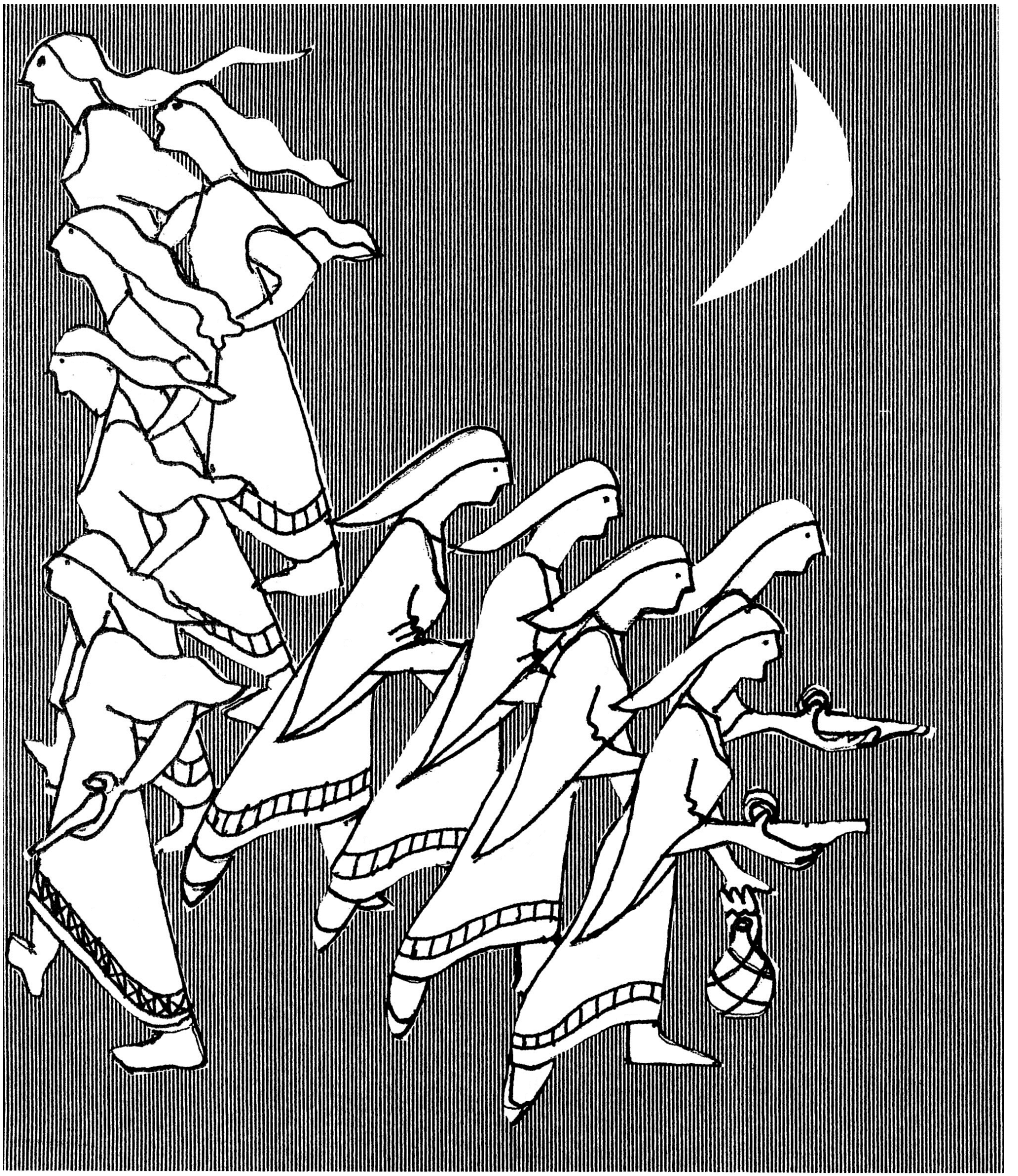


Service of Holy Communion

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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 — Psalm Preludes, Set 1, Op. 32 Herbert Howells

II: "But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Ps. 37:11)

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Temple Talk

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 561 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

***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**

℗ O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

℃ **Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message
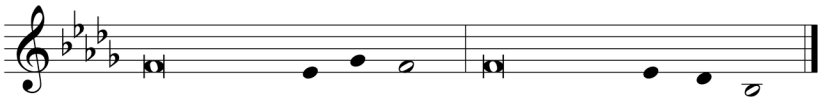
First Reading — Amos 5:18-24

[18]Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is
darkness, not light, [19]as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into
the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. [20]Is not the day
of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? [21]I hate, I despise
your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. [22]Even though you offer
me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of
well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. [23]Take away from me the noise of
your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. [24]But let justice roll down like
water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 70 Antiphon: Paul Manz



[1]Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
[2]**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back
and | be disgraced.
[3]Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
[4]**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"
[5]But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry.

Antiphon: E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
they need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All.

Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

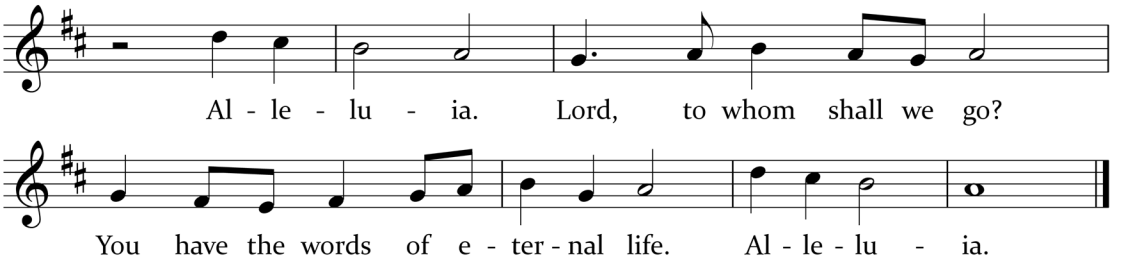
[13]We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died,
so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who
have died. [15]For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

[16]For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel** — Matthew 25:1-13 Spark Story Bible, page 314

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11]Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Responding to God's Word

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 757 "All My Hope on God Is Founded"

*__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:

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
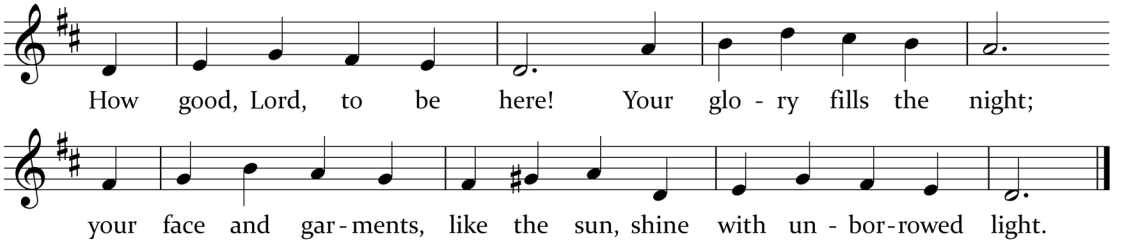
(8:30) "Sure on This Shining Night" Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night of star-made shadows round, kindness must watch for me this side the ground, on this shining night. The late year lies down the north, all is healed, all is health. High summer holds the earth. Hearts all whole. I weep for wonder wandering far alone of shadows on the stars.
– James Agee

St John's Chorale

(10:45) "In Heaven Above" arr. F. Melius Christiansen

*__Offering Hymn__ — "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!" POTSDAM



Text: Joseph A. Robinson, alt.; Music: W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

*__Offering Prayer__

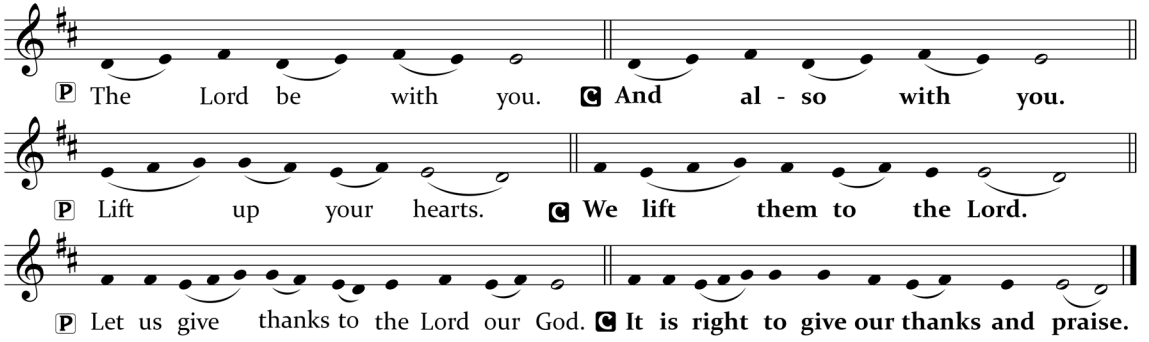
L How good, Lord, to be here,
C **among friends and neighbors,**
as one body and people of faith.

L How good, Lord, to be here,
C **with gifts to offer and gifts to receive.**

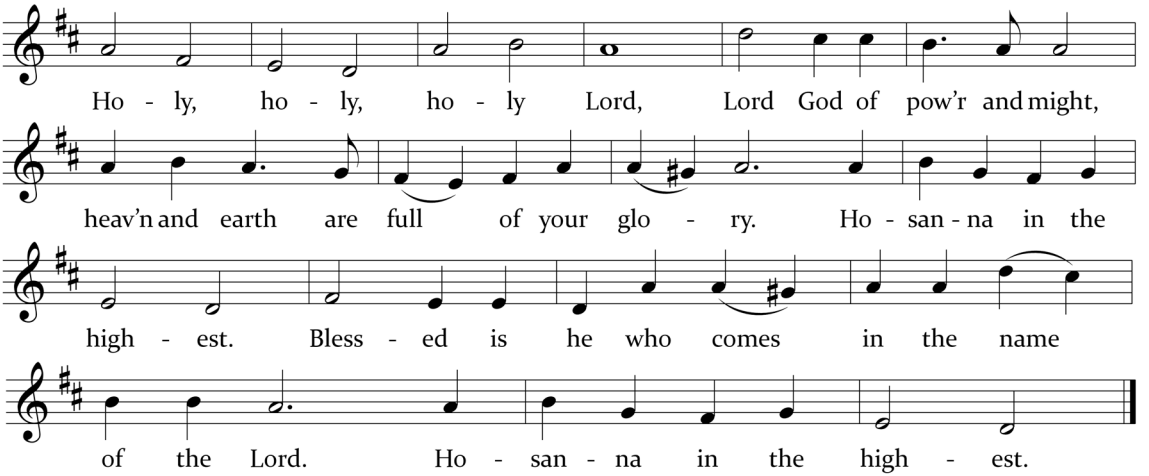
L God of abundance,
C **in your love, nothing is wasted. Take our lives and these gifts we bring to become nourishment for a hurting world. With this bread, break open our hearts to your presence here. With this cup, pour out your love for all who are thirsty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sharing the Lord's Supper

***Great Thanksgiving**



P It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***Words of Institution**

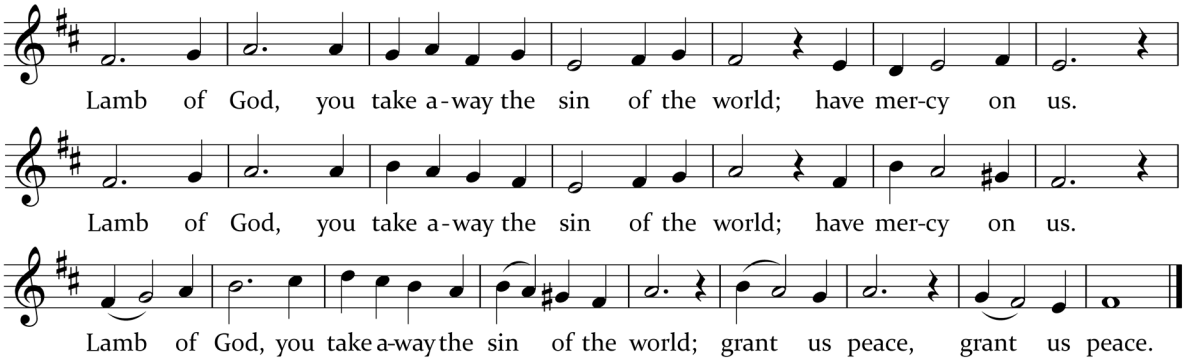
***The Lord's Prayer**

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"



(8:30) **Anthem** — "City Called Heaven" Spiritual, arr. Josephine Poelinitz

I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow, I'm left in this old wide world alone! I ain't got no hope for tomorrow, I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home. Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord. Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn. I heard of a city called heaven, I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.
–African American Spiritual

Hymn — ELW No. 630 "In Heaven Above"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

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

***Prayer after Communion**

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

C **Amen.**

Departing to Serve God's World

***Blessing**

Response:

C **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 438 "My Lord, What a Morning"

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — March in F Major David N. Johnson



Acknowledgments

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Serving at St. John's Today:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Drew Yackel
	(10:45) Brenda Nelson
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) Jane Turpin Moore
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Prep	Vicki Otis
Communion Cleanup	Craig Schultz
Greeters	(8:30) Joan Koester, Liz Rowley
	(10:45) Dimi DeRose, Katherine Norrie
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson
Treats	Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Rhonda Reece, Liz Rowley
Counters	David Becker, Brenda Bultman, Bob Tabery
Ushers	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jon and Cindy McBroom, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb
	(10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Andrew Tacheny, Chris Tacheny

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (November 15):

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 † Psalm 90:1-8 † 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 † Matthew 25:14-30

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week *(November 8)*

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

Next Week *(November 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)
Fika for Parents (9:45–10:30 a.m., Downstairs Commons)
St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)
Accompany (9:45–10:40 a.m., Undercroft)

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Bob and Sandra Nyvall in memory of and with gratitude for all our veterans. 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), contact the church office at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: December 6 & 27.

St. John's Forum: *Exodus—The Shaping of a People*
9:45–10:30 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. We hope you will join us in opening your Bibles and minds to the rich meaning in these foundational stories that can still speak to us today.

- **TODAY** Exodus 14–15: *Crossing the Red Sea and the Song of the Sea,* led by Prof. Charlie Wilson
- **November 15** Exodus 16–19: *Wandering in the Wilderness*, led by Prof. Cameron Howard
- **November 22** Exodus 20: *Words to Live By: The Ten Commandments*, led by Pastor Pam
- **November 29** Exodus 21–40: *Holy Smoke, Underwear Design, and Advent at St. John's*, led by Rev. Bruce Benson.

Stewardship 2027 Appeal is Underway
Members should have received a mailing including a pledge card, or you may respond electronically on the website, or use the QR code. As you prayerfully consider your giving intentions for next year, the Stewardship Board challenges you to consider increasing your giving over 2026 by 1% of your income.

Pledge 2027

November is the month we especially lift up the work of ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger works in more than 60 countries as well as the United States to alleviate food insecurity and poverty. If you receive offering envelopes, you will have a special envelope this month.

Thanksgiving Eve we gather in worship again as three Northfield ELCA congregations together. A service of Word and Thanksgiving will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, followed by pie fellowship. A pop-up joint choir will meet at 5:30 p.m. to rehearse music for the service.

Advent Fair, Wednesday, December 2
Wednesday Night Meal at 5:15 p.m. and Advent Fair Activities from 5:45–7:00 p.m.
Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair in St. John's Hall. Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!
Can you help with Advent Fair? Contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Dinner—set-up, serve or clean-up
- Help with crafts/activities
- Food demonstrations—show us how to make your favorite Christmas treat!

Announcements (continued)

Veterans' Day Bells

At 11:00 a.m. on November 11, St. John's will toll its bell 11 times. This tradition harkens back to the first Armistice Day, when citizens celebrated the end of World War I with a prayer for peace. We toll bells in honor of all those who served their country, and in hope for a day when all may live in peace.

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.

Online Giving

Operation Joy: Donations are appreciated by Friday, November 13

Operation Joy is a community-wide, gift-sharing program of the Community Action Center and is set to take place on December 10. CAC's goal is to provide a joyful holiday experience for all children in our community. The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase gift cards so families can select gifts their children will enjoy the most. In keeping with tradition, families will receive a blanket, lovingly sewn by local volunteers. Children will also receive a new book, donated generously by Content Bookstore and their customers. If you would like to support Operation Joy, donations can be made by:

- Going online at communityactioncenter.org/winter-holiday/
- Send a check directly to: **Community Action Center c/o Operation Joy**
  1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200
  Northfield, MN 55057

Reminder of Deadlines

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (December 2026 Edition): Due November 15



"How good, Lord, to be here!"

These were the disciple Peter's words upon seeing the Transfiguration, a mountain-top vision in which Jesus' face and clothes shone with brilliant light (Matthew 17:1-8).

This fall, the Stewardship Board invites you to reflect on ways we too say, "How good, Lord, to be here!" as we live in the light of Christ's love here at St John's.

Pledging for 2027 is happening now! Visit the Commons between services today to learn more.

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 Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Barb Knaak, Gordy Moore, George Pinc, Vikki Van Veldhuizen, Karen Wingate, Phyllis Jurgens (mother of Shari Ohland)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one
Family of Curt Swenson

Those with ongoing health concerns
Ruth Smestad Anglin, Bill Carlson, Mary Cisar, Fred Huemoeller, Joann Jorgensen, Greta Matzner-Gore, 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, November 11:
Cheesy Ham & Swiss Casserole
(with Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Options)

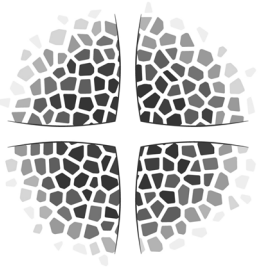
All are welcome!

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, Nov. 9	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Lifting Voices Rehearsal, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Foundation, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Nov. 10	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, Nov. 11	9:30 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Undercroft
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	5:45 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Fireside Room
	6:15 p.m.	Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
		High School Youth Group, Youth Room
	6:30 p.m.	Faith & Politics Discussion Group, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Nov. 12	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, Youth Room
	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 Rehearsal, Balcony
	7:00 p.m.	Alan Storey - From Now On Group Meeting, St. John's Hall
Friday, Nov. 13	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Mary Circle, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Nov. 14		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Nov. 15	8:30 a.m.	Worship (Rite of Welcome), Sanctuary
		(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary



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*
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.