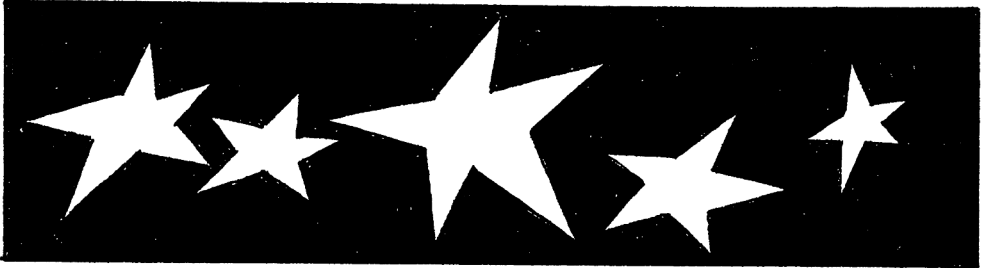


Let here God comes and



hope renewed cries out



Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 26, 2021 † 10:00 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 are available for worship services.



GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — “From Heaven Above”

F. Melius Christiansen, arr. G. Winston Cassler

Welcome and Announcements



Cantors 1 “From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:”

2 “To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.”

3 “This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free.”

4 “The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share.”

5 “These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds.”

**All 6 Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near
to see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.**

Low voices 7 Look, look dear friends, look over there! What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God’s dear Son.

**All 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away; how can our thanks such love repay?**

High voices 9 O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed where lowing cattle lately fed?

Organ only 10 *Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.*

Pet owners 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as kings so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.

Carls & Oles 12 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart, that you and I may never part.

Norwegian 13 My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;
sweaters I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

All stand during organ interlude.

***All 14 “Glory to God in highest heav’n, who unto us the Son has giv’n.”
With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!**

*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

☐ Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise — ELW No. 292

“Love Has Come”

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

First Reading — Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

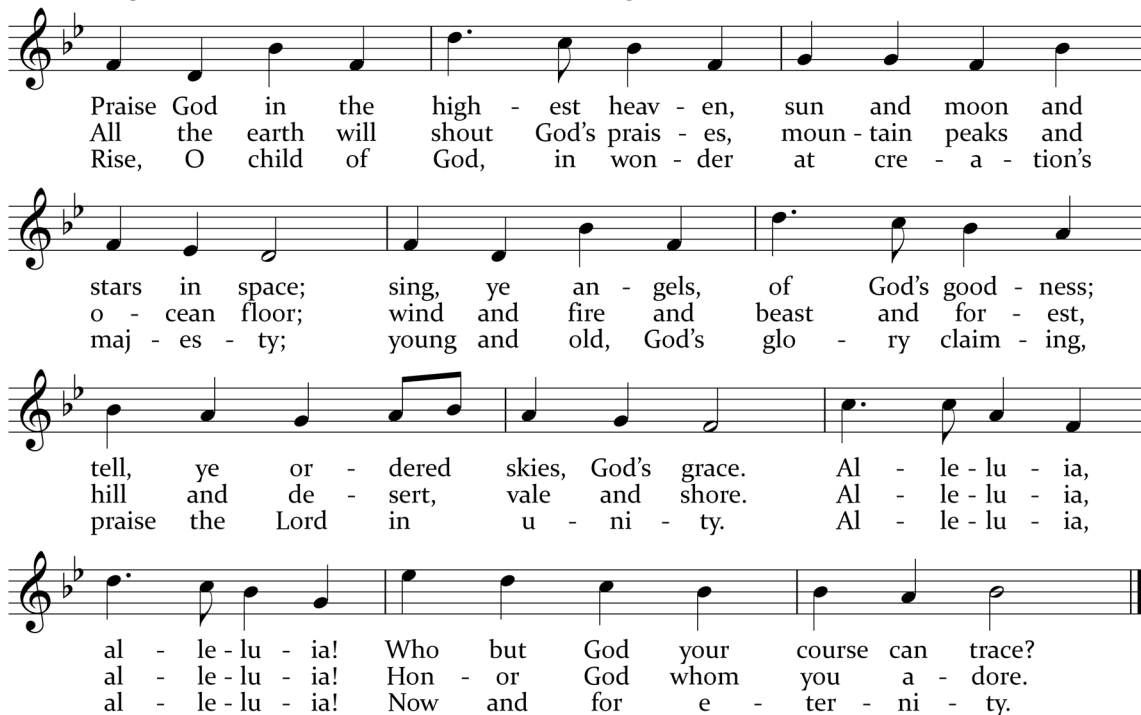
²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — Psalm 148, “Praise God in the Highest Heaven”

REGENT SQUARE



Praise God in the high - est heav - en, sun and moon and
 All the earth will shout God's prais - es, moun - tain peaks and
 Rise, O child of God, in won - der at cre - a - tion's
 stars in space; sing, ye an - gels, of God's good - ness;
 o - cean floor; wind and fire and beast and for - est,
 maj - es - ty; young and old, God's glo - ry claim - ing,
 tell, ye or - dered skies, God's grace. Al - le - lu - ia,
 hill and de - sert, vale and shore. Al - le - lu - ia,
 praise the Lord in u - ni - ty. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia! Who but God your course can trace?
 al - le - lu - ia! Hon - or God whom you a - dore.
 al - le - lu - ia! Now and for e - ter - ni - ty.

Psalm Paraphrase: Michael Morgan © 1999 Witherspoon Press; Music: Henry Smart

Second Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel — Luke 2:41-52**

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

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

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 648

"Beloved, God's Chosen"

***The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

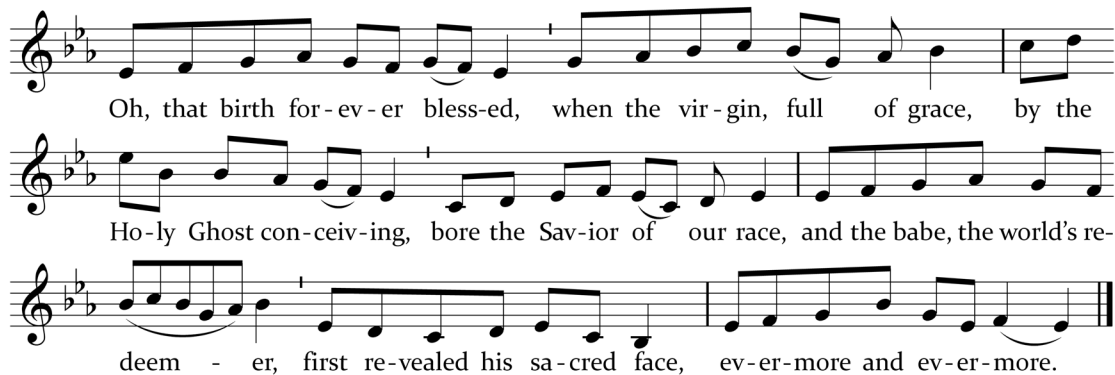
Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Pamela Decker

*Offering Hymn — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” stanza 2 DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Oh, that birth for-ev-er bless-ed, when the vir-gin, full of grace, by the
Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing, bore the Sav-ior of our race, and the babe, the world’s re-
deem - er, first re-vealed his sa-cred face, ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, tr.; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

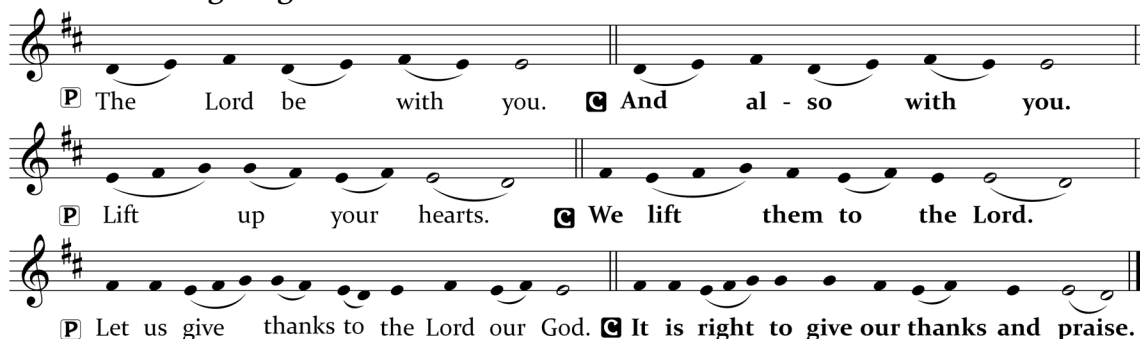
*Offering Prayer

L Let us pray.

C Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

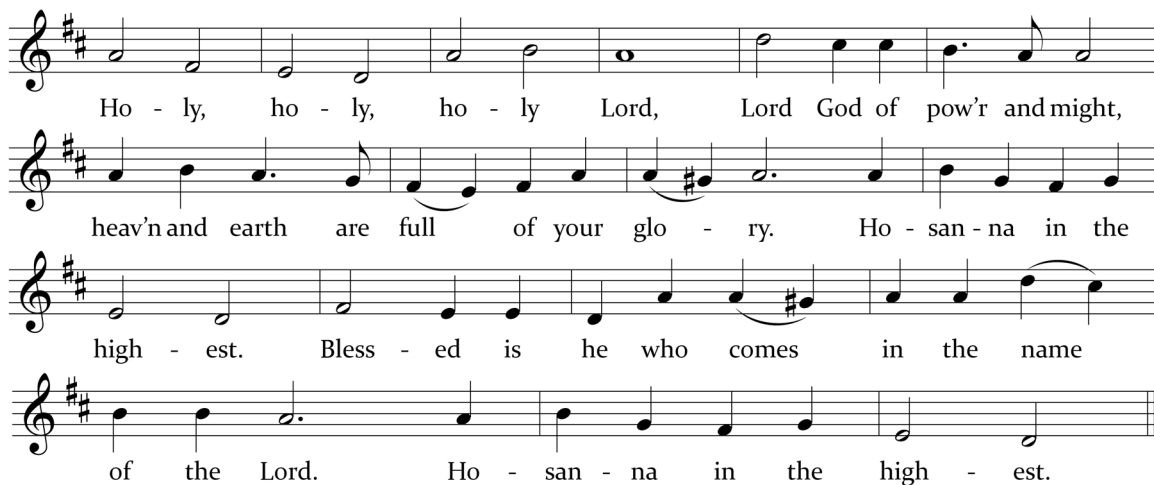
SHARING THE LORDS SUPPER

*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

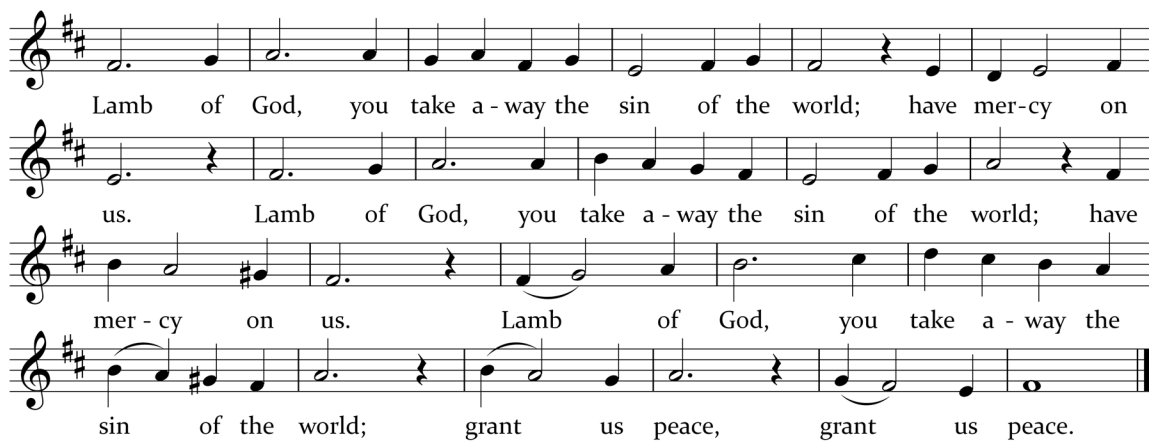
*The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

*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.

*Post-Communion Blessing

*Prayer at the End of the Year

- ❑ Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ❑ Amen.

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

- ❑ Amen.

*Sending Hymn — ELW No. 267

“Joy to the World”

***Dismissal**

- Ⓐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- ☛ **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude — “From Heaven Above”

Johann Pachelbel



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Will Schroeer
Organists	Nathan Proctor, David Sims
Cantors	Kristin Partlo, David Sims
Ushers	Doug Johnson, Todd Menssen, Bob and Sandra Nyvall, Mark Rydberg

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Yet Here God Comes” from *The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem* by Judy Swanson

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Lectionary Readings for Next Week (January 2):

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 † Psalm 147:12-20 † Ephesians 1:3-14 † John 1:1-18

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Duane and Jewel Proctor in appreciation of the online and radio ministries of St. John's. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 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. Dates available: January 16 & 30. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV)-cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closed tomorrow, Monday, December 27.

There will be one worship service next Sunday, January 2, at 10:00 a.m.

The Church Office and Building will be closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, and will be closed on Saturday, January 1, 2022.

Our financial contributions are one of the ways that we together support the ministry of St. John's. Contributions for 2021 can be received in the following ways:

- given online by Tuesday, December 28 (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!

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 16, 2022. 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.

Coffee and Fellowship with COVID Protocols

Note: There will be no Coffee Fellowship Hour on Christmas weekend or New Year's weekend.

Enjoy a cup of coffee or hot tea while socializing with friends and fellow members. As we joyfully and carefully resume the much-missed coffee hour tradition we need volunteers each Sunday to either donate treats (homemade or store bought), or to assist with making the coffee, set-up, and clean-up. No prior experience is necessary. We invite all to try it out. Being involved in this type of service is a great way to get to know people, and it's fun! To volunteer for Sunday coffee hour needs, scan the QR Code or sign up in the Commons or email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Announcements (continued)

Sunday Hospitality Tasks in Need of Volunteers

We invite anyone and everyone to sign up to assist with Communion prep or clean-up or greeting at the doors. It's a great way to serve and be involved, and we always need volunteers. No prior experience necessary. When you sign up, you will be given directions, and guidance as needed. Thank you!

You can sign up 3 ways:

- Sign up in CCB: [Monthly Hospitality - January](#) or [Monthly Hospitality - February](#)
- Email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org
- Call the Church Office at 507-654-4429

Our Stewardship Appeal for 2022

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 2022 intent, even if it is to remain the same.



Courageous Conversations Book Group Winter Read Begins

Thursday, January 13, 4:00–5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Our first read for 2022 will be *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in White Christianity* by Robert P. Jones. The discussion will take place over Zoom on 2nd and 4th Thursdays: January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, and March 10 & 24 (if we need a 6th session). To sign up, please email dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com.

Children and Youth Ministries

Christmas and New Year's Break

No Wednesday Programming on December 29 or Sunday School and Sunday Morning Youth Group today and on January 2.

Contact Information for Children and Youth

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry at childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Jo Dahlin, Bob Flaten, Carolyn Jennings, Bruce Ohland,
Paul Peterson, Howard Thorsheim, Jessica Zdenek

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Mary Ingbritsen

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marilyn Boschee, Elvin Heiberg, Donna James, Bev Mahacheck, Guenther Moesler,
Delores Nelson, Carole Nesheim, Becky Ness, John Quam, Scott Quinnell, Lois Rand,
Howard Thorsheim, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Elouise Quinnell, Lester Gunderson, Elaine Feroe

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;

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.

St. John's Welcome Statement

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.

This Week At-a-Glance

The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

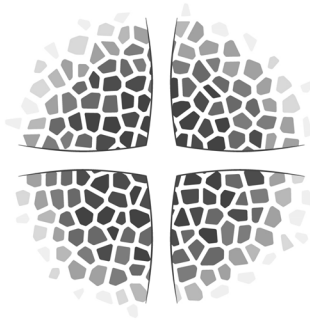
Monday, Dec. 27		<i>Church Office and Building Closed</i>
Tuesday, Dec. 28	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, Dec. 29		No Scheduled Activities
Thursday, Dec. 30	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Visitation - Mary Ingbritsen, Commons Funeral - Mary Ingbritsen, Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 31	9:00 a.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Jan. 1		<i>New Year's Day - Church Building Closed</i>
Sunday, Jan. 2	10:00 a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary

Save the Date: **St. John's Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of St. John's will take place on Sunday, January 23, at noon in St. John's Hall.

We will meet to hear reports, elect council and board members for 2022, and approve the 2022 budget. The St. John's Foundation meeting will take place just before the congregational meeting.

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report—please turn your report in as soon as possible!



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*
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*
Tim Byers, *Facility Manager*
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*
Christy Hall-Holt, *Welcome Ministry Coordinator*
Emmanuel Kaghondi, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*
Sally Lindell, *Parish Nurse*
Arielle Loy, *Director of Alleluia Choir*
Zachery Pelletier, *Director of Rejoice Rings*
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

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