



SERVICE OF THE WORD

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 15, 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 — Andante in D Major

Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Words of Witness — Bob Nyvall

***Gathering Hymn** — “Take My Life, That I May Be” (#685)

PATMOS



Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;
Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treas - ure store;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal; Music: William H. Havergal

***Confession and Forgiveness**

- ☐ Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

☑ **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P** Holy One,
C we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We carry sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
- P** Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
- C** Amen.

***Greeting**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- All** And also with you.

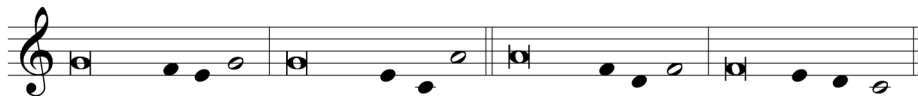
***Prayer of the Day**

- P** Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples,
and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and
wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

*Antiphon: O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*



- ¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth and the | earth was born,
from age to age | you are God.
- ³**You turn us back to the | dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”**
- ⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;**
- ⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- ⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
- ⁷**For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.**
- ⁸**Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. Antiphon**

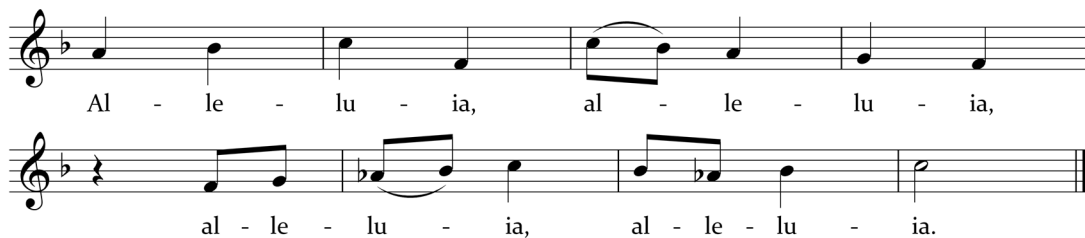
Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 25:14-30

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

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money ¹⁹After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²²The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ ²³His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²⁴Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ ²⁶His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — "All My Hope on God Is Founded" (#757)

MICHAEL

All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
Great thy good - ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of
trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing
on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and
lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, para Robert Bridges; Music: Herbert Howells, © 1968 Novello & Co., London

*Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Thomas Weber

Prayer

Response:

Amen.

Profession of Faith

- P** Lord, we believe.
- C** **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 Thomas 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 Thomas, 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.

*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:

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

Robert Powell, Kristina Langlois

*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.

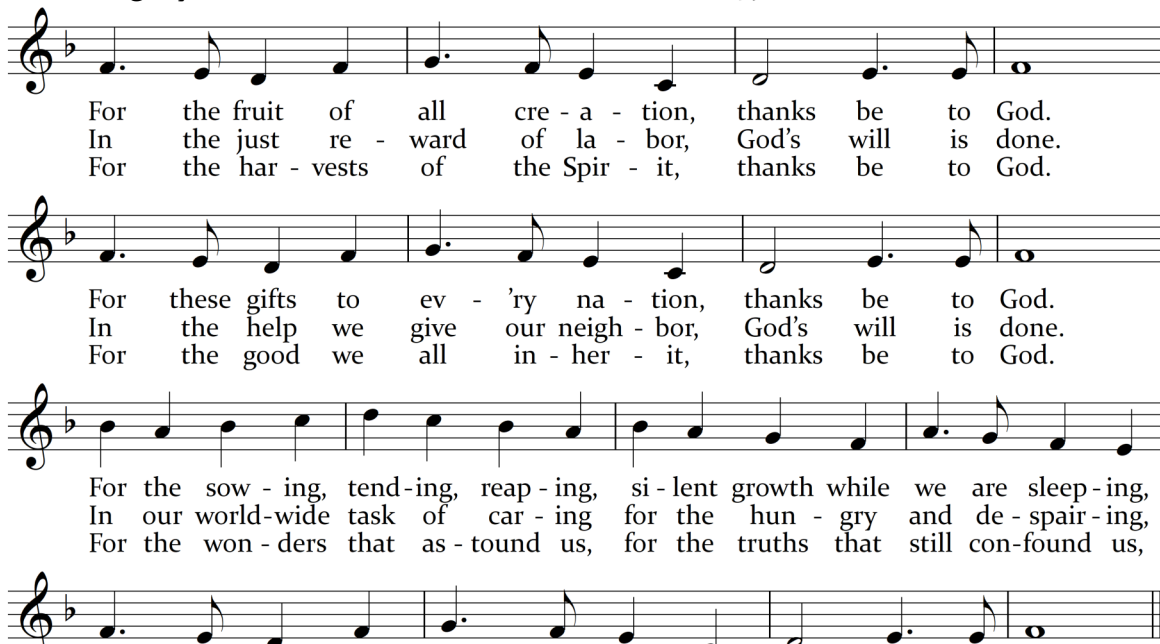
DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:  Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “For the Fruit of All Creation” (#679)

AR HYD Y NOS



For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the sow - ing, tend - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, © 1970 Hope Publishing; Music: Welsh traditional

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — on AR HYD Y NOS

John Ferguson



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	John and Elizabeth Bade
Cantor	Elizabeth Bade
Organist	Nathan Proctor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Confirmation banner by Judy Swanson

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Bob and Sandra Nyvall as a gift to all who listen. 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 31 and February 28. 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.**

Our Stewardship Appeal for 2021 is Underway

Please let us know your intention for giving next year **by today**. If you need a physical pledge card mailed to you, please contact Leah Garlie at the church office or email Leah with your intent at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. You can now view the Stewardship "Words of Witness" from previous Sundays on the church website.

Thanksgiving Eucharist via Zoom Sunday, November 22, 10:30 a.m.

Next Sunday an opportunity for remote Holy Communion via Zoom will be held during the coffee hour at 10:30 a.m. Prepare your own table for bread and wine, and see the web calendar for the Zoom link.

Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom Mondays, November 23 and December 7, 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.

St. John's Women On The Move

So far, in 2020, St. John's Women have been responsible for making, and donating:

- 40 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and Community Action Center
- 46 sweaters, 116 caps, and two baby blankets to World Vision's Knit for Kids
- 20 caps and 10 quilted baby blankets to Community Action Center
- 18 sweaters with matching hats and baby blankets with matching hats to Ruth's House
- 110 Personal Care Kits to Lutheran World Relief

In November, they have plans to compile and deliver 50+ Baby Care Kits to LWR.

Thank you for your time, donations, efforts, and generosity.

Announcements (continued)

Can you help remote learners?

Northfield Healthy Communities Initiative is seeking volunteers who will offer remote support to kids doing distance learning this winter. Once established with a student and teacher, volunteers would offer 15-30 minutes 2-4 days a week to help students stay on track. Contact Laura@northfieldhci.org if you are interested.

St. John's Women are able to continue in our mission work through your donations, and the dedicated volunteers, and November is always Thank Offering month for the National WELCA, which is trying to operate under lean conditions lately. If you care to make a donation to St. John's Women and/or the National WELCA Thank Offering, see below:

- Donate with PayPal at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous. (If you donate through PayPal, please send an email to women.stjohns500@gmail.com and tell us your name, how much you donated, and to which organization: Thank Offering, National WELCA, or St. John's Women. That way our treasurer will know how much to send on to the WELCA headquarters in Chicago.)
- Or send your check, made payable to WELCA, and mail to St. John's Lutheran Church. (Note: Thank Offering or St. John's Women on the memo line.)

ELCA World Hunger

Each November we focus special giving on world hunger. Please consider a donation to ELCA World Hunger by mailing a check to the church (note ELCA World Hunger on the memo line of your check) or through online giving. Visit <https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> to learn more about how the ELCA has made positive differences in peoples' lives around the world. Thank you.

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

Donations are requested to be received by Friday, November 20. Thank you.

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

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

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

Katherine Norrie, David Quarberg, Jon Rondestvedt

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Gene and Delores Nelson,
Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Gordon Smith, Joanne Sommers,
Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Gloria Porter, Lois Rand, Dorothy Ostlie

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 22):

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 † Psalm 95 † Ephesians 1:15-23 † Matthew 25:31-46

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, Nov. 16	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Nov. 17	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers via Zoom
Wednesday, Nov. 18	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, Nov. 19		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, Nov. 20	1:30 p.m.	Funeral - Stephen Madson, Sanctuary
Saturday, Nov. 21		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Nov. 22	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School via Zoom
		Virtual Youth Group via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving Eucharist via Zoom



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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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.