



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 † 8:30 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning!

*All are invited to **sign the welcome sheets** in the black folders at the end of the pews.*

*Please pass them to the center and then back
so you can greet those worshipping around you.*

Ushers will gather these following worship.

*In the red hymnal (Evangelical Lutheran Worship), or purple hymnal
(All Creation Sings), hymn numbers are at the top of the page in the hymn section,
and page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the front section.*

An asterisk () invites you to stand as you are able.*

P Pastor, **L** Leader (Assisting Minister), **C** Congregation

Children are welcome to participate throughout our
worship service, including at Holy Communion.

*Parents, please assist children when they come forward for communion
to extend their hands if they are to receive the bread and wine.*

Children's Bibles and activity bags

*are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary
and scribble cards are available in the pews.*

Hearing assistance devices are available outside the Sanctuary or from an usher.

For those with hearing aids, the Sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop.

Large print bulletins and hymns are available for worship services.



*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace
and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as
we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance,
sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or
relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement,
political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together,
believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “Fanfare”

arr. Kevin McChesney

Rejoice Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 858

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Stanza 3 may be sung in harmony.

***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**

- ☐ Righteous 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.**

(10:45) **Anthem** — “I Am Grateful to the Lord”

Michael Morris

*I'm grateful to the Lord. I'm blessed by the Lord. I'm a servant of the Lord.
I'm forgiven by the Lord. I'm protected by the Lord. I'm beloved by the Lord.
I'm created by the Lord. I'm a child of the Lord. I'm guided by the Lord.*

Jubilate Choir

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First 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.

- The word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please remain seated.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel — Matthew 25:14-30

Spark Story Bible, page 316

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 678

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

(8:30) Affirmation of Baptism

Front of ELW hymnal, pages 234-236

Presentation

***Profession of Faith** — *Front of ELW hymnal, page 235*

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

- People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?
- We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Welcome

Hymn — “As We Gather at Your Table” *stanza 1*

IN BABILONE

As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradanse*, 1710

(10:45) ***The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- 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

“Fantasy on ‘All Creatures of Our God and King’ ”

arr. Sandra Eithun

*Offering Hymn — “For the Fruit of All Creation” *stanza 1*

AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the tending, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

*Offering Prayer

ℒ Let us pray.

☑ God of all goodness, generations have gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings. As we gather these gifts
and give thanks, we remember and care for all you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD’S SUPPER

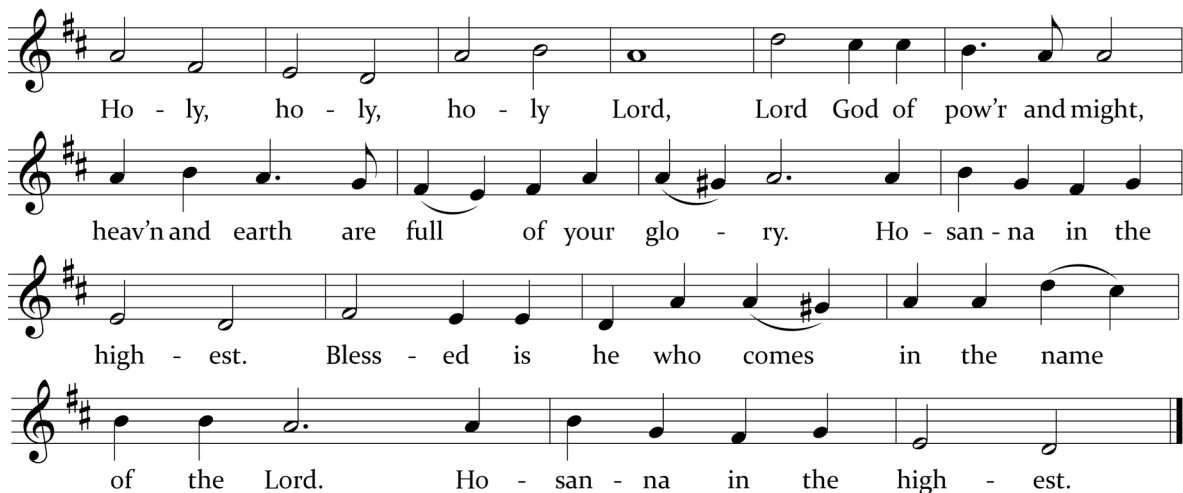
*Great Thanksgiving

ℒ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

ℒ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

ℒ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

*The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

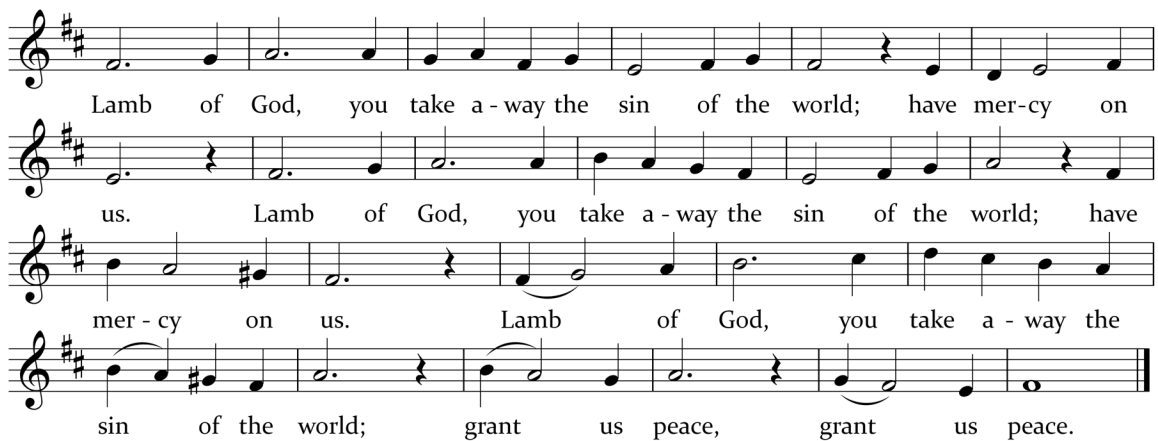
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary; ushers will direct you forward. **Gluten-free wafers** are available in the center. After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice. The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray. **If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know, and communion will be brought to you.***

Music during Communion

“Lamb of God”



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(8:30) Anthem — “Morning Has Broken”

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 sunshine, 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. 870

“We Praise You, O God”

Hymn — ELW No. 464

“Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal”

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

☑ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

(8:30) Blessing and Sending for Craig Schultz

*Blessing

Response:

☞ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 840

“Now Thank We All Our God”

*Dismissal

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — ON LOBE DEN HERREN

David Cherwien



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Those affirming their baptism today at the 8:30 a.m. service:

Andi Carlson and Ron Hebensperger

Sylvia and Rich Erickson

Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard

Anne Olson

Katie and Kevin Sevcik

Joanne Smestad Claussen

Susanne Smith

Jenny Wright

Jeff Wood

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Paul and Maribeth Beck (10:45) Will McLaughlin
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choirs	Rejoice Ringers, David Sims and Will Fecko, directors (10:45) Jubilate Choir, Green Bouzard, director
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Servers	Noah and Jacob Mandsager
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) David Sudermann and Mary Cisar (10:45) Kibby Errington
Coffee Service	Angie Gehring, Ted Peterson
Counters	Dan Franklin, Mark Ulmer, Pippa Younger
Ushers	(8:30) John Ophaug, Dave and Ruthie Neuger (10:45) Doug O'Leary, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Leif Knecht

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (November 19)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)
Sunday Youth Gathering: Grades 6–12 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Youth Room)
St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary)
Accompany (10:00–10:40 a.m., Fireside Room)

Next Week (November 26)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
Advent Book Study (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Cora Scholz in memory of Bob Scholz at the time of his birthday. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Available Dates: December 10, 17, 24, 25 & 31.

Stewardship 2024 Appeal

Takk. Gracias. Danke. Shukran. Merci. Toda. The Stewardship Board extends our heart-felt thanks as you make your 2024 pledge to St. John's. Already submitted your 2024 pledge? Thank you! Need a pledge card? Check at the tables near the doors to the Sanctuary or scan the QR code. There is so much to be thankful for and proud of here at St. John's. Your generosity is gratifying and inspiring. Thank you is the best prayer that anyone can say. Thank you.



St. John's Forum: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)

Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Did you know . . .

- That LIRS is celebrating 80+ years of providing services and a sense of home to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees?
- That LIRS is the largest national faith-based nonprofit, with 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers?
- That LIRS has welcomed more than 750,000 newcomers to the U.S. since 1939?
- That LIRS reunited more than 8,000 children and families in 2022?
- That St. John's is considered a Cornerstone Congregation as a major donor?

Come learn more from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service representative Jon Buuck, LIRS Senior Philanthropic Advisor.

Thanksgiving Break

- No Wednesday Programming on November 22
- No Sunday School or Sunday Youth Group on November 26

Financial Update to the Congregation

- Offering received through the end of October is 78% of the \$966,000 budgeted amount. This is very close to target for this time of year, but we will rely on receiving the remaining 22% to cover our total expenses.
- Expenses through October are 81% of budget; we forecast we will end the year either on budget or slightly underspent.
- Pledges for 2024 giving will help to inform the Budget Committee as they begin their work on a proposed budget for 2024. Please consider increasing your pledge from 2023 so that the congregation can keep pace with rising costs. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and

Announcements (continued)

continued support of the church.

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The three ELCA congregations of Northfield will again join together for worship on Wednesday, November 22. We will gather at St. Peter's Lutheran Church for a Service of the Word. Our joint offerings will benefit the food shelf of the Community Action Center and the Racial Equity Fund of the Minnesota Council of Churches, designated especially for indigenous communities in greater Minnesota. A pop-up choir will sing two pieces. Any singers are welcome to join in by coming at 5:30 p.m. to rehearse together. Pie fellowship will follow the service. Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!

Join Us for the Advent Book Read

The Adult Ministry & Education Board encourages you to participate in a new opportunity at St. John's—the Advent Book Read. The group will read Amy-Jill Levine's *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*. The group will meet four times, beginning on Sunday, November 26, between worship services. We hope to have four Wednesday evening meetings as well. Sign-up and book purchase (\$15) are in the Commons between services. Contact an Adult Ministry & Education Board member for more information. Make the Book Read your spiritual practice for Advent!

November Special Offering: ELCA World Hunger

This month there is a special envelope for contributions to ELCA World Hunger. Realize that ELCA World Hunger works with and through ELCA congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, overseas Lutheran churches, and other partners to reach communities in need. They provide health clinics, microloans, water wells, animal husbandry, community meals, and advocacy, etc. Your contributions to ELCA World Hunger help provide sustainable solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty. Your support makes a difference. Please consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger during the November appeal. Use the specially marked envelope in your packet or use the St. John's online donation system. Make checks payable to St. John's, noting ELCA Hunger Appeal on the memo line. Thank you.

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 29, St. John's Hall

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 29, 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!

- 5:15–6:15 p.m.: Wednesday Meal
- 5:45–7:00 p.m.: Advent Fair Activities

Can you help with the Advent Fair?

- Help with Crafts/Activities
- Food Demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treat!

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Shirley Anderson, Jo Dahlin, John Ferguson, Darlene Hand, Roberta Morse,
Kent Rommereim, Wendy Scholz, Judith Stoutland, Gail Nemy (mother of Lori Skoglund),
George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Lyla Arneson Paulson
Family of Andy Nelson

Those with ongoing health concerns

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

All who are homebound, including

Carol Johnson, VaLois Mandsager, 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; Katie Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Wednesday Night



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

Menu for Wednesday, November 22:
No Meal - Thanksgiving Break

All are welcome!

Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

This Week At-a-Glance

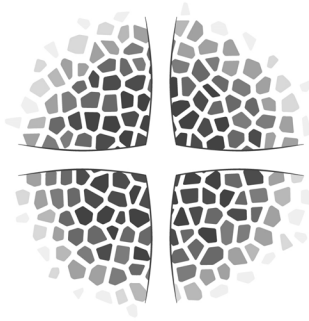
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Monday, Nov. 20	9:30 a.m.	Visitation - Lester Gunderson, Commons
	10:30 a.m.	Funeral - Lester Gunderson, Sanctuary
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	2:30 p.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Contented Cow
Tuesday, Nov. 21	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
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room
Wednesday, Nov. 22	10:45 a.m.	Communion at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, Offsite
	5:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Choir Rehearsal, St. Peter's Lutheran Church
	6:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Thursday, Nov. 23		<i>Thanksgiving Day - Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Friday, Nov. 24	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Nov. 25		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Nov. 26	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (November 26):

Christ the King Sunday

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



St. John's

ELCA · NORTHFIELD · MN

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*
David Sims and Will Fecko, *Directors of Rejoice Ringers*

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