



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 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 — “Proclamation on WACHET AUF”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 436

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

***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.**

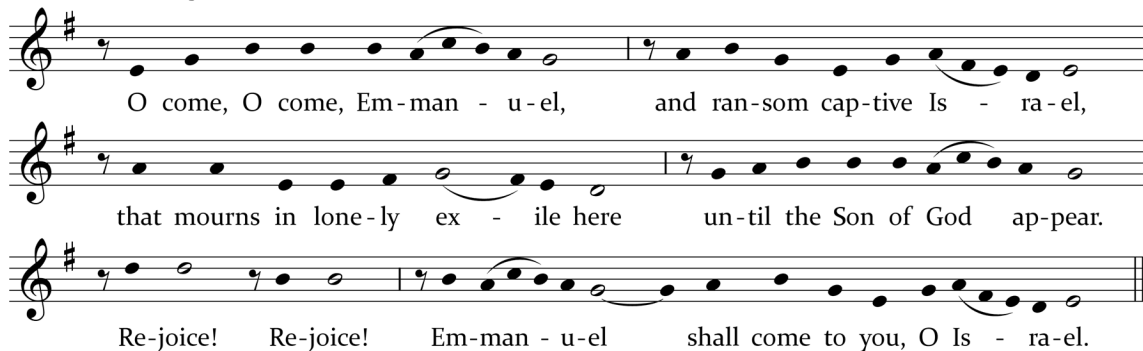
***Prayer of the Day**

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful
protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins,
and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day,
for you live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

- ☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
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



O come, O come, Em-man - u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra-el,
that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 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.

Psalmody — Psalm 80:1-6, 18-19

Antiphon and Tone: Kevin Vogt

*Antiphon: As morning breaks, I look to you, O God,
to be my strength this day. Alleluia.*



- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
- ³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁴O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

¹⁸**And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.**

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. Antiphon**

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Pew Bible, page 926

After the reading:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** — “Wait for the Lord”

WAIT FOR THE LORD

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the Gospel Acclamation. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the top staff: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The music consists of chords and simple melodic lines. There are some markings like "#8" and "8" on the staves, likely indicating measure numbers or specific musical instructions.

Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

***Gospel** — Mark 13:24-37

Spark Story Bible, page 346

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸From 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. ³²But 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 suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

JEFFERSON



Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;
Come, thou Day - break, just - ly ris - ing, night is gone, the day draws near;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
come, thou Dawn of Peace sur - pris - ing all the shades of war and fear.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
An - gels know not, nor we mor - tals, when the day, and what the hour;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.
let us live then, wise and wake - ful, to the dawn - ing of thy pow'r.

Text: Charles Wesley, sts. 1-2; Susan Palo Cherwien, st. 3 © Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

*The Apostles' Creed

Front of ELW hymnal, page 105

*Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

- ☒ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☒ **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) "The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem"

arr. Ralph Johnson

The hills are bare at Bethlehem, no future for the world they show; yet here new life begins to grow, from earth's old dust a greenwood stem. The stars are cold at Bethlehem, no warmth for those beneath the sky; yet here the radiant angels fly, and joy burns new, a fiery gem. The heart is tired at Bethlehem, no human dream unbroken stands; yet here God comes to mortal hands, and hope renewed cries out: "Amen!"

– Royce J. Scherf

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Lynette Maynard

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

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

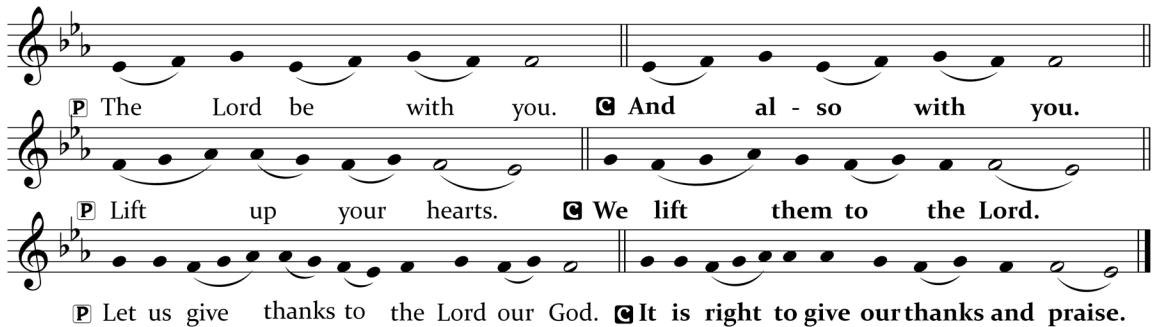
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C **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.**

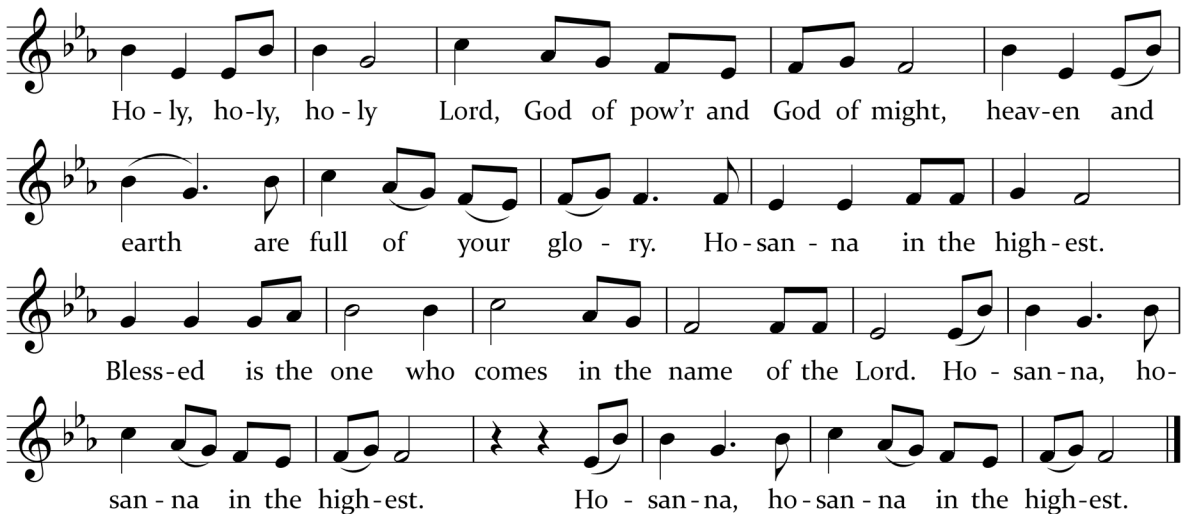
SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving



P 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.

Hymn — ELW No. 243

"Lost in the Night"

Hymn — ELW No. 260

"The King Shall Come"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

- ☞ Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- ☞ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response:

- ☞ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — ELW No. 244

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

***Dismissal**

- ☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- ☞ Thanks be to God!

Postlude — on HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

Margrethe Hokanson



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 10):

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 † Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 † 2 Peter 3:8-15a † Mark 1:1-8

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) David Clarke (10:45) Violet Froehle and Dick Jorgensen
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Communion Prep	Georgene Johnson, Judy Smith
Communion Cleanup	TBD
Greeters	(8:30) Pam Groves-Gaggioli (10:45) Kibby Errington
Coffee Service	TBD
Refreshments	Kibby Errington
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Jill Enestvedt, Martha Erickson, Jim Loe
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Alison Kavanaugh, Jon Kavanaugh, Christy Hall-Holt, Olaf Hall-Holt

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (December 3)

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)
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)
Advent Book Study (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

Next Week (December 10)

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)
Advent Book Study (9:45–10:30 a.m., Fireside Room)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by the family of Marilyn McRae Raadt in honor of her 90th birthday and to celebrate her 70th year as a member of St. John's. 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 25 & 31 and January 21 & 28.

Stewardship 2024 Appeal

Thanks to the 180 families who have returned their 2024 pledge card. We still need to hear from many more of you in the next few weeks in order for leadership to craft a budget. You can scan the QR Code on the right, [complete the online pledge form](#) on our website, return a card to the church office or in the offering plate, or email your intent to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2024 intent, even if it is to remain the same.



St. John's Forum: Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth Sunday, December 3, 9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Come hear Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth, provide detailed information about the vital youth services provided for our Northfield youth, and answer questions about The Key. The Key is the longest running youth-run youth center in the nation! It is a life-giving community and a safe place for youth to connect with each other, caring adults, and their community. Free meals and access to resources are available every day on a self-referral basis for all youth.

Pub Theology

Monday, December 4, 6:00–7:15 p.m., The Contented Cow

Topic: *Faithful Ancestors*

In the season of Advent, we hear Mary sing about God's faithfulness to her ancestors, and then we imagine her as our ancestor in faith. But how are WE ancestors for those who will come after us? What does it mean to live our faith with a thousand-year timeline instead of a three-year plan? Read Debi Thomas's brief essay and join us to talk about celebrating the season in a broader timeline.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13

6:15–6:45 p.m. 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.

Announcements (continued)

Women of St. John's: Join us for the Great Lutheran Cookie Bake & Christmas Card Making Saturday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.–Noon, Fellowship Hall

Bring or drop off a couple dozen cookies. If you can, stay and box up cookies and make Christmas cards for St. John's members who are shut-ins and/or living in local retirement homes.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

All youth (grades 6–12) are invited to a Christmas party. Come for crafts, games, cookies, and conversation. Maybe even show off a Christmas sweater.

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias again this year. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, the order form is available in the Commons and on the church website. The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 17.

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn in your report by Friday, December 22, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 28. (Watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting.)

St. John's Community Christmas Day Dinner

December 25, 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

We are excited to be hosting this wonderful holiday meal for all, but need volunteers and food donations to make it a success! Paper sign-ups are available in the Commons during Sunday coffee hours and Wednesday Night Meals. Sign-up is also available on the church website in CCB listed in the Group "Christmas Dinner 2023," and a link to this is located in the weekly E-Voice. You can also sign up by emailing Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or by calling the church office.

St. John's Women Annual Holiday Luncheon and Carols

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Ruth's On Stafford

Please join us for a time of fellowship, delicious food with a Norwegian theme to honor the heritage of our church, and festive holiday music presented by Carol Benson and others! All women of St. John's are invited! Cost is \$25 paid in advance. Watch for a registration table between services in December, or mail/bring a check to the church office, or you may email your reservation to womenstjohns500@gmail.com, and pay with PayPal—www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/women.

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 Maxine Boraas (cousin of Mary Ellen North)
Family of Loren Mathre (brother of Rachel Peterson)

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, Bruce Hella, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Rose Youngquist, Lois Pearson, Janice Helgeson

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, December 6:
Totchos with the Fixins

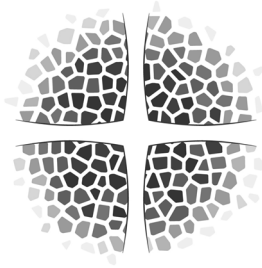
All are welcome!

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, Dec. 4	12:00 p.m.	Visitation - Andy Nelson
	1:00 p.m.	Funeral - Andy Nelson
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, The Contented Cow
	7:00 p.m.	Northfield Girl Scout Leaders Meeting, Undercroft
Tuesday, Dec. 5	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
	7:00 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, Fireside Room NAMI (Northfield Alliance on Mental Illness), Youth Room Northfield Rotary, St. John's Library
Wednesday, Dec. 6	9:00 a.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Personnel Committee, Undercroft
	12:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	4:00 p.m.	Advent Book Study, Fireside Room
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Knitters, St. John's Library
	6:15 p.m.	Advent Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Undercroft High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale	
Thursday, Dec. 7	7:45 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
	9:30 a.m.	Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite
	10:30 a.m.	Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 8	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Mary Circle, Fireside Room
	5:30 p.m.	Swedish Club Lucia Fest, St. John's Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 9	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
	10:00 a.m.	St. John's Women of the ELCA, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Dec. 10	8:30 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Christmas Party (Grades 6-12), Youth Room
	2:00 p.m.	Sons of Norway Event, 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 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.

*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.*