

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION + FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 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 — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Russell McKinney

Flute Ensemble

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Rejoice Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Front of ELW hymnal, page 94

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*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.**

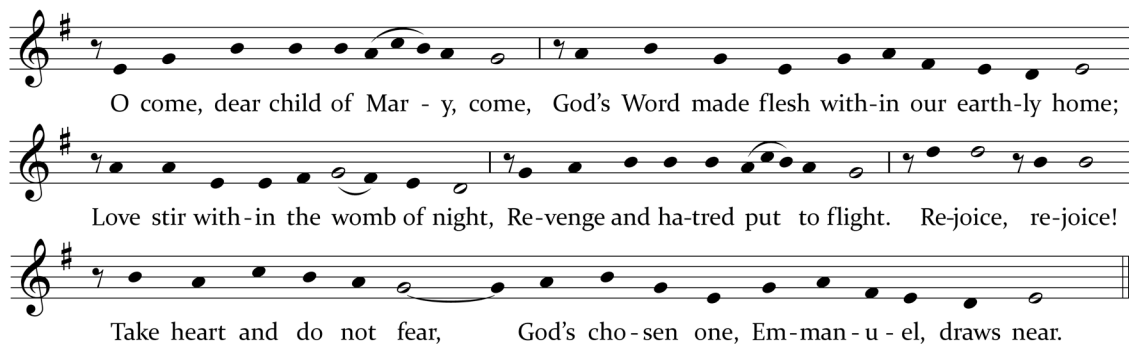
*Prayer of the Day and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. 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.

☑ **Amen.**

***Response Hymn — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

VENI, EMMANUEL



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

HEARING GOD'S WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering — “Savior of the Nations, Come”

arr. Russell McKinney

Flute Ensemble

Second Reading — Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, 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

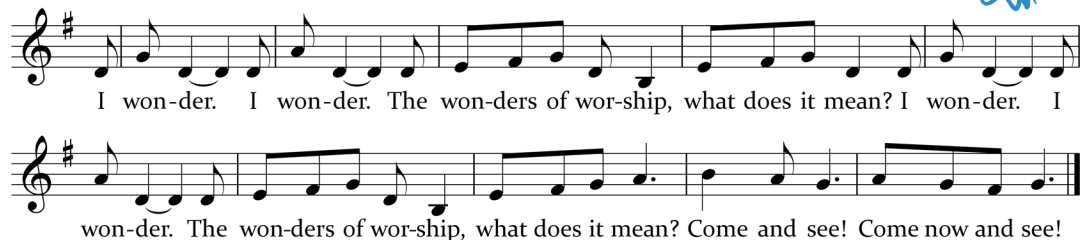
his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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



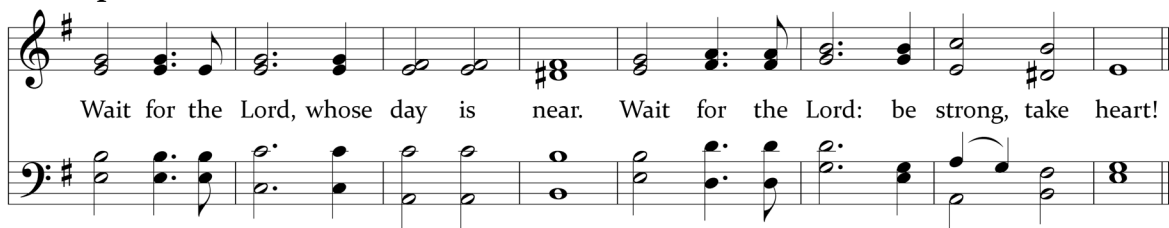
Children's Message

"Wonders of Worship"



Text and Music: Anne Krentz Organ

*Gospel Acclamation



Text: Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier © 1994 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications

*Gospel — Matthew 1:18-25

Spark Story Bible, page 196

- 📖 The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.
- 🎵 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce 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 become pregnant and give birth to 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 given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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 — ACS No. 902

“Come Now, O God”

*Advent Credo

Daniel Berrigan, 1921–2016

P It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to
destruction and loss—

All **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—

All **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—

All **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.

All **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

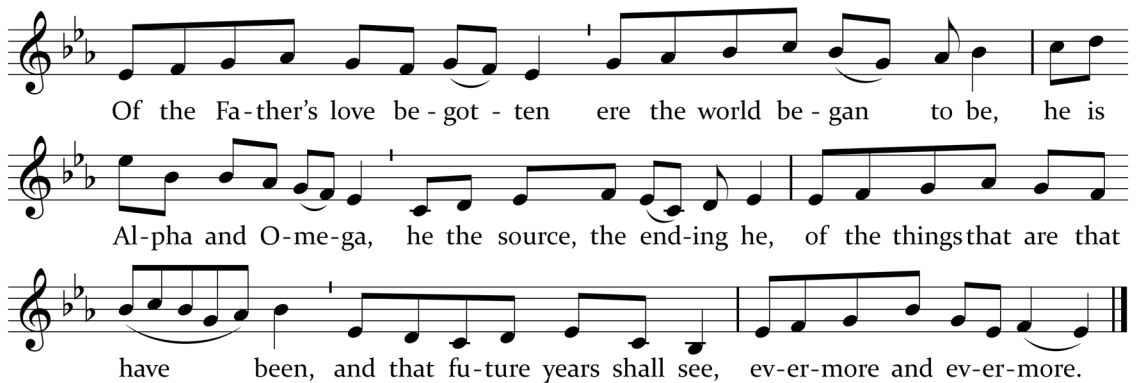
(8:30) "Fantasy on French Carols"

arr. Michael Helman

(10:45) "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Craig Phillips

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



Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the world be - gan to be, he is

Al-pha and O-me-ga, he the source, the end-ing he, of the things that are that

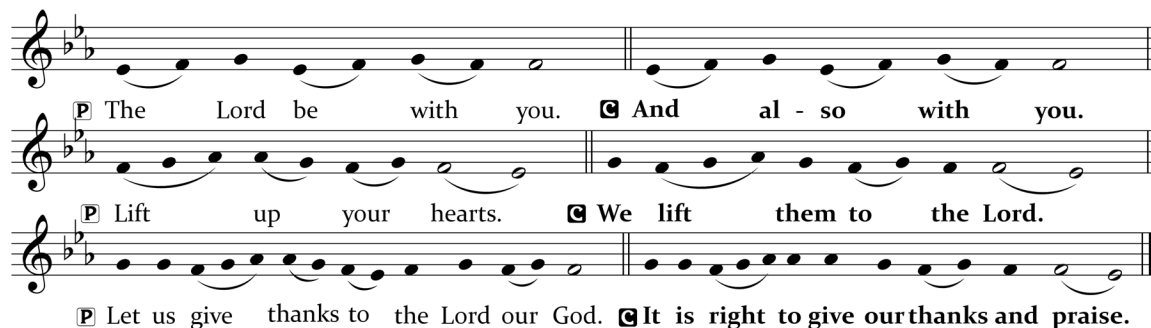
have been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

*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.**

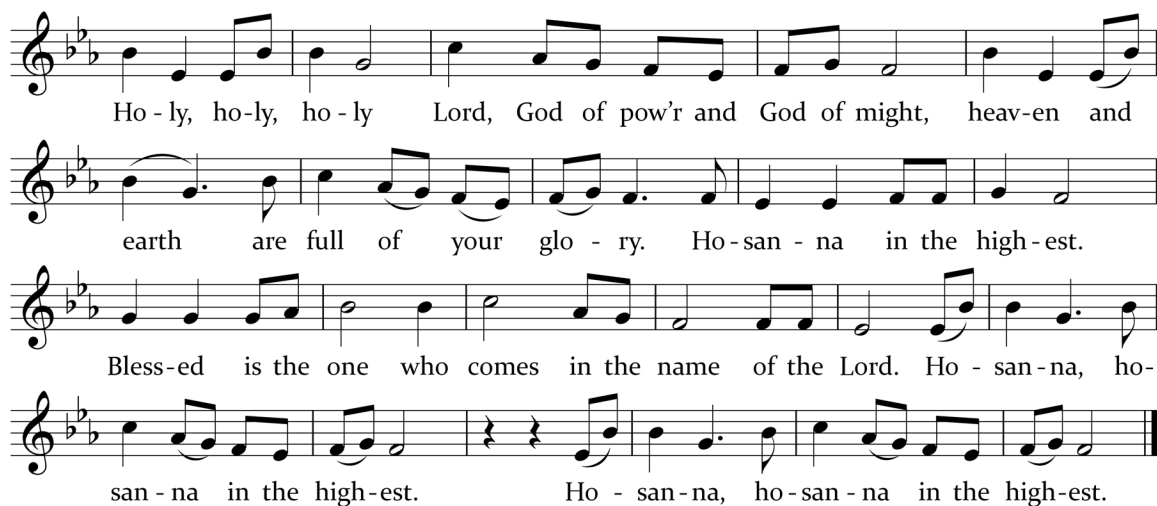
SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*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.

Hymn — ELW No. 263

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Musical Offering — Partita on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND Jacob Weber
IV. Chorale
V. Trio

*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. 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Stanzas 1–4

***Dismissal**

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

Postlude — Partita on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
VI. Fugue

Jacob Weber



Lectionary Readings for Next Week (December 28):

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 † Psalm 148 † Hebrews 2:10-18 † Matthew 2:13-23

SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Ministers	(8:30) Ruth Smestad Anglin; (10:45) Simpson Younger Family
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Choir	Rejoice Ringers; David Sims, director
Flute Ensemble	Ruth Bretheim Aaseng, Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Jenny Pelletier, Alli Mode
Livestream	Jon Kavanaugh
Communion Service	Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl
Greeters	(8:30) TBD; (10:45) TBD
Coffee Service	Ted Peterson, Karen Schuette
Treats	Rhonda Reece, Karen Schuette, Bob and Pat Tabery
Counters	Chris and Martha Erickson, Janell Martin
Ushers	(8:30) Larry Enfield, Olaf Hall-Holt, John Ophaug (10:45) Mike Bull, Ruth Dahl, Susan Immel, Scott Nesbit

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by John Maakestad based on Isaiah 7.

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JOIN US FOR
ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight:	3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight:	5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day:	10:00 a.m.
December 28:	10:00 a.m.

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



Announcements

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by friends of St. John's. 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 28 and January 4.

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.

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. Today is the last day to place your order.



LOFTY—Lights Out for the Youth

Sunday, December 21, 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Today the Northfield community is invited to raise awareness of youth housing insecurity. You're invited to turn out your lights from 6:00–7:00 p.m. and to donate to a fund that will house a young person at the Wallflower House for a year. This project received initial funding from the St. John's Foundation. Faith leaders will be hosting a brief moment of silence and prayer at Bridge Square at 6:00 p.m. when the lights will be turned off downtown. For more information and to donate, visit www.lightsoutfortheyouth.org or scan the QR Code.



Greeters Still Needed for Christmas Services

We are still in need of greeters for both doors for the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship and the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day worship. Family and friends are welcome to join you—the more the merrier! Sign-ups are available in the Commons. Thank you!

Annual Meeting Reports

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

Announcements (continued)

Christmas Break

No Sunday School or Sunday Youth Gathering on December 21 and December 28.

No Wednesday Programing on December 24 and December 31.

Pastor Coverage Over the Christmas Holiday

During the days between Christmas and New Years, please call the church office first for pastoral needs. If the office is closed, go to extension 1 for the number of Pastor Mark Rydberg, the on-call pastor, while Pastors Pam and Jonathan are away.

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 2025 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 26 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Women's Annual Carols Luncheon

Saturday, January 3, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Sign up between services for our "South of the Border"-flavored Christmas celebration. There will be good food, wonderful music, great company and more! Tickets are \$15 if you buy them early and \$20 at the door. Questions? Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

Volunteers Needed on January 2 and 3 for Women's Annual Carols Luncheon

If you would like to help make this a festive occasion for the women of St. John's by setting tables with decorations, prepping the meal (chopping things), clearing tables, playing the piano during the meal, running the dishwasher, etc., please sign up at this [link](#) or contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

Stewardship 2026 Appeal

We at St. John's have so much to be thankful for and to celebrate. If you have already made your financial pledge to St. John's for 2026, thank you. It's not too late to submit your 2026 giving intention. You can return a card to the church office or [complete the online pledge form](#) on our website. If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2026 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures the continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's.

Learning and Fellowship Between Services

This Week (December 21)

Coffee and Fellowship, 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

Those with ongoing health concerns

David Halsor, Greta Matzner-Gore, Dagfinn Moe, 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.

WEDNESDAY
Night Meals

Come share a meal!

**Served from 5:15–6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall**

No Meals on Wednesdays
December 24 and 31

All are welcome!

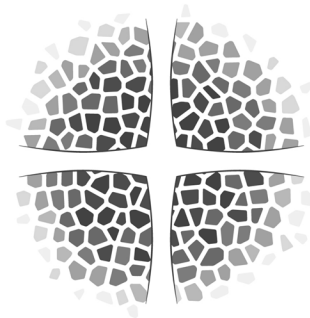
*Wednesday Meals are made and served completely by people donating their time and talents.
Dessert contributions are always welcome and needed!*

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. 22	9:00 a.m.	Monday Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Dec. 23	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 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
Wednesday, Dec. 24	3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Sanctuary Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec. 25	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship, Sanctuary Christmas Day Dinner, St. John's Hall
Friday, Dec. 26		Church Office and Building Closed
Saturday, Dec. 27		No Scheduled Activities - Building Closed
Sunday, Dec. 28	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall





St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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, *Faith Community 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 Ringers*

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