



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 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 — “O Magnum Mysterium”

Morten Lauridsen

Nathaniel Johnson, violin

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

***Greeting**

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

G **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.

G **Amen.**

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

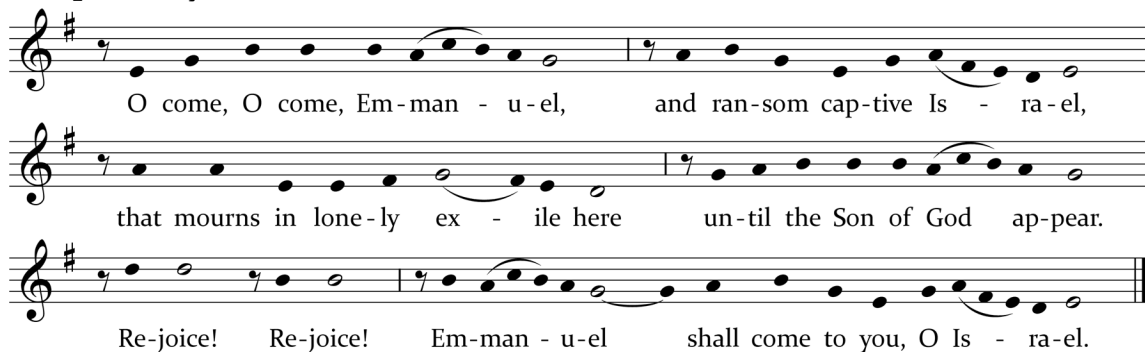
L Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way,
for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.

G **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 40:1-11

Pew Bible, page 581

After the reading:

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

Anthem — “O Magnum Mysterium”

David Sims

*O magnum mysterium.
The Word was in the beginning.
The Word became truly human.
The Word was born of flesh and Spirit.
O magnum mysterium.
The alpha, omega, beginning and end.
The Word was before and will be.
Of the eternal mother's love begotten,
ere the world began to be,
the source, the ending, the Word,
took our form to show us the way.
May our hearts now and forevermore be changed.
– Gloria Smestad and Ruth Smestad Anglin
Manny Laureano, trumpet*

After the reading:

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

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

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 © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

***Gospel — Mark 1:1-8**

Spark Story Bible, page 234

- The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.
- 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.”

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*The 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.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering

(8:30) "Our Father"

Alexander Gretchaninoff

Holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Thine are kingdoms, thrones, dominions, might and majesty. Thy name be hallowed on earth, as it is hallowed in heaven. Thou givest strength to the weak; thou rememb'rest the poor, and them that are distressed. And upon them that fear thy name showers of blessing unnumbered shall fall; peace shall follow them. By still waters their path shall be. Sing then of mercy, of judgment, of kingdoms, of thrones, dominions and power forevermore! Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Come to us, O Lord, in splendor bright, fill our hearts with everlasting light. Amen.

– text adapted by Arthur S. Kimball

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

John Ferguson, Craig Phillips

*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

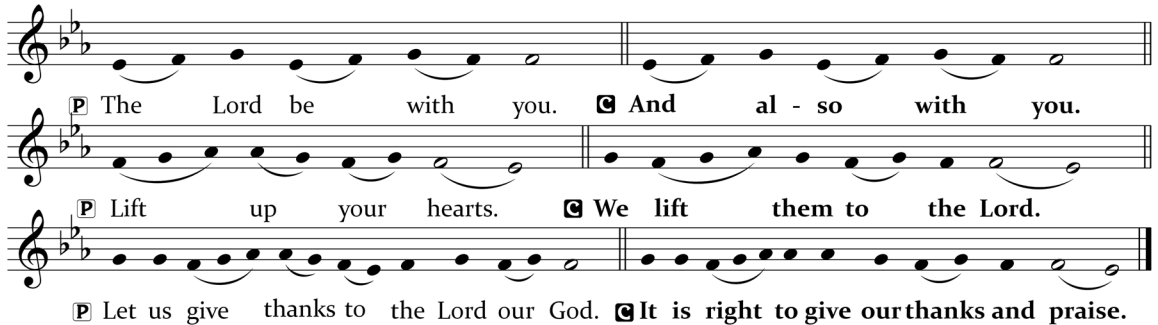
☐ Let us pray.

☑ **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.**

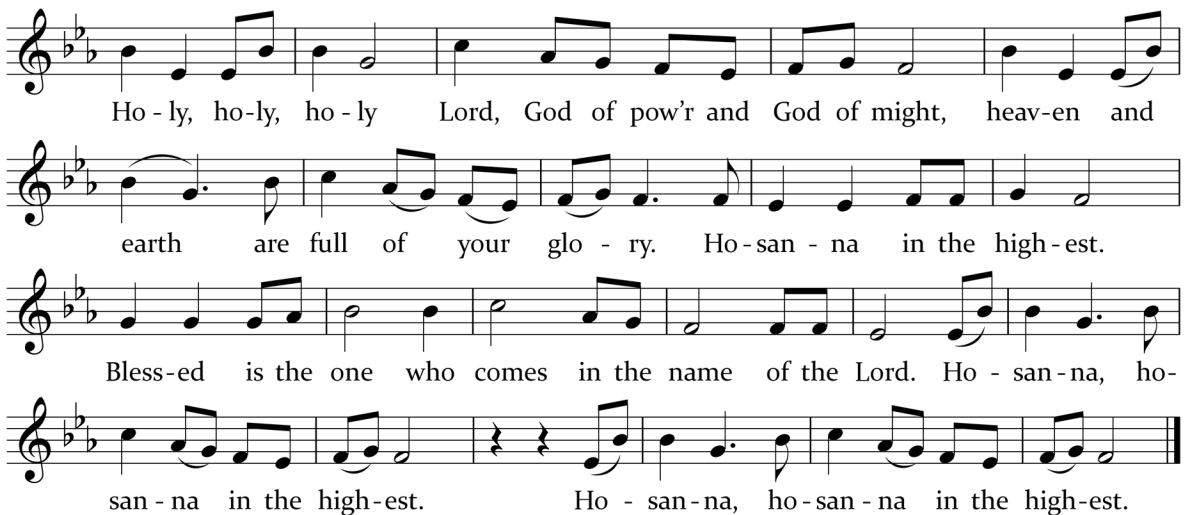
SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*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.

(8:30) **Anthem** — “Sing Nowell, Sing Gloria!”

Olaf C. Christiansen

Could it have been in the month of May, Sing Nowell, Sing Gloria! that Christ was born? O happy day! Sing in Excelsis Gloria! For shepherds in the fields so bright did watch their flocks by day and night when angel hosts in rapture-light sang in Excelsis Gloria! Sing Nowell, sing Gloria! Peace on earth! Goodwill to all! Peace, peace. Sing in Excelsis Gloria! They shone, those stars of the eastern skies! But could not shine as Mary’s eyes! And all the songs of angels fair were not as rare as the quiet prayer of joy that flooded Mary there! All the gifts that the wise men brought, by fortune won, or wisdom wrought, did pale before him, every one as pale the stars before the sun! For God gave us his matchless son! Sing in Excelsis Gloria!

– Osbert W. Warmingham

Hymn — ELW No. 266

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

Hymn — ELW No. 249

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

***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** — ACS No. 1093

“In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness”

***Dismissal**

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

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

Dan Locklair



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 17):

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 † Psalm 126 † 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 † John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	David Nitz
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	St. John's Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Violin	Nathaniel Johnson
Trumpet	Manny Laureano
Communion Service	Jill Enestvedt
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) Christy Hall-Holt
Coffee Service	TBD
Refreshments	TBD
Counters	Christy Hall-Holt, Jane Rizzo, Bob Tabery, Mark Ulmer
Ushers	(8:30) Jon McBroom, Cindy McBroom, Dan Franklin, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Emmett Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Keri Peterson, Joran Peterson

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This 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)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover image: Carina Nebula from NASA's James Webb telescope, 2022.

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Holy Communion Setting 12 from *All Creation Sings* composed by Anne Krentz Organ. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Gertrude Ann 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), please contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Available Dates: January 21 & 28.

Stewardship 2024 Appeal

Thanks to those who have returned their 2024 pledge card. We still need to hear from 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.



Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 13

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.

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.)

Bandage Rolling Ministry Needs Your Help!

Help us turn clean, used sheets into bandages which Global Health Ministries distributes to hospitals and clinics in need. Join us on Thursday mornings in Fellowship Hall anytime between 9:00 a.m. and noon. It's easy to do while seated at a table. If this time doesn't work for you, or you have questions, contact Sara Bright.

Announcements (continued)

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.

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 2023 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 30. Online gifts can be given by December 27 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Advent Anthems & Christmas Carols

Monday, December 11, 7:00 p.m., The Contented Cow

Join with sinners and saints of all sorts for a hymn-song-sing-a-long.



St. John's Children's Christmas Program

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 17
10:45 AM
SERVICE**

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, Gail Nemy (mother of Lori Skoglund),
George Schneider (father of Betsy Gasior)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Judith Stoutland

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

Carol Johnson, VaLois Mandsager, Richard Olson

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 13:
Meatball Stroganoff

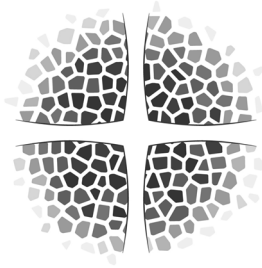
All are welcome!

*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. 11	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Board Meeting, Undercroft Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 12	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 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 Church Board Meetings, St. John's Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 13	3:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Advent Book Study, Fireside Room Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Advent Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Undercroft High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room St. John's Chorale
Thursday, Dec. 14	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Prayer Shawl Knitters Elizabeth Circle, St. John's Library Executive Committee via Zoom Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 15	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 16		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 17	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary (For the schedule between services, please see page 11) Worship / Nursery, Sanctuary



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.*