

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 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 — *Clair de lune* (Moonlight)

Claude Debussy

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 715

“Christ, Be Our Light”

*Greeting

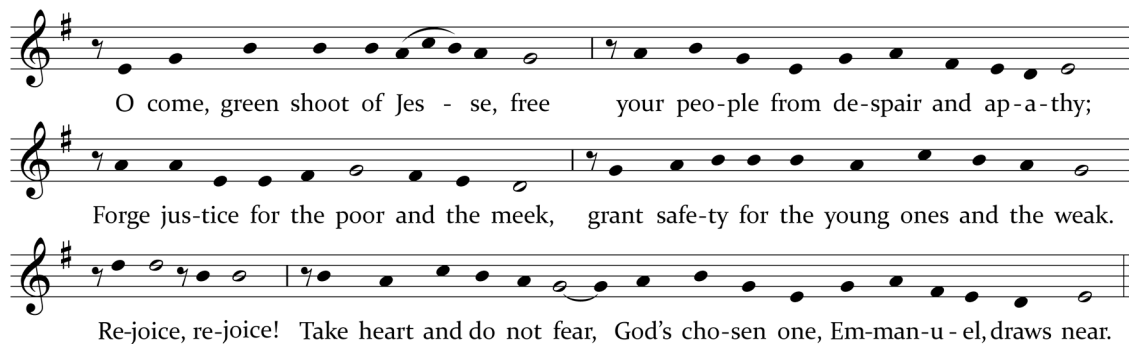
- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- ☒ Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son who gives
us the courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and
baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. 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, green shoot of Jes - se, free your peo-ple from de-spair and ap-a-ty;
Forge jus-tice for the poor and the meek, grant safe-ty for the young ones and the weak.
Re-joyce, re-joyce! Take heart and do not fear, God's cho-sen one, Em-man-u-el, draws near.

Text: Barbara Lundblad, 2013. Used with permission. Music: French processional

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 11:1-10

Pew Bible, page 558; Spark Story Bible, page 172

After the reading:

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

Psalmody — Psalm 72:1-7, 18

Antiphon: David Sims

*Antiphon: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.*



- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;**
you alone do | wondrous deeds! Antiphon

Second Reading — Romans 15:4-13

Pew Bible, page 924

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 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

G 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 Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do 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; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*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:

- ℣ 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) "My Song in the Night"

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love,
my soul's delight. Unto thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, my comfort by day,
and my song in the night. O why should I wander, a stranger from thee, or
cry in the desert, thy face to see? My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night. — Joseph Swain*

(10:45) "Lost in the Night"

F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler

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

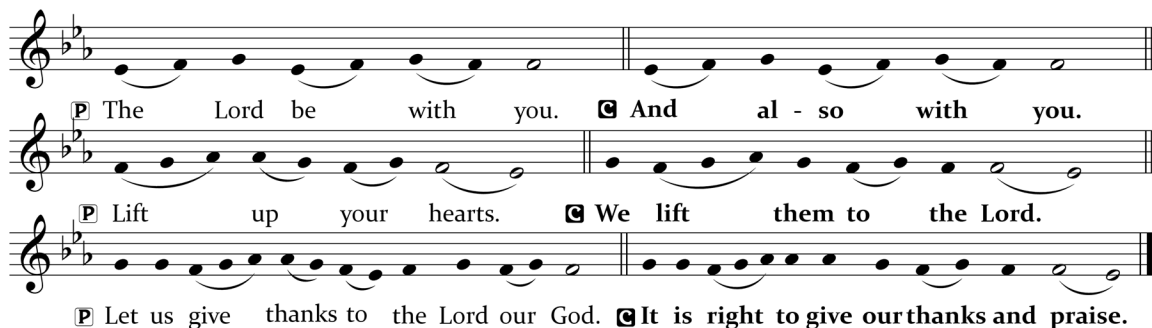
**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

*Offering Prayer

- ℣ Let us pray.
- ✎ 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** — "Stay with Us" from *Captive and Free*

Egil Hovland

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening, and night is falling. Jesus Christ, the world's true light! Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it! Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening. Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling. Let your light pierce the darkness and fill your church with its glory. — Luke 24:29

Hymn — ELW No. 726

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

***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. 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 14):

Third Sunday of Advent

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

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Ralph and Marcia Yernberg (10:45) Brenda Nelson
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Anthem Accompanist	(8:30) Jane Turpin Moore
Communion Prep	Nan Winsell
Communion Cleanup	Angie Gehring
Greeters	(8:30) Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Mary Ellen North (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Angie Gehring
Treats	Tricia Peterson, Rhonda Reece
Counters	Bill and Jane Rizzo, Pippa Simpson-Younger
Ushers	(8:30) Doug Child, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Jim Sharrow (10:45) Dave and Cheryl Buck, Charles Cannon, Roger Van Veldhuizen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad based on Isaiah 11.

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Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Gert Brosz by Wil Brosz and family. 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 office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Next available dates: December 14, 21 & 28.

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

Today, 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.

Christmas Cheer Tripled

Saturday, December 13, Fellowship 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 Fellowship 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."

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn in your report by Friday, December 19, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25. (Watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting.)

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 is available in the Commons, [online](#), or by scanning the QR code. The last day to place your order is Wednesday, Dec. 17.



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.



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 and will continue until all needs are met. Sign-up is also available on the church website in CCB listed in the Group "Christmas Dinner 2025." You can also sign up by contacting Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This 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)

Next Week (December 14)

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Sunday School: Preschool–Grade 5 (9:45–10:30 a.m., Lower Level)

Sunday Youth Group: 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

Bob Flaten, Fred Huemoeller, Dagfinn Moe

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Josephine “Jody” Alsaker

Those with ongoing health concerns

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

All who are homebound, including

Carolyn Jennings, Laila Burns Hedstrom

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 10:
Chicken Noodle Cordon Bleu

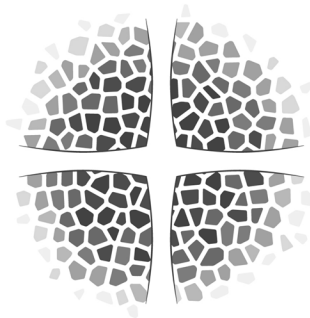
All are welcome!

*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. 8	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom St. John's Foundation, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Dec. 9	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 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 ESG Meeting, Fireside Room Church Board Meetings, St. John's Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 10	9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall Personnel Committee, Fireside Room Nominating Committee, Fireside Room Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Advent Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8) High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12) St. John's Chorale, Room 209
Thursday, Dec. 11	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library Thursday Night Big Book Group, Youth Room
Friday, Dec. 12	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Mary Circle, Fireside Room Swedish Club Lucia Fest, St. John's Hall New Moms Network, Youth Room NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 13	9:00 a.m.	WELCA Christmas Cookie Box Assembly, Fellowship Hall Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside Room
Sunday, Dec. 14	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 13)</i> Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary



St. John's
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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.