



# SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 2024 † 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 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** — “Away in a Manger”

arr. David Moore

*Ruth Bretheim Aaseng, flute*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 299

“Cold December Flies Away”

## **\*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.**

# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## **Children's Message**

## First Reading — 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>His 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. <sup>20</sup>Then 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.

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

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of Praise — ELW No. 289

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

## Second Reading — Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear 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. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let 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. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** 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**

Spark Story Bible, page 230

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming 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.

<sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When 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." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And 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**

Rev. Nick Fisher-Broin

# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — ELW No. 269

“Once in Royal David's City”

## \*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:*

- ℒ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☩ **hear our prayer.**

### **\*Peace**

- ℙ 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*

"What Child Is This"

arr. David Moore

**\*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**

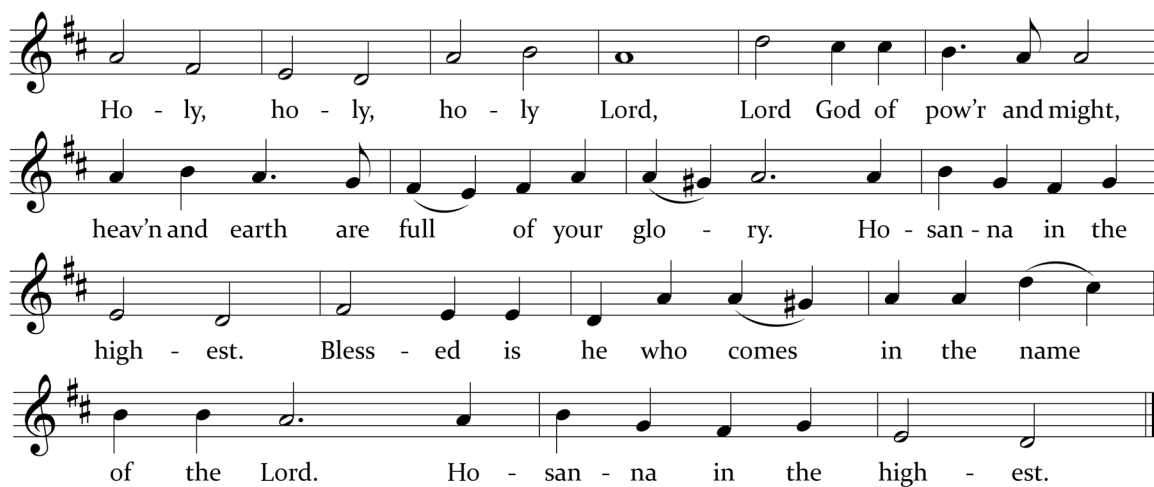
- ℒ Let us pray.
- ☩ **Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.  
As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the  
grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of  
your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

# SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

## \*Great Thanksgiving

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also 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



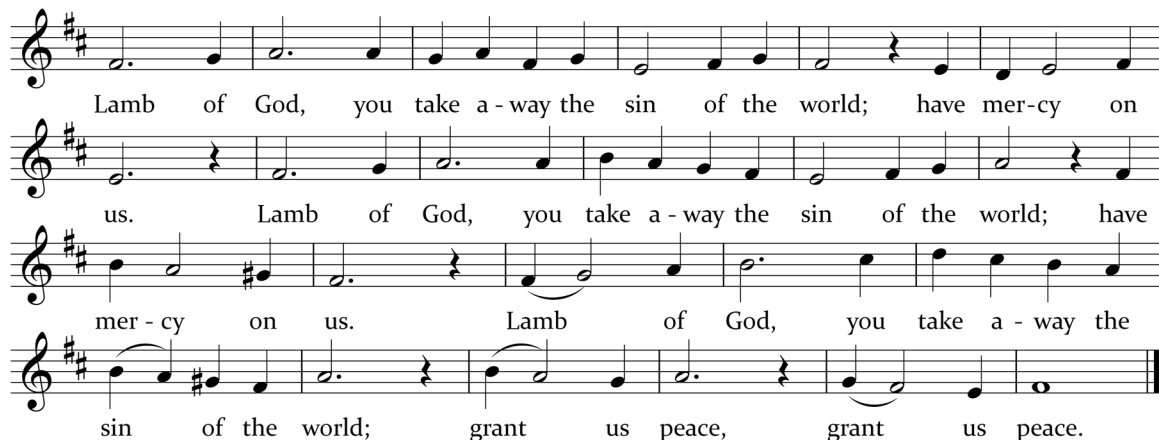
## \*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Solo — "What Is This Lovely Fragrance?"

Lynn Petersen

Hymn — ELW No. 296

"What Child Is This"

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

**\*Prayer at the Beginning 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. 290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

**\*Dismissal**

℣ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God!

**Postlude** — “Winter’s Crossing”

Frank Gallagher



## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:**

Preaching	Rev. Nick Fisher-Broin
Presiding	Rev. Cindy Fisher-Broin
Assisting Minister	Grant Aaseng
Organist	Dan Dauner
Flute	Ruth Bretheim Aaseng
Communion Service	Craig Schultz
Greeters	TBD
Counters	Brenda Bultman, Merliyn Calcutt, Judd Lohmann
Ushers	Leif Knecht, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## **Learning and Fellowship Between Services**

### ***Next Week (January 5)***

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Commons

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 (January 5):**

### ***Epiphany of Our Lord***

Isaiah 60:1-6 † Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 † Ephesians 3:1-12 † Matthew 2:1-12

# Announcements

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

**Today's Radio Broadcast** is given by Dennis and Jane Rinehart in celebration of their grandchildren, Junia and Kai, born this year. 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 507-645-4429 or [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Available Dates: January 12, 19 & 26.

**The Church Building will be closing at noon on Tuesday, December 31, and will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025.**

## **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 2024 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Thank you!

**We welcome the St. Olaf Choir** and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 19. 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.

## **Stewardship 2025 Appeal**

Thanks to those who have returned their 2025 pledge card. We still need to hear from 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](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving and let us know your 2025 intent, even if it is to remain the same.



## **Reminder of Deadlines**

Please send all submissions electronically to Leah Garlie at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

- Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements: Due by Wednesday at 2:00 p.m.
- *The Voice* (February 2025 Edition): Due by January 15

Please send all submissions for the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletin, and *The Voice* to Leah Garlie electronically via email to [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). or the [Announcement Request Form](#) found on our website.

# **Announcements (continued)**

## **“Women’s Little Christmas” Celebration**

**Saturday, January 4, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., St. John’s Hall**

Nollaig na mBan (Women’s Little Christmas) is celebrated on Epiphany in Ireland and elsewhere, offering an opportunity at the end of the holiday season to celebrate with friends and to gather ourselves before diving into the year ahead. This day invites us to pause, to rest, to reflect. It will be a time to enjoy traditional Irish food, Irish carols, camaraderie, and more. Sign up in the Commons before or after church services in December or contact [Pamela Groves-Gaggioli](#). Tickets are \$15 each and the last day to buy tickets is today. **Volunteers needed:** if you’d like to help make this a celebration to remember, please contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli. We will try to keep the tasks small and not too time-consuming (a little chopping, baking, decorating).

**Electronic giving is a great way to support the ongoing ministry of St. John’s, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person.** To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at 507-645-4429, or by email at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). “I Give Electronically” cards are now available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.

## **Children and Youth**

### **Christmas and New Year’s Break**

No Wednesday Programming on January 1.

### **Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registration are Now Open**

Good Earth Village offers camps for grades 2–7 with 2 or 5 night options (depending on grade). Use code SUPEREARLY 2025 for an additional \$100 off a full week or \$50 off a half week as a “campership” from St. John’s. Visit <https://goodearthvillage.org/northfield> for details or contact Julie or Kristin with questions.

### **Summer 2025 Youth Summer Trip**

This summer’s trip will be backpacking (for high school) and camping & hiking (for middle school) at Christikon in Montana. Youth and chaperones from St. John’s, St. Peter’s, and First UCC will adventure in the mountains July 19-27. Sign-up by February 15!

### **Contact information for Children and Youth**

*Julie Brehmer, Director of Children’s Ministry at [childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

*Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto: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*

Bill Carlson, Darlene Hand, Fred Huemoeller, Carol Schoen

*Those with ongoing health concerns*

Greta Matzner-Gore, Dolores Nelson, Cynthia Neubecker,  
Scott Quinnell, Alice Rickert, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Kathy Vang

*All who are homebound, including*

Laila Burns Hedstrom, Billi Faillettaz

*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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com), or contact a pastor.

## Wednesday Night



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

Wednesday Night Meals Take a Break  
*Meals Resume January 8*

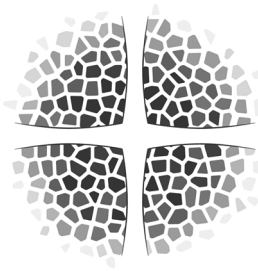
**All are welcome!**

*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](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).*

<b>Monday, Dec. 30</b>	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 31</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting, Fireside Room Writing Group: “Inspired Pens”, St. John’s Library
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 1</b>		<i>Church Building Closed - New Year’s Day</i>
<b>Thursday, Jan. 2</b>	7:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Tai Chi Class, Fellowship Hall Quilting & Bandage Rolling, Fellowship Hall Communion at Millstream Commons, Offsite Communion at Benedictine Living Community, Offsite
<b>Friday, Jan. 3</b>	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	S.A.I.L. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall NAMI Support Group, Fireside Room
<b>Saturday, Jan. 4</b>		St. John’s Women Christmas Carols Luncheon, Offsite
<b>Sunday, Jan. 5</b>	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

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

[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org)  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
Green Bouzard, *Jubilate Choir Director*  
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, *Parish 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.*