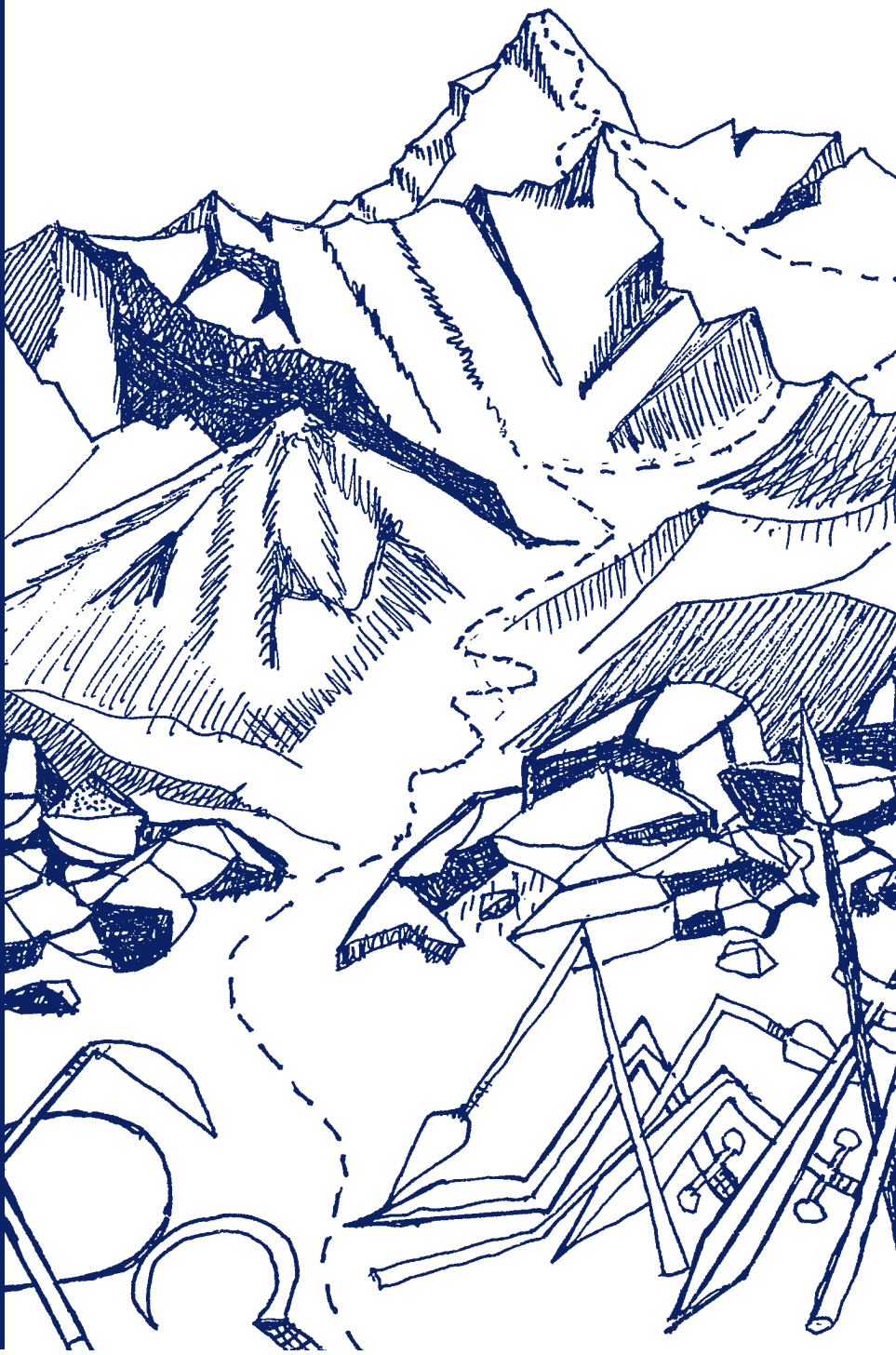


SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 + 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 — “Proclamation on WACHET AUF”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 436

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

*Greeting

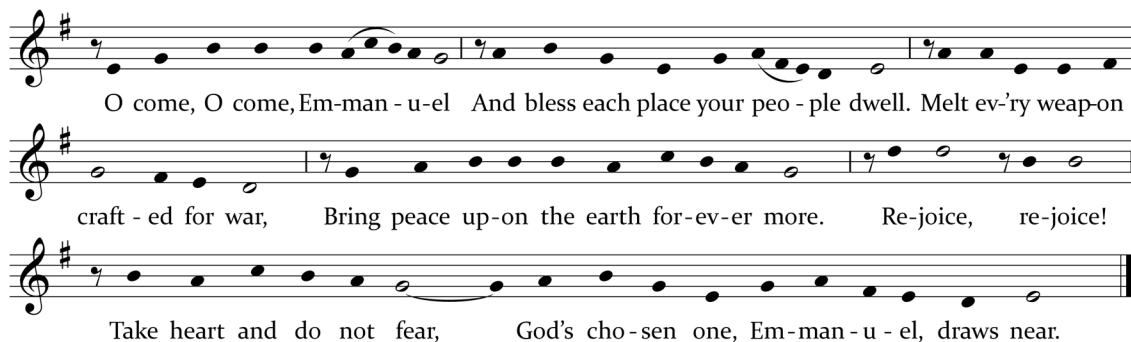
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- L** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You hold us in our waiting
and keep us awake to the world. Bless us as we light this candle to keep
vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day
or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **C Amen.**

Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI, EMMANUEL



O come, O come, Em-man - u-el And bless each place your peo - ple dwell. Melt ev-'ry weap-on
craft - ed for war, Bring peace up-on the earth for-ev-er more. Re-joice, re-joice!
Take heart and do not fear, God's cho-sen one, Em-man - u - el, draws near.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 2:1-5

Spark Story Bible, page 164; Pew Bible, page 550

After the reading:

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

Psalmody — Psalm 122

Antiphon: Paul J. Christiansen

Antiphon: Peace be unto you.



- ¹I was glad when they | said to me,
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”
- ²Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD. *Antiphon*
- ⁵For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- | per who love you.
- ⁷Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity. *Antiphon*

Second Reading — Romans 13:11-14

Pew Bible, page 923

After the reading:

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



Children's Message

"Wonders of Worship"

I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? I won-der. I
won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!

Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

*Gospel Acclamation

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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

*Gospel — Matthew 24:36-44

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 438

“My Lord, What a Morning”

*Advent Credo

Daniel Berrigan, 1921–2016

- P** It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

A **This is true: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”** (John 3:16)
- P** It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

A **This is true: “I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”** (John 10:10b)
- P** It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

A **This is true: “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders, his name shall be called Wonderful Councilor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”** (Isaiah 9:6)
- P** So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope.
 Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.
 Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
 Jesus Christ—the life of the world.

A **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) "Keep Your Lamps!"

Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

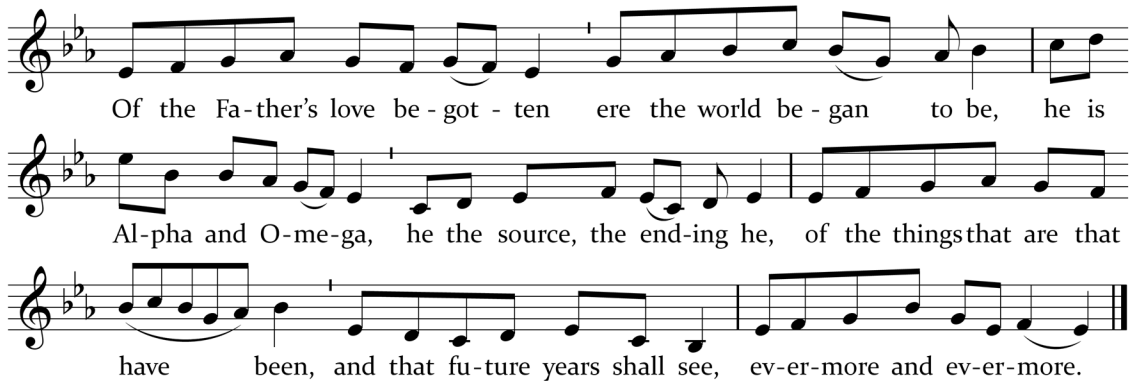
Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

(10:45) "Keep Your Lamps!"

Mary Howarth

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



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be, he is

Al-pha and O-me-ga, he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that are that

have been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

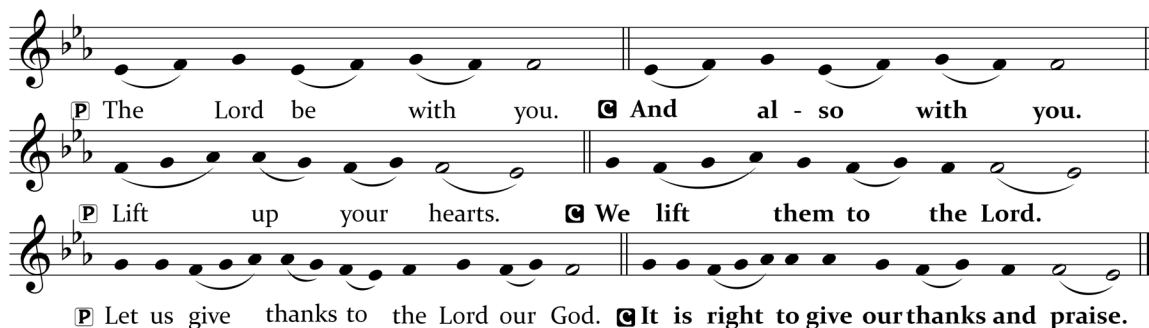
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

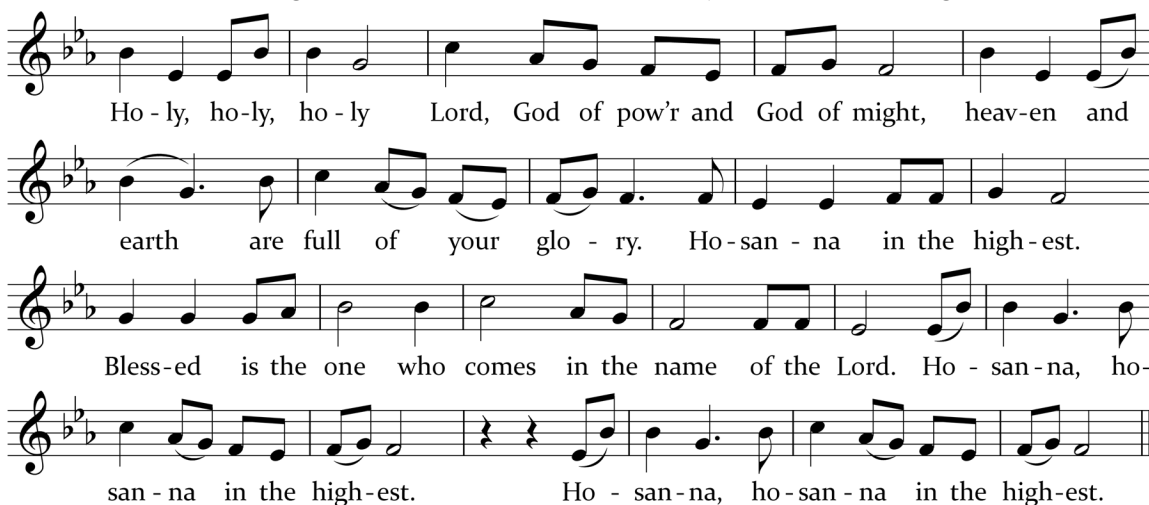


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** 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, God of pow'r and God of might, heav-en and

earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, 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 — "Bright Morning Stars"

Spiritual, arr. Alice Parker

Bright morning stars are rising and day is a-breaking in my soul. O where are our dear mothers? They are sowing seeds of gladness, and day is a-breaking in my soul. O where are our dear fathers? They have crossed the river shouting, and day is a-breaking in my soul. They are all by the streams a-dancing, and day is a-breaking in my soul.

Robbie Shaw, baritone

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**

℣ God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 711

“O Day of Peace”

***Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — “The Peace may be exchanged.” from *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 7):

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 † Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 † Romans 15:4-13 † Matthew 3:1-12

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Ruthie Neuger
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Soloist	(8:30) Robbie Shaw, Church Music Intern
Percussion	(8:30) Meredith Ivory
Communion Prep	Craig Schultz
Communion Cleanup	Vicki Otis
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Pat and Bob Tabery
Treats	Judy Cederberg
Counters	Chris and Martha Erickson, Reed Hagberg
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Jim and Alison Kavanaugh, Gordon Moore

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad based on Isaiah 2:1-5.

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Advent Fair!
Wednesday, December 3

Invite family and friends to this wonderful
annual tradition at St. John's!

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm: Wednesday Meal
5:45 pm - 7:00 pm: Christmas Crafts and Treats!

Advent Fair is held in 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 7, 14, 21 & 28.

St. John's Fall Forum Series: *Courage, Conversion, Care—Responding Faithfully to Climate Change*

- **Today, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall**

Dr. Kiara Jorgenson brings our series on climate change to a close with her talk on “*Troubled Hope*.” Dr. Jorgenson is associate professor of religion and environmental studies and chairs the Department of Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College.

St. John's Forum: *Youth, Parents, and Screens* with Michelle Martin

Next Sunday, December 7, 9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Are you a parent or a grandparent who wonders about the effects of screens on your kids and grandkids? Are you worried about the effect of screens on our relationships with each other? Michelle Martin, a 5th grade teacher at Prairie Creek Community School and Minnesota Council for Social Studies 2018 Teacher of the Year, will present and lead a conversation around the role screens play in the lives of young people and our relationships with them.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 10 & 17

6:15–6:45 p.m., Sanctuary

We gather for a quiet service of poetry and prayer. Join us for 30 minutes in the Sanctuary to let the waiting and hope of the season sink in.

St. John's Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 14, 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.

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* (January 2026 Edition): Due Wednesday, December 10

Announcements (continued)

Stewardship 2026 Appeal

If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2026, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2026 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or the offering plate, scan the QR, 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 2026 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.



Christmas Cheer Tripled

Saturday, December 13, St. John's Hall

Three fun WELCA events in one morning—participate in one or all of them. Christmas music will be in the air & plenty of coffee & hot cider!

- 9:00 a.m.: Bring 3 Dozen Cookies to St. John's Hall
- 9:30–11:00 a.m.: Stuff Boxes with Goodies and Cards
- 11:00 a.m.: Help Deliver Goodies to St. John's Shut-Ins

Sign up in the Commons or log in to St. John's CCB website, on the home page, scroll down the right side; choose "WELCA Event Needs," then "Christmas Cheer Tripled."

ISAIAH: "A Light in the Storm"

Dozens of St. John's members will attend this event in Minneapolis on **Saturday afternoon, December 13**. Many will ride the bus together. We will learn how to advance economic, racial, and climate justice, and how to help preserve and protect a strong democracy. We expect to be there with thousands of Minnesotans from across the state and from many different faiths. And we expect to be inspired. Please contact Rod Christensen, Ron Hebensperger, Carrie Dauner, Dan Dauner, Elise Helland, Erik Holleque, or Kristi Wermager for more information.



Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (November 30)

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

Next Week (December 7)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall
Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons
Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)
Youth Christmas Party: 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)

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

Jerry Appeldoorn, Bob Flaten, Mark Granquist, Fred Huemoeller, Dagfinn Moe

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, David Norman, Alice Rickert,
Ruth Smestad Anglin, Ingrid Alberding, Darlene Schloeder (mother of April Fitzloff),
Glen Norgaard (father of Brett Norgaard)

All who are homebound, including

Janice Helgeson, Carol Johnson

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 3:
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

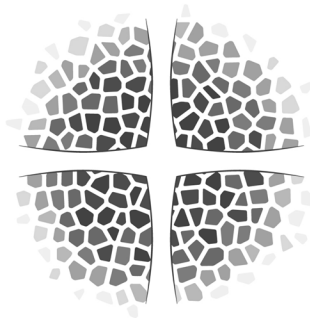
All are welcome!

*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

This Week At-a-Glance

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

Monday, Dec. 1	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall WELCA Executive Board Meeting, Undercroft Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 2	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Worship Planning for Staff, Fireside Room Wellspring Circle, St. John's Library Stephen Minister Training, Fireside Room NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room
Wednesday, Dec. 3	2:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee, Fireside Room Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Advent Fair with Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Evening Knitters, Fireside Room Politics & Faith Discussion Group, St. John's Library St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 4	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite Courageous Conversations Book Group via Zoom Thursday Night Big Book Group, Youth Room Rejoice Ringers Rehearsal, Sanctuary ISAIAH Steering Committee, Fireside Room
Friday, Dec. 5	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 6		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 7	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 13) Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary Sons of Norway Fundraiser, St. John's Hall



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenschner, *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*
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*
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Rings*

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