

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 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 — “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Aaron David Miller

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P 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.

P God of new beginnings,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

***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.

C **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day

☐ Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading — James 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Jonathan Davis

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 726

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

***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) "Sing We Now of Christmas"

French carol, arr. Kyle Pederson

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here. Hearts in expectation, Noel drawing near. In stillness lays the world in silent reverie; longing for the birth of love and mercy. Yearning for hope, good news to fill our souls; turning to the manger that grounds all mystery. Angels bending low, shepherds bend their knee, wise men from the east, all have come the child to see. All of creation where love has come to dwell; sing we now of Christmas, the good news that we tell. Sing Noel!

St. John's Chorale

(10:45) "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

David Cherwien

***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.**

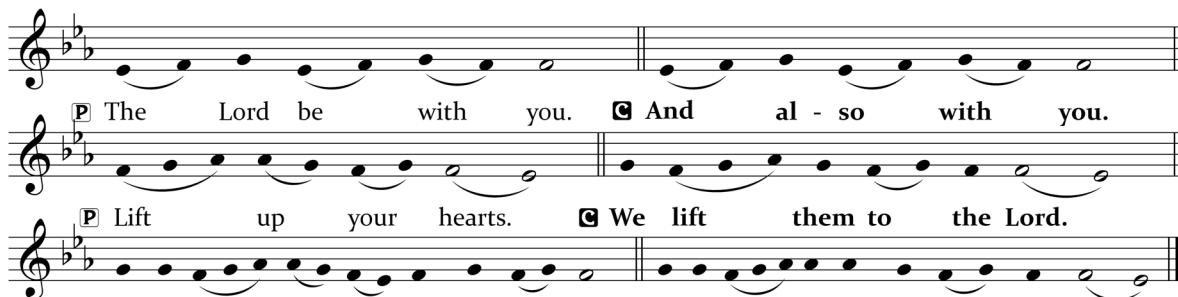
*Offering Prayer

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

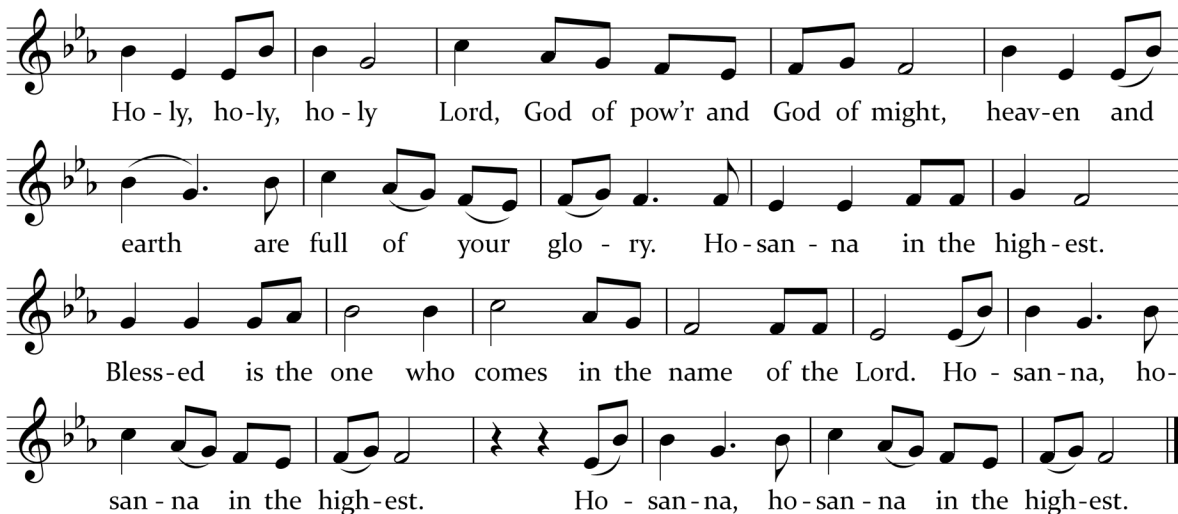


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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.

(8:30) **Anthem** — "He Comes to Us as One Unknown"

John Ferguson

For anthem text, see ELW No. 737

Hymn — ELW No. 266

"All Earth Is Hopeful"

***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. 248

“People, Look East”

***Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — on BESANÇON

Kristina Langlois



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Jason and Amy Rippley (10:45) Becker-Nelson Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	(8:30) St. John's Chorale
Piano	(8:30) Jane Turpin Moore
Oboe	(8:30) Lauren Vilendrer
Communion Service	Debby Nitz
Greeters	(8:30) TBD (10:45) Kibby Errington
Coffee and Refreshments	Ann Albert, Herb & Pat Fick
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Dan Franklin, Jane Rizzo
Ushers	(8:30) Jon McBroom, Cindy McBroom, Dan Franklin, Don Sahling, Dean Schoeb (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Emmett Norrie, Wyatt Norrie, Keri Peterson, Emmett Peterson, Joran Peterson

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This 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)

Next Week (December 18):

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)

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 18):

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 + Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 + Romans 1:1-7 + Matthew 1:18-25

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 in loving memory of Mary Virginia "Ginny" Shaw by Joe Shaw and daughters Nancy, Betsy, Margaret, and Mary. Mary Virginia was born December 11, 1932. Today would have been her 90th birthday. 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 168 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 – Poetry of Advent

Today, 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall

St. John's members Nancy Simpson-Younger and Paul Gleason recently discovered their shared background in early modern religious poetry and have generously offered to share their joint interest with us during the season of Advent. Nancy and Paul will introduce us to the poetry of George Herbert and the Psalm translations of Philip Sidney and Mary Sidney Herbert that help anchor us in the themes of Advent, this season of waiting. Join us for this opportunity to get to know Paul and Nancy better, as well as their shared love of modern religious poetry.

Advent Wednesdays: Hope and Expectation

Wednesday, December 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.

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.

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 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.

Language Camp Fundraiser—Nordic Kaffeepause (Swedish "Fika")

Today, 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!

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!



St. John's Women's Annual Christmas Luncheon & Carols

Thursday, January 5, 2023, 11:30 a.m. Ruth's on Stafford, Dundas

The cost is \$20 which is payable at the door. Reserve your place by signing up at the St. John's Women's bulletin board in the Commons, or email women.stjohns500@gmail.com.



St. John's Children's Christmas Program

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18
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

Brad Kmoch, George Pinc, Bruce Rickert, Doris Ellingboe (mother of Karen Schuette),
Bruce Hella (brother of Karl Hella), Aarin Morse (son of Roberta 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

Lester Gunderson, Tom Fjelde, Lois Pearson

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 14:
Cooks' Choice
(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. 12	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Board Meeting, Undercroft Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom Audit Committee, Fireside Room
Tuesday, Dec. 13	7:30 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. 14	9:00 a.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Lydia and Paul Circles, St. John's Hall and St. John's Library Afterschool Programming (Kindergarten-Grade 5), St. John's Wednesday Night Meal, St. John's Hall Advent Vespers, Sanctuary Confirmation (Grades 6-8), Fellowship Hall High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12), Youth Room Where Politics Meets Faith Conversation, Fireside Room Bible Overview for Grown-Ups, Room 19 St. John's Chorale, Sanctuary Ubuntu Youth Group, St. John's
Thursday, Dec. 15	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilters, Fellowship Hall Personnel Committee, Undercroft Faith, Fact & Fiction Book Group, St. John's Library Executive Committee via Zoom Rejoice Ringers, Balcony
Friday, Dec. 16	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 17		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 18	8:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary <i>(For the schedule between services, please see page 11)</i> Worship, Sanctuary



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Pam Fickenschner, *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.