

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022 + 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 — *Three About John:*

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Franklin Ashdown

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

John Ferguson

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Robert Hobby

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

☞ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who does wondrous things.

☑ **Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen.**

☞ Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront
our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ God of new beginnings,

☑ **we confess that we have not welcomed your presence among us.
We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining
fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of
repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

☞ People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch,
a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✠ Christ, and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord. ☑ **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 264

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

*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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

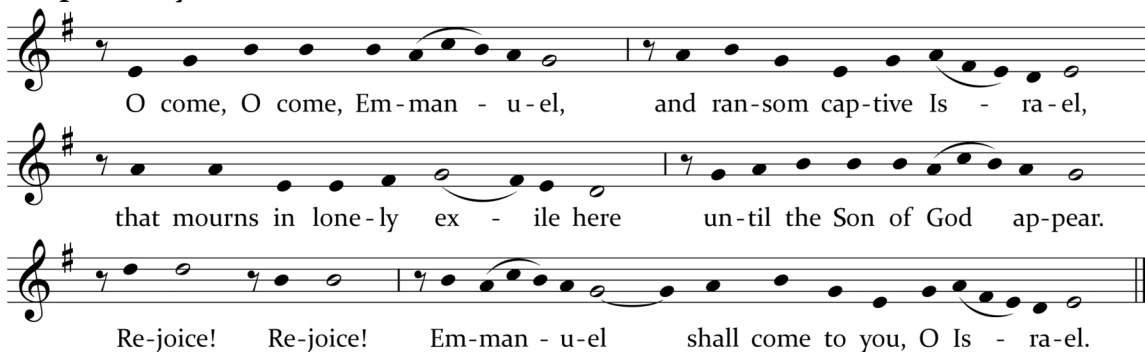
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- ☐ Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.
You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the
Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple
flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.
We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

☑ Amen.

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

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-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicum*; tr. composite; Music: French processional, 15th cent.

(8:30) Anthem — “Praise and Thanksgiving”

Edith L. Thompson

Alleluia Choir

(10:45) Anthem — “Jesus, Jesus, Come This Way”

Michael Morris

*As the winter skies turn dark, may God's light shine like a spark guiding us to sing and say:
“Jesus, Jesus, come this way!” As the winter winds blow cold, may our hearts burn warm and
bold with the strength to hope and pray: “Jesus, Jesus, come this way!” As the winter nights
grow long, may we hear a holy song ev'ry eve till Christmas day...“Jesus, Jesus, come this way!”*

Jubilate Choir

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 11:1-10

Spark Story Bible, page 172

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

 The word of the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — Romans 15:4-13

Pew Bible, page 924

 The word of the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

***Gospel — Matthew 3:1-12**

℟ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter. **☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

℟ The Gospel of the Lord. **☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

***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:

☐ 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.

Stewardship Moment

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "Lift Up Your Heads"

John L. Bell

*Lift up your heads, eternal gates, alleluia! See how the king of glory waits, alleluia!
The Lord of Hosts is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here. Alleluia! But not in
arms or battle dress, alleluia! God comes a child amidst distress, alleluia! No mighty
armies shield the way, only coarse linen, wool, and hay. Alleluia! God brings a new
face to the brave, alleluia! God redefines who best can save: alleluia! Not those whose
power relies on threat, terror or torture, destruction or debt. Alleluia! God's match-
less and majestic strength, alleluia! In all its height, depth, breadth, and length, alle-
luia! Now is revealed, its power to prove, by Christ protesting "God is love!" Alleluia!*

– George Weissel, trans. Catherine Winkworth, adapt. John L. Bell

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

***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.**

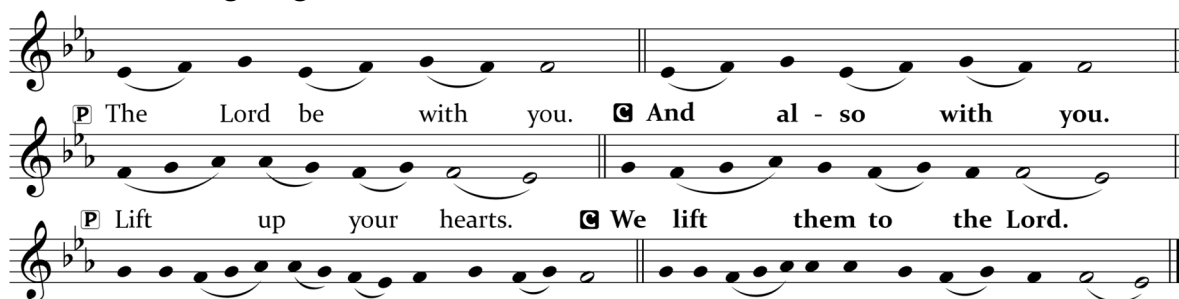
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

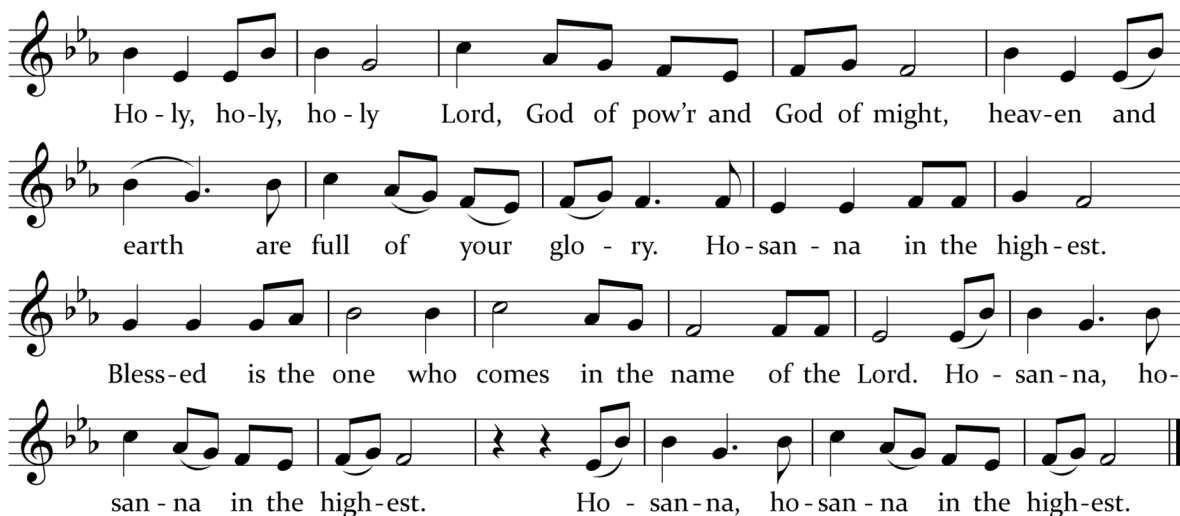


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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. 272

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

☞ Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your people, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

☞ **Amen.**

***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



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Holy Communion Setting 12 from *All Creation Sings*. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Patrice Nordstrand (10:45) Michael Morris
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choirs	(8:30) St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director (8:30) Alleluia Choir; Arielle Loy, director (10:45) Jubilate Choir; Green Bouzard, director
Violin	(10:45) Elliot Davis
Communion Prep	Kristin Partlo
Greeters	(8:30) Shirley Keltto (10:45) TBD
Coffee and Refreshments	Angie Gehring
Counters	Jane and Bill Rizzo, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Kent Rommereim, Christy & Olaf Hall-Holt, Alison & Jon Kavanaugh

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (December 4):

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: Introduction to *All Creation Sings* (9:45–10:30 a.m., Sanctuary)

Next Week (December 11):

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: Poetry of Advent (9:45–10:30 a.m., St. John's Hall)

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 11):

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 † Psalm 146:5-10 † James 5:7-10 † Matthew 11:2-11

Announcements

*Additional announcements can be found in the weekly E-Voice.
Printed copies of the E-Voice are available at the Welcome Desk and by Door #1.*

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Richard and Sharol Nau. 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: January 8, 22 & 29.

Message from Our Stewardship Board

Thanks to the 130 families who have returned their 2023 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 2023 intent, even if it is to remain the same.



St. John's Forum – Introduction to *All Creation Sings*

Sunday, December 4, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Worship and music are essential to our experience of God, and every generation finds new words and melodies to explore the wonders and mysteries of faith. *All Creation Sings*, the beautiful purple hymnal in our pews, was published in 2020 as a supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. We've already learned many of the hymns, and in this forum David Sims (Music Development Manager, Augsburg Fortress) will explain its development and introduce us to the liturgies, prayers, and laments.

Advent Wednesdays: *Hope and Expectation*

Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary

We gather for a quiet service of poetry and prayer. Our themes of hope and expectation will bring together Scripture, contemporary poetry, and the music of Advent. Join us for 30 minutes in the Sanctuary to let the waiting and hope of the season sink in.

I Cantanti Chamber Choir

Today, December 4, 4:00 p.m., United Methodist Church, Faribault

Join I Cantanti Chamber Choir for their annual Nine Lessons and Carols concert. There are opportunities for the audience to sing along and the reflections provide an excellent opportunity to kick off the Christmas season. The performance will include works from Wayne Kivell, Dan Forrest, Philip Biedenbender, Giulio Caccini, and John Gardner. In lieu of tickets, a freewill exit offering will be taken at the door.

Announcements (continued)

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 will be available in the Commons and on the church website. The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 18.

Language Camp Fundraiser—Nordic Kaffeepause (Swedish “Fika”)

Sunday, December 11, 2:00–4:00 p.m., St. John’s Hall

Bottomless cup of coffee, Norwegian waffles, Scandinavian cookies, and rommegrot! \$15/adult, \$10/ages 5–10, free for 4 and under, \$35 max/family. For tickets call 612-205-1133 or they can be purchased at the door. Sponsored by Northfield Sons of Norway, Lodge #1-585. VELKOMMEN!

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn in your report by Monday, December 19, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29. (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 to 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 2022,” 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.

Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John’s annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2022 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Online gifts can be given by December 28 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Submissions for the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletin, and The Voice

Please send all submissions for the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletin, and The Voice to Leah Garlie electronically via email to office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or the Announcement Request Form found on our website.

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.

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

Brad Kmoch, George Pinc, Bruce Rickert, Doris Ellingboe (mother of Karen Schuette),
Bruce Hella (brother of Karl Hella), Aarin Morse, Melisa Simonet (daughter of Julian
Trangsrud)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Scott Barvir, Jo Chambers, Billi Faillettaz, Bob Flaten, Jane Gelle, Donna James,
Carolyn Jennings, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness, Paul Peterson, John Quam, Scott Quinnell,
Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom, Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Carol Johnson, Richard Olson, Elouise Quinnell

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 7:
Pizza Burgers with Salad, Chips, Dessert
(Vegetarian Option Available)

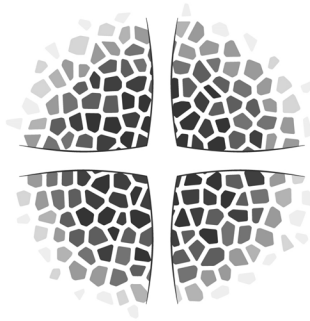
All are welcome!

*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. 5	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Location TBD
	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Troop Leaders Meeting, Undercroft
Tuesday, Dec. 6	7:30 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.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
		NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room
Wednesday, Dec. 7	12:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study, Fireside Room
	3:45 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's
	5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall
	6:15 p.m.	Advent Vespers, Sanctuary
		Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall
		High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room
	6:30 p.m.	Where Politics Meets Faith Conversation, Fireside Room
		Bible Overview for Grown-Ups, Room 19
	7:00 p.m.	St. John's Chorale, Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Ubuntu Youth Group, St. John's
Thursday, Dec. 8	7:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	9:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library
	6:00 p.m.	Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 9	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. 10	9:00 a.m.	Women's Breakfast Group, St. John's Library
Sunday, Dec. 11	8:30 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
		<i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)</i>
	10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary
	2:00 p.m.	Sons of Norway Kaffeepause 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*
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Children's Music Director and Early Childhood Specialist*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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