

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022 + 8:30 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 — “Pastoral on FOREST GREEN”

arr. Dale Wood

Rejoice Ringers

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. 250

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

*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

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

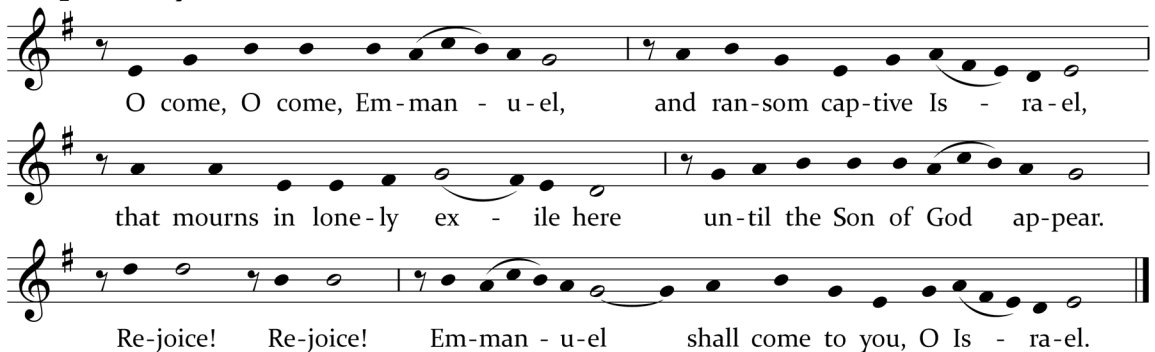
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

C 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

First Reading — Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and

apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Magnificat — “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

Anne Krentz Organ
All Creation Sings, Setting 12

Refrain — all singing



My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!

Great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

Choir: My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.

*Now every land and every age this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name. **Refrain, all***

To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.

With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.

*The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed. **Refrain, all***

*To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.*

*Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Power of the Most High, one God, by all adored. **Refrain, all***

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenschier

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ACS No. 902

“Come Now, O God”

Stanza 1 — cantor

Stanzas 2–3 — all singing

*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

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

arr. Cathy Moglebust

***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.

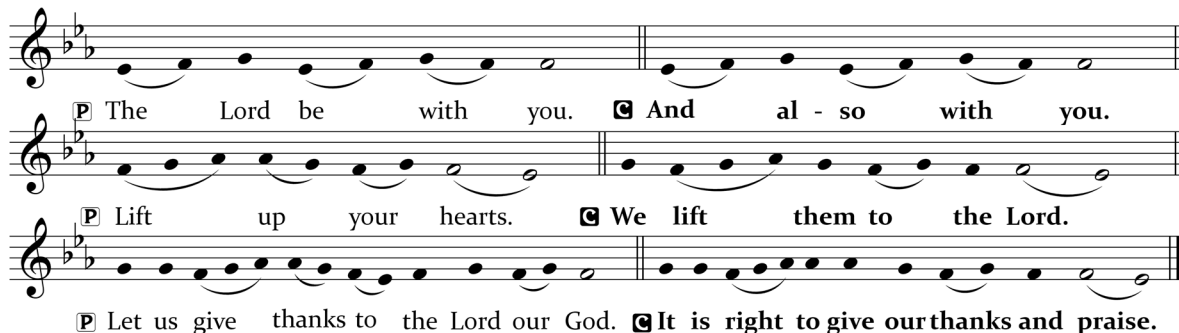
***Offering Prayer**

℣ Let us pray.

☩ 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

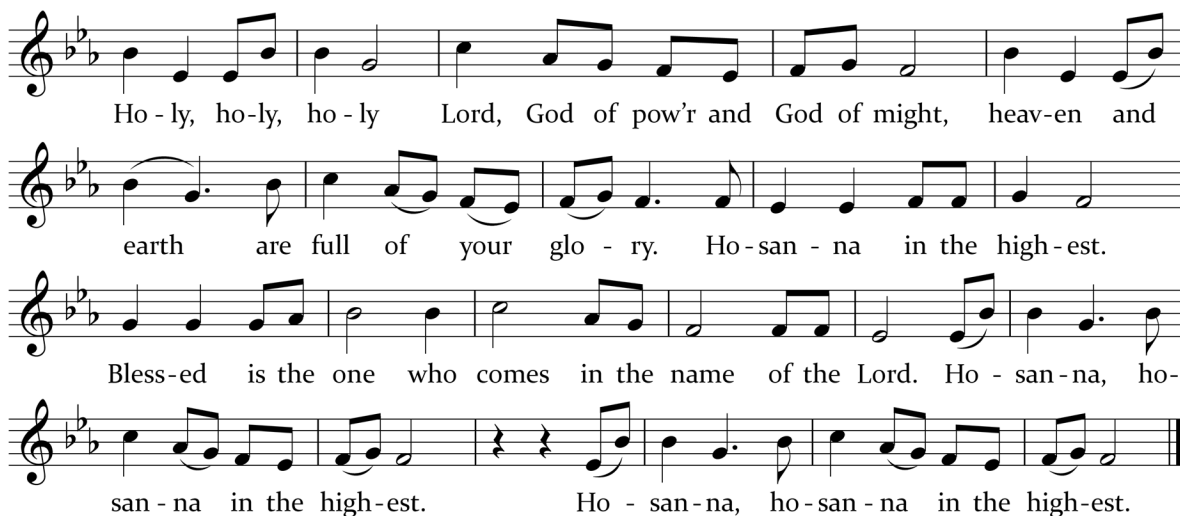


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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.

Solo — "Prepare Thyself, Zion" from *Christmas Oratorio*

J. S. Bach

*Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, the purest, the fairest, this day to receive.
Thou must greet him with a heart with love overflowing! Haste then, with ardor the
Bridegroom to welcome.*

Sara Liu, soprano

Solo — "Savior of the Nations, Come"

arr. Charles Peery

***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. 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1–4

***Dismissal**

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

arr. Charles Peery



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad.

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SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	Rudser Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, interim conductor Will Fecko, music intern
Soloist	Sara Liu
Harp	Elinor Niemisto
Communion Service	Jill Enestvedt, Angie Gehring
Greeters	TBD
Coffee and Refreshments	Ann Albert, Angie Gehring, Arielle Loy
Counters	Merilyn Calcutt, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, David Nitz
Ushers	John Ophaug, Cindy Clauson, Dave and Ruthie Neuger

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This 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)



JOIN US FOR

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Vespers:	3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight:	5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	10:00 a.m.
January 1:	10:00 a.m.

Livestream at
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org
or on KYMN 1080AM/95.1FM

 **St. John's**
NORTHFIELD, MN

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.

Our Stewardship Appeal for 2023

Knowing members' intentions helps us plan next year's ministry. Please submit your giving intention for next year by scanning 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.



Poinsettia Orders—Today is the Last Day to Order

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](#).

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! Thank you to those who have already signed up! We still need food donations and volunteers. Paper sign-ups are available in the Commons. 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.

Courageous Conversations Book Group Resumes in January

Courageous Conversations book group begins again on Thursday, January 26, at 4:00 p.m. This time our book is *The 1619 Project*, created by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones. The group meets every two weeks: January 26, February 9 & 23, March 9, 23 & 30, April 20, and May 11. Books are available at Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to sign up and receive the reading plan and Zoom link!

Announcements (continued)

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.)

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!



PEEL Project

Have you seen the portraits and poetry of St. John's members up around the church recently? Those works are part of a project called PEEL where 10–12 people gather together for a weekend to learn about photography, poetry, and each other. St. John's did one PEEL event last spring. It was a deepening and eye-opening experience to slow down and intentionally connect with another person we didn't know well before. This winter and spring we are trying an experiment at St. John's to explore what happens to a community like ours if a bunch of people have this kind of experience. Between January and April, we will host six separate PEEL events. Would you like to participate? All it takes is the time (Friday evening, much of Saturday, and Sunday afternoon) and the openness and curiosity to get to know another person and yourself as you learn about photography and poetry. No special experience or talent needed. PEEL weekends will be January 27–29, February 3–5, 10–12, 17–19, March 24–26, and April 21–23. If one of these weekends works for you, sign up in the Commons or scan the QR code or contact Kristin Partlo or one of the pastors.



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.

Children and Youth

Christmas and New Year's Break

No Wednesday Programming on December 21 & 28 and January 4, or Sunday School and Sunday Morning Youth Group on December 25 and January 1.

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 Knoch, George Pinc, 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 mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Jerry Bothun

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, Alice Rickert, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom,
Karl Jacobson (son of Pastor Del Jacobson)

All who are homebound, including

Gloria Porter, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Janice Helgeson

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**

*No Meals on December 21 & 28
and January 4*

Meals Resume on January 11

Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.

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. 19	10:00 a.m.	Visitation - Jerry Bothun, Commons
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral - Jerry Bothun, Sanctuary
	12:00 p.m.	Lunchtime Text Study via Zoom
	6:00 p.m.	Pub Theology, Location TBD
Tuesday, Dec. 20	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
	5:00 p.m.	Laura Baker Services Association Holiday Party, St. John's Hall
	6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministers, St. John's Library
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council, Undercroft
		NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health), Youth Room
Wednesday, Dec. 21		<i>No Scheduled Activities</i>
Thursday, Dec. 22	7:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters, St. John's Library
Friday, Dec. 23	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
	7:00 p.m.	NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
Saturday, Dec. 24	3:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Vespers, Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion, Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Festive Christmas Eucharist, Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Christmas Day Dinner for All, St. John's Hall
Monday, Dec. 26		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 25):

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 † Psalm 98 † Titus 3:4-7 † John 1:1-14



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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Northfield, MN 55057
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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.