



SERVICE OF THE WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020 † 9:00 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.



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.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Today we rejoice in the gifts of baptism: the promise of God's faithfulness and forgiveness, the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit, and life together in the body of Christ. This year, as we cannot gather all our 10th graders and their families at once, we will be celebrating Affirmation of Baptism with each student on separate Sundays—claiming God's promises for them at this moment in their lives. They have been through a long journey of catechesis in the faith, and many family members, teachers, and mentors have been part of this formation with them. We rejoice that they are ready to publicly claim God's promises to them stating their intentions to continue in the faith: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. They are:

**Mason Babbini, Ben Blomberg, Rhett Garlie, Lucy Menssen,
Johann Schroeer, Thomas Weber, Gus Welbaum**

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Three settings of FREU DICH SEHR

Egil Hovland, John Ferguson, Craig Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving and forgiving God,

**C we confess that we are held captive by sin.
Even with our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us, turn us from our sins,
and renew us each day in the light of Christ.**

P People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven and you are free—
free from all that holds you back,
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn — “Prepare the Royal Highway” (#264) BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN**



Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your pro - mised king!
 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, tr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

- ☐ We light candles during Advent, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us look outward in love and look forward in hope.

A prophet speaks, and the psalmist sings, telling us how God will come:
 Comfort my people, bring comfort to them, says your God.

Clear a road through the wilderness and prepare a highway across the
 desert. Then the glory of God will be revealed and all shall see it.

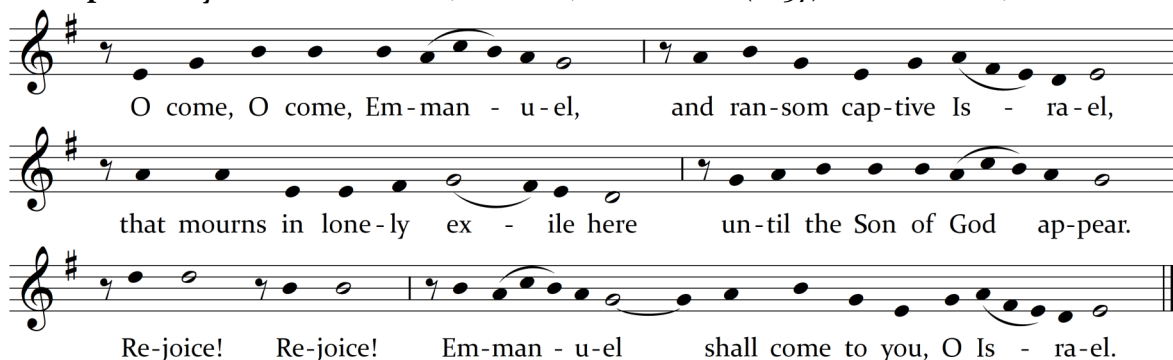
Love and faithfulness will come together. Justice and peace will embrace.

We light our second candle as a prayer of hope and longing,
 that God's glory may be revealed on earth,
 through justice, peace, and faithful love.

- ☑ **Risen Christ, Light of the world,**
shine in our lives and shine among us now.

***Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#257)**

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

***Greeting**

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

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

First Reading — Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a

plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

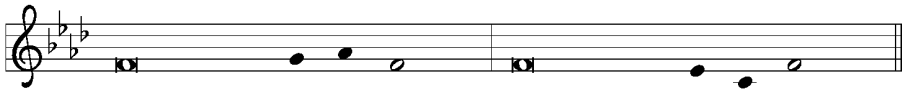
⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 85:8-13

Antiphon: Mary David Callahan

Antiphon: Righteousness and peace shall go before the LORD.



⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to
those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. Antiphon**

Second Reading — 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dis-

solved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- L** The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation — “Wait for the Lord” (#262)**

WAIT FOR THE LORD

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 — Mark 1:1-8**

- P** The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ” ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

- P** The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenschier

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” (#256)

FREU DICH SEHR



“Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, tr. Catherine Winkworth; Music: *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, 1551

*Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Gustaf Welbaum

Prayer

Response: ☒ Amen.

Profession of Faith

☐ Lord, we believe.

☒ Help our unbelief.

☐ Do you believe in God the Father?

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

- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C** **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.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C** **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.**

Intent to Continue in Our Baptismal Covenant with God

Promise of the Assembly

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Gus and pray for him in his life in Christ?
- C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Prayer of Invocation

- P** We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
- C** **Amen.**

Confirmation through Laying On of Hands and Prayer

Celebrating with the Confirmand

- P** Let us rejoice with Gus, our brother in Christ.
- C** **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***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:

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

Lynette Maynard

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

☞ Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.
We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.
For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.
Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.
Nurture our faith with your grace, accompany us with your might,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.
For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.
☛ **Amen.**

***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.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

***Blessing**

Response: ☛ **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn — “All Earth Is Hopeful” (#266)**

TODA LA TIERRA

All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.


Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A-vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our

la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall; Music: Alberto Taulé © Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin OCP Publications

***Dismissal**

 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Minister	Julie Zdenek
Organist	Nathan Proctor

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Mary Gasho by Bill Gasho and family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Next available dates: February 28 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Our Stewardship Appeal for 2021

Knowing members' intentions helps us plan next year's ministry. Please submit your giving intention for next year via the online form on our website. If you need a physical pledge card mailed to you, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

Poinsettia Orders for 2020

There are a limited number of poinsettias available for purchase to decorate the Sanctuary for 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, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 612-532-6863.

Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom

Monday, December 7, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Topic: Patience. Advent is the season of waiting. We tend to think of it as "waiting for Christmas," but in fact it calls us to spiritual patience in the indefinite waiting of our lives. How do you practice patience? How do you live with indefinite timelines? What practices of Advent have helped you develop patience in the rest of the year? What experiences in life have helped you learn patience?

Can you help remote learners?

Northfield Healthy Communities Initiative is seeking volunteers who will offer remote support to kids doing distance learning this winter. Once established with a student and teacher, volunteers would offer 15-30 minutes 2-4 days a week to help students stay on track. Contact Laura@northfieldhci.org if you are interested.

Announcements (continued)

Stephen Ministers Host Gathering Featuring Naomi Bartley via Zoom - All are Welcome!

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

Stephen Ministers have invited Naomi Bartley, a licensed professional clinical counselor (<http://naomibartley.com>) and a member of our congregation, to lead a virtual gathering. Measures of physical health, of recovery and death, are the headlines every day, and our mental health shapes how we manage that information - as well as our own possible COVID-19 experiences. Naomi will offer helps for handling the losses and fears that characterize daily life as we now know it. Sally Lindell, our Parish Nurse, will also be involved. Everyone is welcome to join the meeting! Check the church calendar on our website for the Zoom link.

Thank You for supporting the Blessing Box at St. John's!

The Blessing Box is located on the north side of St. John's and contains hygiene and food products as a "stop and go" location for anyone needing a helping hand. It's been a busy site this fall and the need is great at this time! All donations have been greatly appreciated. Items that go quickly are: toilet paper, hand soap/sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant and feminine products, as well as take and eat food items. Feel free to donate items directly to the Blessing Box. Questions? Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Courageous Conversations Book Group

We will discuss Alicia Garza's new book: *Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* starting in January. It is available at Content in Northfield—a discount applies when you mention the book group. We will meet via Zoom on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., January 14 & 28, February 11 & 25, March 11 & 25. Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

Holden Village in 2021?

With a hopeful stance toward next summer, we are pondering a St. John's trip to Holden Village in 2021. If pandemic-possible, Holden would be open to cohorts for 5 night stays. An all-inclusive price would include the boat ticket meals, room, and programming. Guests would be responsible for their own travels to and from Chelan Washington (Field's Point). If you are interested in being part of a group that could gather at Holden please contact Pastor Pam Fickenscher. Registration has not been opened, but we want to be ready when it is.

Habitat for Humanity

In 2021, Habitat for Humanity of Rice County will launch new Faith Builds projects in Northfield. They are seeking local faith communities to surround this effort with 365 days of prayers from December 1, 2020 through November 30, 2021. You can sign up to be one of the 365 people praying by going to <http://habitatricecounty.org/>.

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

Donna Paulsen

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Joanne Sommers

Family of Gene Nelson

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marlene Engstrom, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Delores Nelson, Becky Ness,
Susan Nissen, John Quam, Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Virley Brown, Elouise Quinnell, Lester Gunderson

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;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

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.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 13):

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11 † Psalm 126 † 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 † John 1:6-8, 19-28

This Week At-a-Glance

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

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, Dec. 7	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 8	10:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:00 p.m.	Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
	7:00 p.m.	Church Board Meetings via Zoom
Wednesday, Dec. 9	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation for Grades 6-9 via Zoom
	6:30 p.m.	Advent Vespers via Livestream
Thursday, Dec. 10	1:30 p.m.	Elizabeth Circle Meeting via Zoom
Friday, Dec. 11		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Dec. 12	10:00 a.m.	Sons of Norway Drive Thru Fundraiser, St. John's Parking Lot
Sunday, Dec. 13	9:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast and Livestream
	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School via Zoom
		Virtual Youth Group via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour via Zoom

Worship with Us on Sundays via Livestream

Worship at 9:00 a.m. is livestreamed via our website.
We hope you'll join us via livestream or radio on KYMN.
Video of the service will still be available on the website later in the week.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover photograph of St. John's sanctuary; Confirmation banner by Judy Swanson

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St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenschier, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

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