

Service of Holy Communion

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 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 — "Zion hört die Wächter singen" BWV 140 J. S. Bach

Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom. Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious: her star is ris'n; her light is come. Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son. Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall. – Philipp Nicolai

Robert Shaw, baritone

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 436 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,

C **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ. In the name of ☩ Christ,
your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord!

C **Amen.**

***Greeting**

℗ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

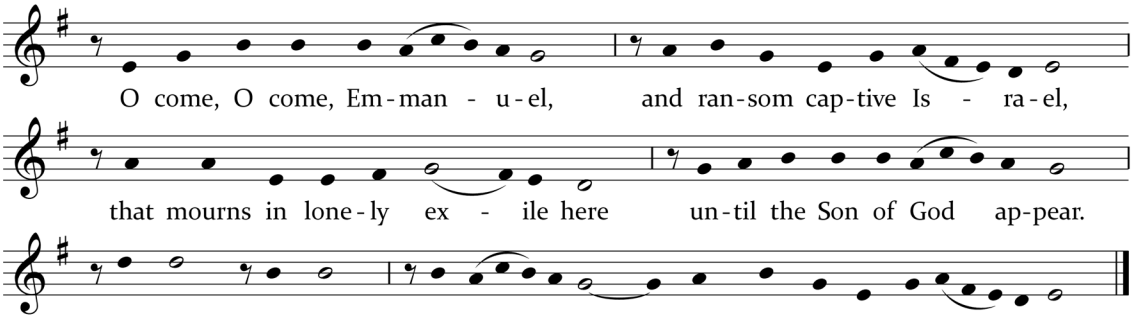
℃ **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day and Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Ⓛ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

℃ **Amen.**

***Response Hymn** — "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *stanza 1* VENI EMMANUEL



Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum,* 1710, tr. composite; Music: French processional, 15th cent.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 64:1-9 Pew Bible, page 606

After the reading:

Ⓛ The word of the Lord.

℃ **Thanks be to God.**

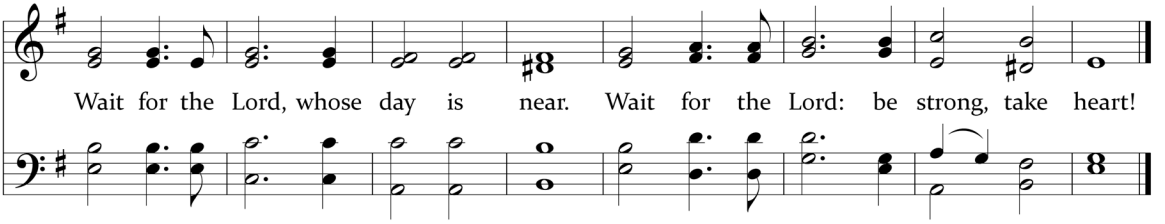
Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Pew Bible, page 926

After the reading:

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — "Wait for the Lord"



Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1994 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

***Gospel** — Mark 13:24-37 Spark Story Bible, page 346

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

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

[Jesus said:] 24"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon
will not give its light, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the
heavens will be shaken. 26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great
power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts
forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will
not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.

32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son,
but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.
34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge,
each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep
awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at
midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes sud-
denly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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 — ACS No. 901 "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

***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

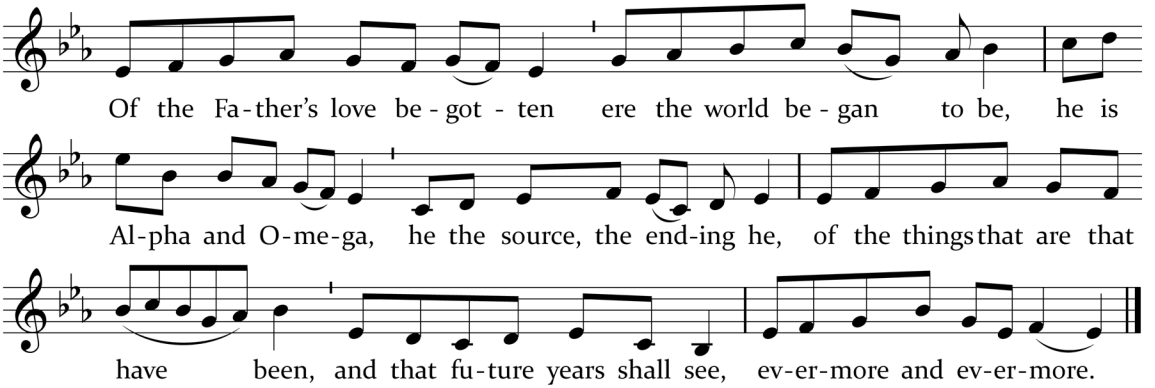
(8:30) "If In Your Heart" Ana Hernández

If in your heart you make a manger for love's birth,
then God will once again become a child on earth.
– Johann Scheffler

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" Mark Sedio

***Offering Hymn** — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *stanza 1* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



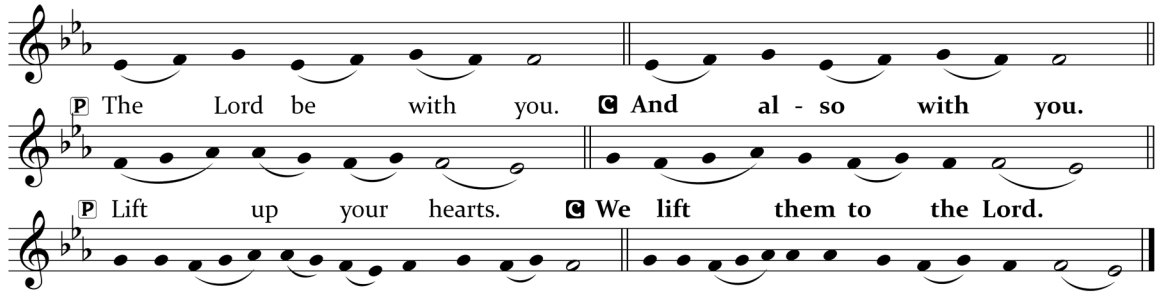
***Offering Prayer**

ℒ Let us pray.

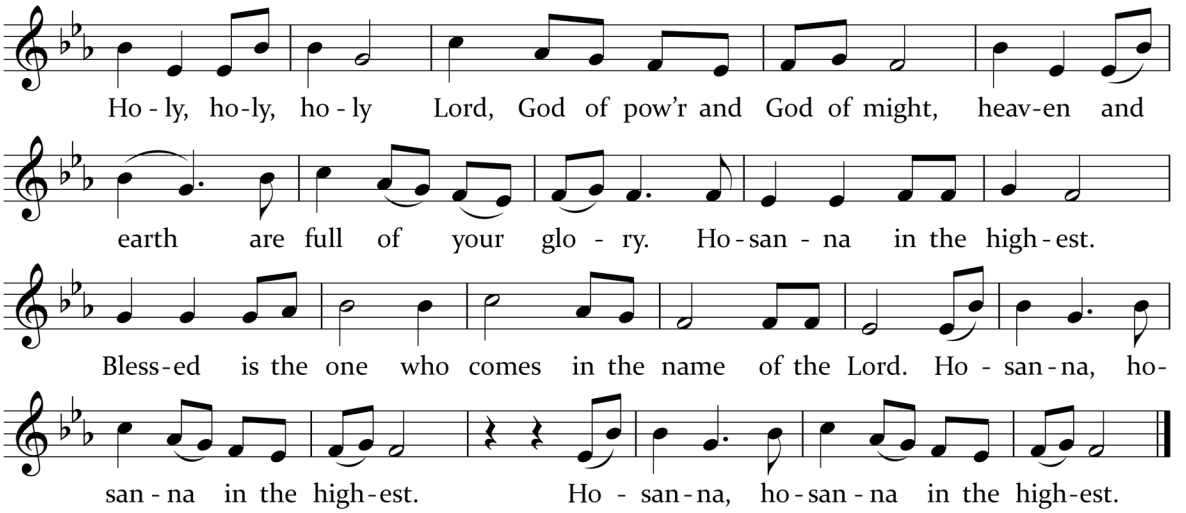
℄ **Savior of the nations, come, and make your home here in us.**
Feed us with your love, that our faith shines ever new and
our lives reveal your light. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

***Great Thanksgiving**



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



***Words of Institution**

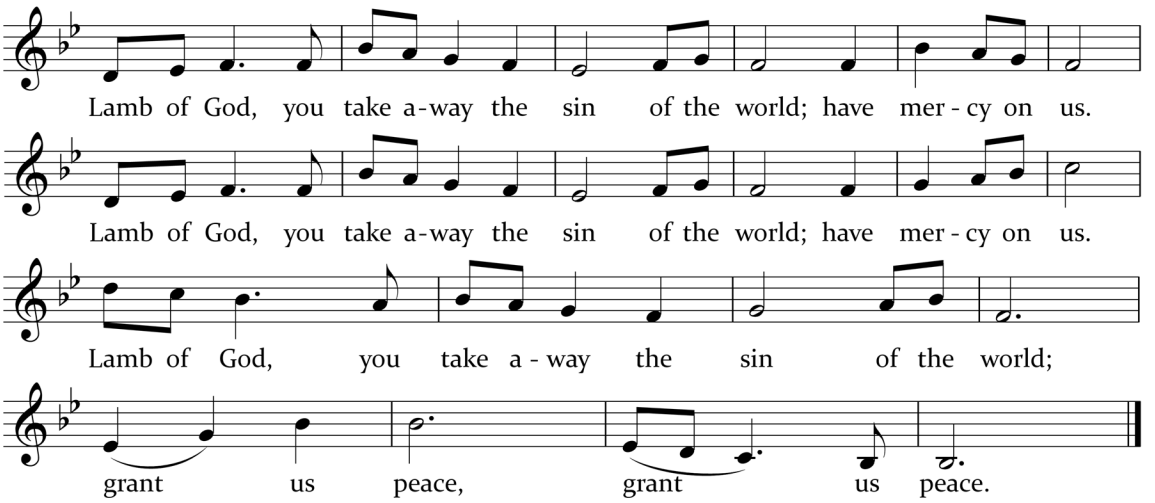
***The Lord's Prayer**

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** — "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" arr. David Sims

For anthem text, see ACS No. 901.

Hymn — ELW No. 241 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

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

***Prayer after Communion**

L Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Departing to Serve God's World

***Blessing**

Response:

C **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — on HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG Margrethe Hokanson



Acknowledgments

Cover image from the Geminid Meteor Shower at Big Sur, California, 2012.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Todd and Sara Lippert
	(10:45) Nick Gilbert
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Livestream	Dave Zdenek
Communion Prep	Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl
Communion Cleanup	Brenda Nelson
Greeters	(8:30) Loy Family
	(10:45) Kristy Harms, Jean Wakely
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson, Craig Schultz
Treats	Tricia Peterson
Counters	Chris and Martha Erickson, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Larry Enfield, Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt, Doug Johnson
	(10:45) Mike Bull and Susan Canon, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week *(November 29)*
Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
St. John's Forum (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)



Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in loving memory of Carolyn Moe Buzza by Audrey and Bruce Moe. 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*
Today, 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. Today's forum "*Holy Smoke, Underwear Design, and Advent at St. John's*", will be led by Rev. Bruce Benson.

Pub Theology: *The Creeds and Trinity*
Tomorrow, Monday, November 30, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
We are continuing the Pub Theology series on words of faith. This week we are talking about the words Creeds and Trinity. People in the church often have a lot of questions and mixed feelings about these words. What are yours? How do you experience the Apostles' Creed (or Nicene) on a Sunday morning? Or when we speak of the Trinity ("Father, Son, and Holy Spirit")? What do you find meaningful or challenging? Come with your questions and ponderings! We will once again be using Marcus Borg's book Speaking Christian as a springboard for conversation. Please find a copy of the reading at the Welcome Desk.

November is the month we especially lift up the work of ELCA World Hunger.
ELCA World Hunger supports projects in 60 countries, including the United States, working to eliminate food insecurity. The elimination of USAID and federal cuts domestically have made the needs of these ministry partners even greater. The St. John's Foundation is providing a matching grant for special offerings to ELCA World Hunger, matching up to $5,000 in congregational gifts by the end of the year. If you receive offering envelopes, you will have a special envelope in your packet.



St. John's Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 20, at the 10:45 a.m. Service
The program is performed by children in preschool–grade 5. All children are welcome to be involved. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. If your child is unable to participate, please notify his/her teacher or Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

- **Solos or Ensembles for the Christmas Program**
  Sunday school children are welcome to participate in providing music during the offering. We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. Please sign up in the lower Commons or contact Julie Brehmer if your child is interested in participating.

Announcements (continued)

Advent Vespers
Wednesdays, December 9 and 16, 6:15–6:45 p.m., Sanctuary
We gather for a service of poetry and prayer. We will sing *Mountain Vespers*, an evening service written for Holden Village by Kent Gustavson. Join us for 30 minutes in the Sanctuary to let the waiting and hope of the season sink in.

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 through Sunday, December 6.

St. John's Forum: *Reflections from Rwanda and Their School for the Blind*
Sunday, December 13, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall
Jenny Pelletier will share her recent experience working at a school for the blind in Musanze, Rwanda. She and Barbara Bennett, a former missionary in Rwanda, created connections through fellowship, music, and teaching orientation and mobility skills to their blind and low vision students. Come learn about a bit about Rwandan culture, the people, and the exiting future opportunities to engage with this school. Jenny's trip was partially funded by a grant from the St. John's Foundation.

Stewardship 2027 Appeal is Underway
If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2027, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2027 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or the offering plate, scan the QR code, or complete the online pledge form on our website. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2027 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's.

Pledge 2027



"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.

A reminder: Pledging for 2027 is happening now. If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time!

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, Gordy Moore, Dolores Nelson, George Pinc, Vikki Van Veldhuizen, Dick Werdahl, Karen Wingate

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Barb Knaak
Family of John Yackel (grandfather of Drew Yackel)

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, December 2:
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

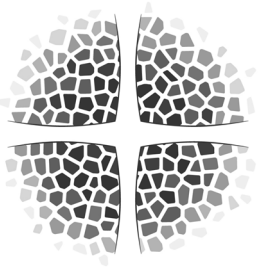
All are welcome!

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. 30	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Flaherty's Northfield Lanes
Tuesday, Dec. 1	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, Offsite
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room
	6:00 p.m.	Wellspring Circle Bagged Supper Social, Fireside Room
	6:30 p.m.	Wellspring Circle Discussion Time, Fireside Room
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room
Wednesday, Dec. 2	2:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Advent Fair with Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 3	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	4:00 p.m.	Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom
	5:15 p.m.	Just for Kix Dance Class, Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	Thursday Night Big Book Group, Youth Room
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 4	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Visitation - Barb Knaak, Commons
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral - Barb Knaak, Sanctuary
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 5		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 6	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary
		(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, 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.