

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD + CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025 † 5:00 P.M.



Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this evening.

*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.*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD — CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025 † 5:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — *Music for a Holy Night:*

"All My Heart this Night Rejoices"

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

"Silent Night"

David Schelat

"Lullaby on Christmas Eve"

F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler

"Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies"

Marilyn Biery

"On Christmas Night"

Noel Rawsthorne

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 283

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Stanzas 1, 2 & 3

*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 Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

☐ We praise you, God of promise. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones, and open our mouths to sing joyfully of your incarnation. Grant this through Christ our Lord, the Word made flesh.

☑ Amen.

*Response Hymn — “I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

JEG ER SÅ GLAD

Sung in Norwegian and English.



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le-kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
I am so glad each Christ - mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, tr. Peter Sveeggen © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House; Music: Peder Knudsen

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading — Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Anthem — “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” French carol, arr. Carolyn Jennings

*Ding dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing,
ding dong! verily the sky is riven with angels singing.*

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

*E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and “io, io, io” by priest and people sungen.*

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

*Pray you, dutifully prime your Matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime your Evetime song, ye singers:*

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

– G. R. Woodward

St. John's Chorale

***Gospel Reading** — Luke 2:1-20

Spark Story Bible, page 212

Before the reading:

📖 The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading:

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

***Prayers of the People**

After each petition:

📖 On this holy night,

🔊 **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You are invited to share Christ's peace with those around you.

Offering our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

"O Blessed Christmas Night"

Scandinavian folk tune, arr. Dagfinn Moe

*My heart is ever drawing to Jesus' stable room, where all my thoughts
assemble, find meaning, and are whole. The home for all my longing,
the treasure of my life, I never can forget you, O blessed Christmas night.*

*But wonder without equal, how can I fully know why God descends from
heaven to lie in manger stall? How heaven's joy and glory, the living Word of
God, can so forsake his kingdom to live in this poor world. Oh, come, my heart
I open and all my being joins in longing, hopeful summons: Come Jesus, shelter
find. Here in my heart enfolded you shall securely lie. Come, Lord, come!*

– tr., Lydia Quanbeck Moe

***Offering Hymn — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" stanza 2 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

***Offering Prayer**

L Let us pray.

A **God with us: you came as a baby to a manger.**

You slept on straw and greeted shepherds.

You come again in bread and wine.

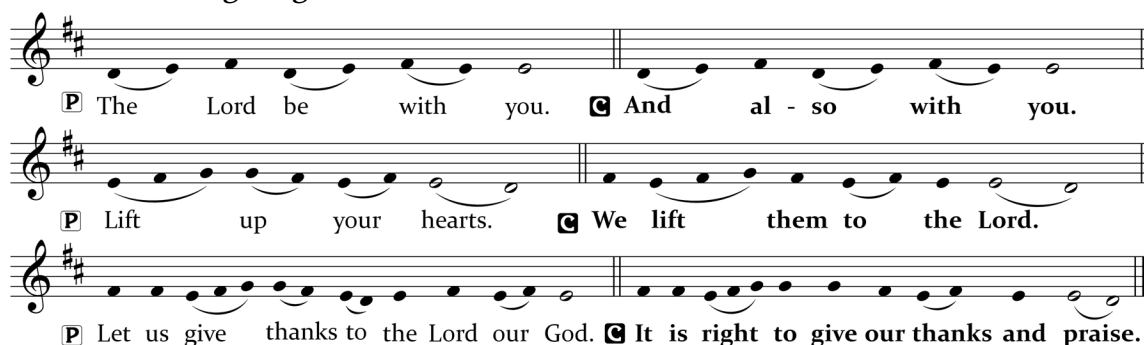
Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things.

**And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives
of others in the strength of your holy name.**

Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Great Thanksgiving

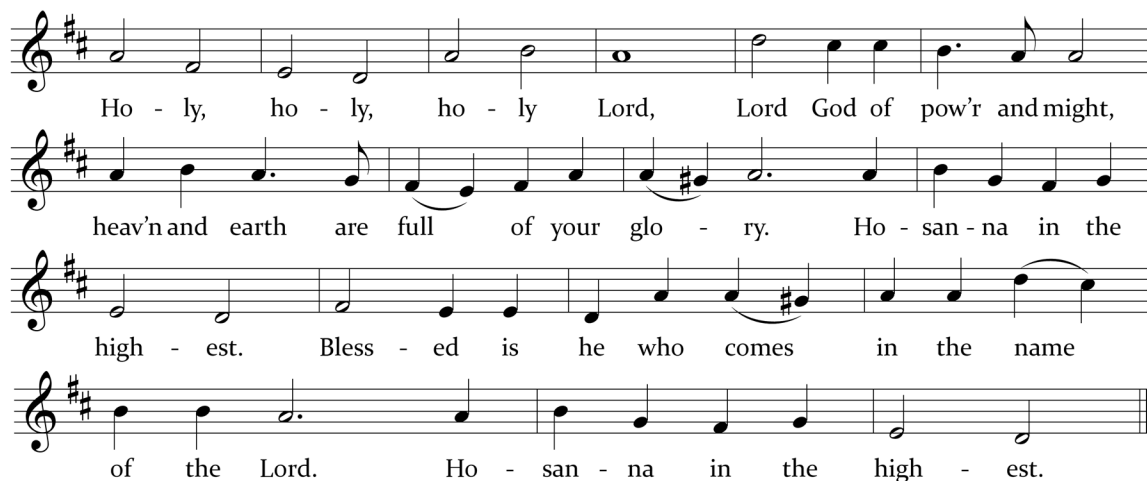


P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. 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.

*All God's children are welcome at the table.
 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.

Anthem — “Today There Is Ringing”

F. Melius Christiansen

*Today there is ringing in praise of God. Bells are a-chiming. Salvation's glad tidings,
 by angels brought, from Bethlehem's manger are spread abroad. On fallen snow
 the sunbeams glow in the valley. There comes to the homes a holy Guest.
 Bells are a-chiming. Who opens the door will by him be blest with mercy and
 life and refreshing rest. On fallen snow the sunbeams glow in the valley.*

– Jenny Blicher-Clausen, tr. Olav Lee

Hymn — ELW No. 274

“On Christmas Night”

Hymn — ELW No. 276

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Hymn — ELW No. 292

“Love Has Come”

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

- ☐ Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. ☑ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Sharing the Light of Christ

As the light comes to you, please dip your unlit candle towards the upright flame.

*Music for Meditation — “In Quiet, Gentle Joy”

Marcel Dupré

*Carol — “Night of Silence” and “Silent Night” Daniel Kantor, arr. John Ferguson

Choir: Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night, frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us, you speak of the light, gentle on the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened souls, soon will we know of the morning.

All singing:

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright;
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts . . sing, al - le - lu -
mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John Young; Music: Franz Gruber

*Prayer for Peace

P Let us pray.

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace.
Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,
and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*Blessing

Response:

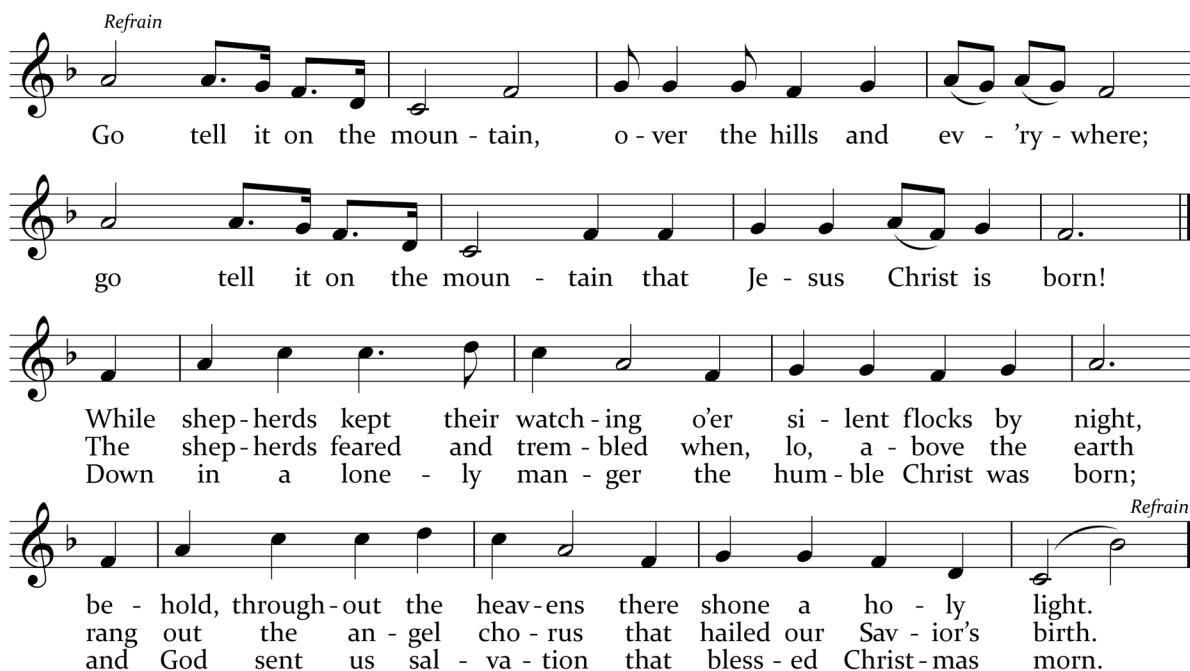
C Amen.

*As the lights come up, please carefully extinguish your candle.
At the conclusion of the service, please leave your candle
in baskets outside the sanctuary.*

*Hymn — “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text and Music: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr.

***Dismissal**

☒ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God!

***Postlude** — “Joy to the World”

Kristina Langlois



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S THIS EVENING:

Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor
Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor
Assisting Minister	Ben Luedtke
Organist	Nathan Proctor, Director of Worship, Music & Arts
Choir	St. John’s Chorale; Nathan Proctor, director
Piano	Jane Turpin Moore
Flute	Ruth Bretheim Aaseng
Communion Service	Craig Schultz
Greeters	Judy Karlson, Vern and Joan Koester, Sandra Nyvall
Ushers	Rick Hillard, Gordon Moore, Jaida Gehring, Bob Nyvall, Roger Van Veldhuizen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art: *Nativity* © 2008 John August Swanson (1938–2021) | Eyekons

Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #14028-LIT. Other liturgical aids are from *Sundays and Seasons* © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.
Liturgy setting: Setting Four by Ronald A. Nelson; Festival Setting by John Ferguson.
Music reprinted and podcasted under One License A-708009.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

(Please note there is only one worship service.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This afternoon's Radio Broadcast is given by Marie Benson and family in memory of Duane Benson. 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 the church office at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

The Church Office and Building will be closed Friday, December 26.

There will be one worship service on Sunday, December 28, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, and will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2025 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by Thursday, December 26 (processing takes time to clear)
- delivered in person by noon, December 31, to the church office
- mailed and postmarked by midnight, December 31

Thank you!



Scan Me

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 18. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music. A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall.

JOIN US TOMORROW, DECEMBER 25:

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR ALL

Join us for a free Christmas dinner in St. John's Hall.

Served from 11:15 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

THANK YOU!

St. John's staff wishes to thank everyone who makes this Advent and Christmas season special, beautiful, meaningful, and welcoming to all:

- To Leif and Debra Knecht for the donation of the Christmas tree
- To Deb Christensen and all the members of St. John's Chancel Guild for their work displaying our paraments and hanging the greens
- To Scott Swanson for hanging our largest banners
- To Pat and Herb Fick for our Christmas Eve candle display
- To our Advent Fair planners, especially Jill Enestvedt and Katherine Norrie
- To our Advent Fair meal provider Peggy Dell, who shopped for and prepared the food, and to the Wednesday Meal Team who prepped, served, and cleaned up the meal
- To Marilyn Jacobson for the Thrivent Community Impact gift card to help with the meal cost
- To the Children's Christmas program volunteers: Sue Brockman and Kristy Harms
- To all the members of the St. John's Chorale, Rejoice Ringers, Alleluia Choir, and Jubilate Choir, and many others who provided special music
- To Dave Zdenek, Mark Gleason, Jon Kavanaugh, and members of the A/V team for their work livestreaming our Advent and Christmas services to those who cannot be with us physically
- To Rhonda Reece and Julie Zdenek for providing music during the Christmas Dinner
- To the Christmas Dinner Team leads: Jean Wakely, Jane Rinehart, and Kirsten Gunn, and to all of the many dinner volunteers and food donators who make this community meal possible

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

Given in Memory of:

John Ferguson by Nathan Proctor

David Garlie Sr. and Sawyer Garlie by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Matt Sackmaster by Matt, Leah, Clayton & Rhett Garlie

Dennis & Carol Ziemba (Amanda's parents) by Mason, Amanda, August & Isaac Randall

Carroll & Oscar Palrud by their family

Mary Beth Bremer by her family

Scott Quinnell, Milo & Elouise Quinnell by Sandy Bouillez

Larry Carlson and Ron Hebensperger Sr. by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensperger

Marlene Engstrom by Chris Engstrom & Irv Fosaaen

Fred J. Gaggioli Jr. by Pamela Goves-Gaggioli

Bob Quanbeck and Joyce & Dewey Tommerdahl by Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl

Jon Nicholson by the Nicholson Family

Muckey Family by Pete and Charleen Volkert

My parents, George & Harriet LaPier and sister Karen Uphoff by Gerri Licke

Art, Polly, and Patrice Nordstrand by Gerri Licke

Richard & Carol Schaefer by Emily Westerback

Andrew Westerback by Emily Westerback

David Larson (Marcia's brother) by Ralph & Marcia Yernberg

Cora Koester by Gracie & Justin Koester

Tom & Marj Fjelde by Kristin Kasten

Joan Halvorson by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Steve Edwins by Jennifer Edwins

Dr. R. Harold Terry by Glenn Terry

Barbara Terry by Glenn Terry

Renard & Mary Cassar by Glenn Terry

Ed Lindell by Herb & Pat Fick

James T. Johnson by Bev Johnson

Our dear departed loved ones by Gordon & Jane Moore

Christmas Poinsettias 2025

Given in Honor of:

Our Family by Bill & Char Carlson

Kai and Junia by Dennis & Jane Rinehart

Bill & Char Carlson by Andi Carlson & Ron Hebensperger

Maggie Gaggioli-Prichard by Pamela Groves-Gaggioli

Lydia Quanbeck & Dagfinn Moe by Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl

Our Children and Grandchildren by Steve & Rhonda Reece

The Grands—Herb & Pat Fick, Frank & Karen Brust, Jon & Grace Buck by Dave & Cheryl Buck

Our Children by Zack & Jenny Pelletier

Given in Celebration of Christmas:

Phil & Barbara Eaves

Doug Johnson

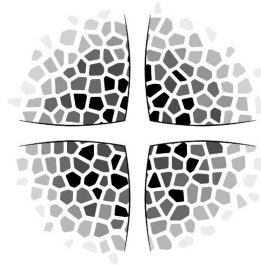
Ruth Smestad Anglin & Ronnie Anglin

Marty, Katherine & Valerie McGuire

Bev Johnson

Thank you to all who have given these plants
which bring God's beauty into our worship space.
Plants may be taken home after worship on
Thursday, December 25.





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*

David Sims, *Director 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.*