

REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 25, 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 Menssen,
Johann Schroeer, Thomas Weber, Gus Welbaum**

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — on EIN FESTE BURG

Karl Osterland, J. C. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (#504)

EIN FESTE BURG

A musical score for the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (Ein feste Burg). The score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are in English and German, with the German text in parentheses. The lyrics are as follows:

A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who
to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with
wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text and Music: Martin Luther, text tr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***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 O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people.
By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly
for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Deuteronomy 34:1-12

¹Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, ²all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” ⁵Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD’s command. ⁶He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. ⁷Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

⁹Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. ¹¹He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, ¹²and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

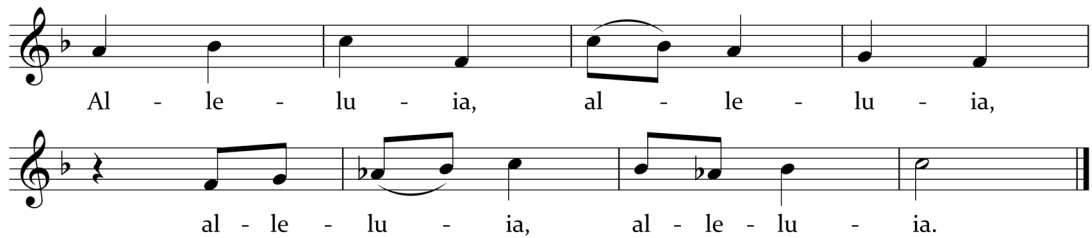
²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 22:34-46

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

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

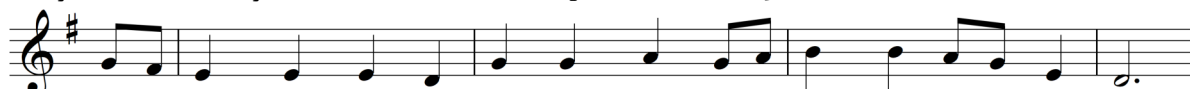
Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “How Small Our Span of Life” (#636)

KINGSFOLD



How small our span of life, O God, our years from birth till death:
And yet our speck of life is spanned by your in - fin - i - ty;
O Christ, you left e - ter - ni - ty to plunge in time's swift stream,
We thank you, God, for kind - ling faith that lights our tran - sient years,



a sin - gle beat with - in the heart, the catch - ing of a breath,
our tick of time on earth is caught in your e - ter - ni - ty.
to share the short - ness of our span, our mor - tal lives re - deem.
il - lu - min - ing our pil - grim - age through mists of doubt and fears;



a drop with - in the o - cean's deep, a grain up - on the shore,
While suns and stars spin end - less - ly through depths of cos - mic space,
You filled your cross - closed years with love; you loved us to the end
for hope that sees a life be - yond the swift - ly pass - ing days;




a flash of light be - fore we sleep to see the sun no more.
while ae - ons roll and ag - es pass, you hold us in your grace.
and touch us with your ris - en life that ours may time trans - cend.
for love, both hu - man and di - vine, that lifts our hearts to praise.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. © 1993 GIA Publications; Music: English traditional


*Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Johann Schroeer

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 Johann 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 Johann, 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 ends with a semibreve note, and the second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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.

Words of Witness — Tamara Jackman

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Pastorale on ST. ANNE”

Paul Manz

***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 greenening 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

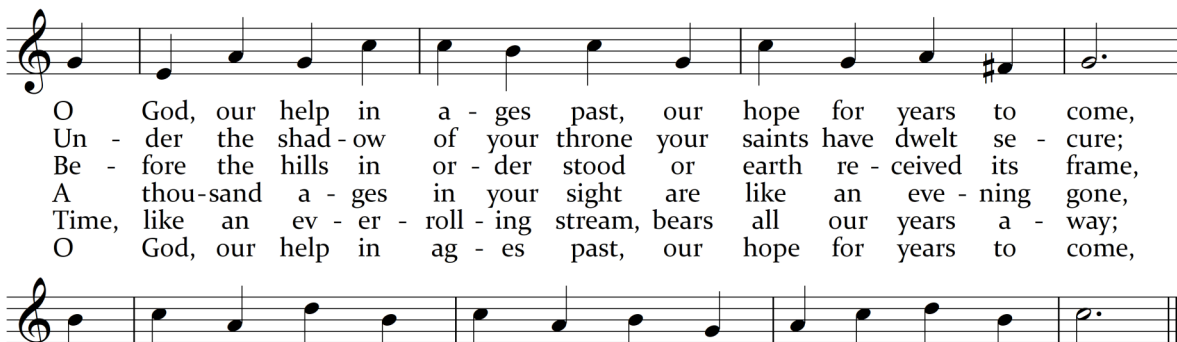
*Blessing

Response:

Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (#632)

ST. ANNE



O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;
O God, our help in ag - es past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - 'ning day.
still be our guard while trou - bles last and our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Isaac Watts; Music: William Croft

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — on ST. ANNE

Paul Manz



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Johann Schroeer
Organist	Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Chuck and Anita Hellie in memory of siblings Greg and John Hellie and Ron Svard. 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. Next available dates: 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 Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is now livestreamed via our website. We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN. **Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.**

Reformation Day St. John's Forum

Today, 10:30 a.m., via Zoom

Dr. Deanna Thompson, Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community at St. Olaf College, will lead a St. John's virtual forum on "Uncomfortable Grace: Lutheran Tradition and Living Out Our Faith in Challenging Times." Dr. Thompson will lead us in discussion of how our Lutheran theology can help us navigate challenging conversations about public life, diversity, and equity. Zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87593908694>

Pub Theology via Zoom

Tomorrow, Monday, October 26, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Pub Theology is a conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

4th and 5th Grade CAT Get-Together

Wednesday, October 28, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Hey 4th and 5th graders! Join us for an outdoor get-together on Wednesday, October 28, (weather permitting). We'll talk about CAT this year and enjoy a bonfire and marshmallow roast. Please bring a mask and dress for the weather. Let Julie Brehmer know if you are unable to attend.

Reformation Week Event

Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Eboo Patel, an international leader in interfaith dialogue, is speaking at a virtual event at St. Olaf on Racial Justice, Interfaith Cooperation, and the Common Good on Campus and Beyond. The event is free and open to all, but requires registration:

<https://stolaf.alumniq.com/index.cfm/events:register/home/eventId/6179>

Announcements (continued)

Reading the Bible Six Ways Resumes this Tuesday, October 27

Learn a variety of ways to read the Bible for study or devotion. Sessions are held weekly on Zoom through November 3. The Zoom link is accessible on the church website calendar.

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.

Operation Joy, the CAC's Annual Christmas Gift Drive

Operation Joy will be happening this year with a different approach. Along with the pajamas and quilts, the plan is to provide a \$50 gift card for each of the 850 children CAC works with throughout the year. Monetary donations are being requested this year so that Lisa Percy, Director of Operation Joy, can make the purchase of the gift cards in bulk. Donations can be made in 2 ways:

- visit <http://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy> and make an online donation
- send a check directly to Operation Joy, c/o Community Action Center, 1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200, Northfield, MN 55057

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.

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

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

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

St. John's Website

Please check out our website at www.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

Virginia Wright (mother of Sally Lindell)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Berta Diem

Family of Mary Beth Bremer

Those with ongoing health concerns

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

Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson, Richard Olson

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 (November 1):

All Saints Sunday

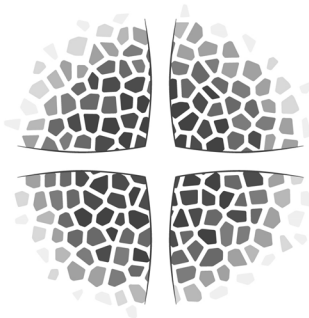
Revelation 7:9-17 † Psalm 34:1-10, 22 † 1 John 3:1-3 † Matthew 5:1-12

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. 26	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Oct. 27	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Six Ways of Reading the Bible via Zoom Church Council via Zoom
Wednesday, Oct. 28	10:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite Communion at Kildahl, Offsite Carleton Blood Drive, St. John's Hall 4 th and 5 th Grade CAT Get-Together, Outside
Thursday, Oct. 29	12:00 p.m.	Carleton Blood Drive, St. John's Hall
Friday, Oct. 30		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Oct. 31		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Nov. 1	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream Virtual Sunday School via Zoom Virtual Youth Group via Zoom



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Northfield, MN 55057

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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.