

Service of Holy Communion

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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 — "We Praise You, O God" Joel Raney

Rejoice Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Stewardship Temple Talk

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 870 "We Praise You, O God"

***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**

℗ Generous God, you care for 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.

℃ **Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

(8:30) **Rite of Welcome**

Introduction of Newcomers

Kathryn Lohre, Benjamin, Hannah, and James
Jessica Olson
Anne Forrest and Bob Prim
Angel and Drew Yackel, Maggie, and Simon

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.

All **Amen.**

Concluding Prayer

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel** — Matthew 25:14-30 Spark Story Bible, page 316

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

℃ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16the one who
had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents.
17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one
who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his mas-
ter's money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with
them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more
talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more
talents.' 21His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.' 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24Then the one
who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were
a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25so
I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'
26But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where
I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with
interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to
all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those
who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave,
throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

℗ The Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Jonathan Davis

Responding to God's Word

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 678 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

***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**

℗ The peace of Christ be with you always.

© **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Michael Helman

(10:45) "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" J. Wayne Kerr

***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,

© **among friends and neighbors,**
as one body and people of faith.

ℒ How good, Lord, to be here,

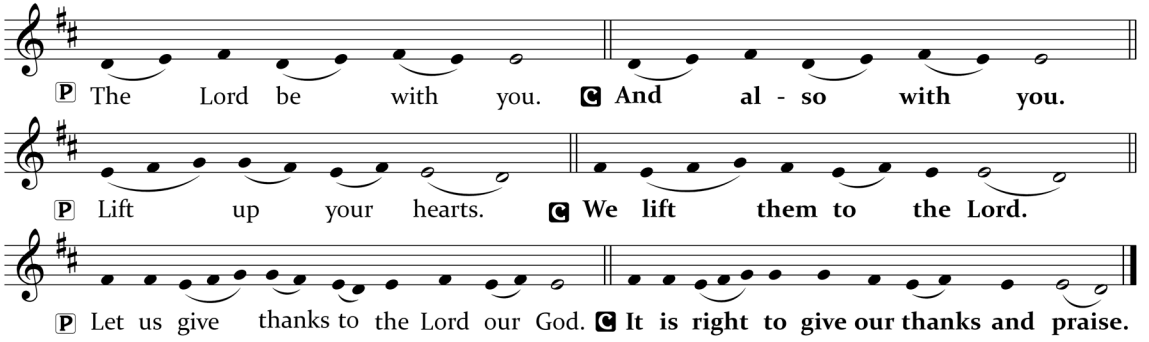
© **with gifts to offer and gifts to receive.**

ℒ God of abundance,

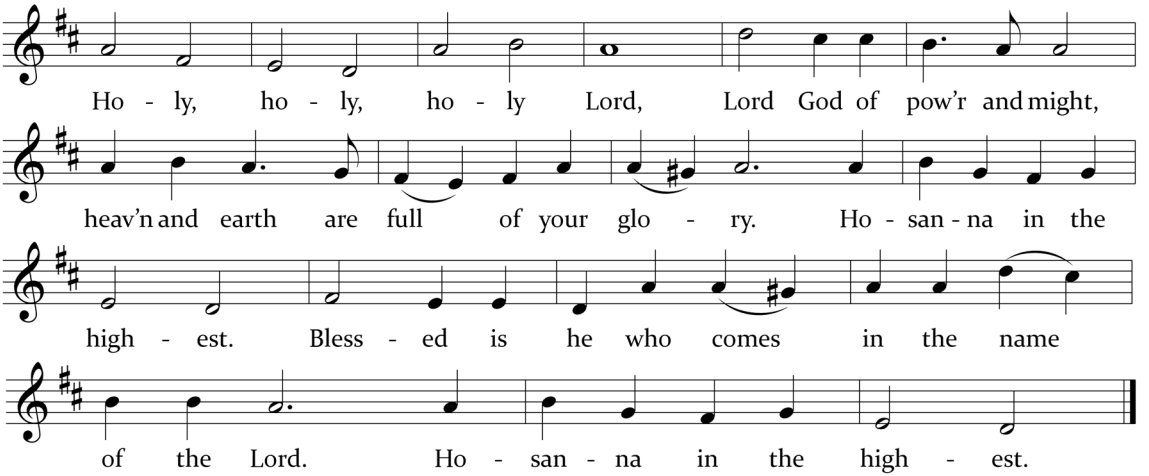
© **in your love, nothing is wasted. Take our lives and these gifts we bring to become nourishment for a hurting world. With this bread, break open our hearts to your presence here. With this cup, pour out your love for all who are thirsty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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) **Solo** — "Praise and Thanksgiving" arr. Robert Scholz

Morning has broken like the first morning. Blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing, praise for the morning, praise for them springing fresh from the world. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass. Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning, born of the one light Eden saw play. Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day. Now by your Spirit, Jesus, our Savior, we may inherit new life and peace. Your grace invites us; your love unites us; with light you guide us. Our faith increase.

Hymn — ELW No. 685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

***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. 632 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — on ST. ANNE Paul Manz



Acknowledgments

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Serving at St. John's Today:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Ruth Smestad Anglin (10:45) Amanda Randall
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, director
Soloist	(8:30) Lacy Williams
Flute	(8:30) Ruth Bretheim Aaseng
Livestream	Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Service	David and Debby Nitz
Greeters	(8:30) Carol Breimhorst, Mary Ellen North (10:45) Susan Canon, Deb Erickson
Coffee Service	Bob and Pat Tabery
Treats	Rhonda Reece, Liz Rowley, Bob and Pat Tabery
Counters	Sue Brockman, Bill and Jane Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) Larry Enfield, Olaf Hall-Holt, Elaine Nesbit, John Ophaug (10:45) Mike Bull, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Scott Nesbit

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (November 22):

Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 † Psalm 95:1-7a † Ephesians 1:15-23 † Matthew 25:31-46

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This 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)

Next Week *(November 22)*

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 in memory of Bob Scholz and Wendy Scholz by Cora Scholz. 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 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Next available dates: December 6 & 27 and January 17, 24 & 31.

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 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

Pub Theology
Monday, November 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
We will discuss the Virgin Mary! As we approach Advent, the story of Mary is front and center, yet Protestants are often conflicted about how to relate to Mary as a figure of faith. An article for discussion by Kathleen Norris is available at the Welcome Desk.

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)

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies!!
It's that time of year when WELCA asks the bakers in the congregation to help bake cookies for the Christmas boxes that go out to congregants that are homebound, in a care facility, or have lost a loved one in the last year. A sweet treat for the holidays! Sign-ups for baking, boxing, and delivering of the boxes on Saturday, December 12, from 9:30–11:00 a.m. will happen in the Commons between services beginning today until Sunday, December 6.

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.

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

Step Into the Quiet—Sunday Evening Gatherings
Sundays, 5:30 p.m., First UCC (300 Union St. S.)
Come for a brief time of connection, community, grounding through song, candle lighting, and quiet as together we listen and seek the Holy in our too-often noisy lives. It's a volunteer-led opportunity to be re-tuned for the week ahead. All are welcome. Questions can be emailed to theeveninggathering@gmail.com.

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

Delores Gustafson, Gretchen Hardgrove, Barbara Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Barb Knaak, Gordy Moore, Dolores Nelson, George Pinc, Vikki Van Veldhuizen, Dick Werdahl, Karen Wingate

Those celebrating the birth of

Norman Michael Kastner, son of Emily and Colton Kastner

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Phyllis Jurgens (mother of Shari Ohland)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Ruth Smestad Anglin, Bill Carlson, Mary Cisar, Fred Huemoeller, Joann Jorgensen, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, 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

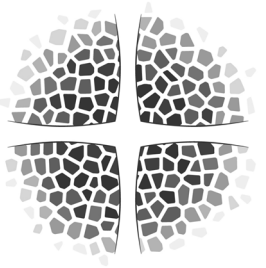
Menu for Wednesday, November 18:
Meatballs w/Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
(with Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Options)

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. 16	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
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Nov. 17	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
	10:30 a.m.	Inspired Lens & Pens Writing Group, St. John's Library
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
		NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Nov. 18	11:15 a.m.	Personnel Committee, Fireside Room
	12:00 p.m.	Bible Study of the Book of Mark, Undercroft
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:00 p.m.	St. John's Foundation Thank You Dinner, Fireside Room
	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
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Nov. 19	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	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
Friday, Nov. 20	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Nov. 21	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
	10:30 a.m.	Lifting Voices Concert, St. John's Hall
	3:00 p.m.	CVRO Concert, St. John's Hall
Sunday, Nov. 22	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
		(For the schedule between services, please see page 11.)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship (Affirmation of Baptism), Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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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.