

All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2025

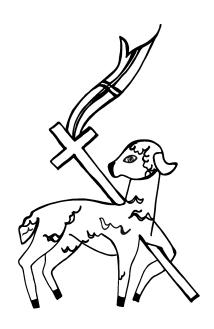
WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Founded by German immigrants in 1745, St. John's Lutheran Church is one of the oldest congregations in the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are part of a rich heritage that now spans 184 congregations and 45,000 Lutherans in North Carolina, nearly 3 million ELCA members across 65 synods in the United States, and a global communion of 78 million Lutherans through the Lutheran World Federation.

From a humble meetinghouse in 1745 to our place in the global body of Christ, St. John's continues to share God's love far beyond our own walls, living into the promise of the communion of saints.

SERVICE NOTES

- ❖ A printed cross + is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body. We make the sign of the cross to remember our Baptism and the promise: "You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."
- ❖ **Bold print** indicates a speaking part for the whole assembly.
- * Restrooms are located in the Narthex to the right of the front door and through the doors behind the choir to the left.
- ❖ A nursery is available for your use. Ask an usher for directions.
- * Today's liturgy is Setting Eight from Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
- ❖ Have questions? Ask the pastor. He is happy to discuss the movements of our worship service and why we do what we do as Lutherans.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY IS ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

In Holy Baptism, God makes saints out of sinners. In Holy Communion, God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest." In the same breath, we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today's gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God's glory.

WELCOME TO ELIAS BANNOURA!

Elias will deliver a short Temple Talk at the beginning of our service on Holy Land Christians. Additionally, he will have handmade olivewood crafts for sale. Please consider supporting our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmands will meet today, above the sanctuary, at 8:45am. The next confirmation class will be November 16, 2025 8:45 to 9:45 am.

2025-2026 COUNCIL NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee presents the following names for consideration for Congregation Council: Cheris Copeland, Angela Ferguson, Patti Fletcher, Rathel Goodman, Annette Herring, Anne Shuping, Jim Thinnes, Peyton Trexler. The congregation will select four candidates during our annual meeting on November 16.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

Celebrate the magic of Christmas on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00-7:00 pm with a craft market, entertainment, food trucks, and tours of the heritage museum at St. John's Christmas Market Celebration! Come enjoy the season or sell your handcrafted items!

INVITATION TO BISHOP'S INSTALLATION IN CHARLOTTE

Your prayers and presence are requested at the service of Holy Eucharist with the Rite of Installation for the bishop of the North Carolina Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Rev. Emily K. Hartner. Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 2:00 pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 4519 Providence Road, Charlotte, NC 28226. *Reception to follow*.

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAYS

We are in need of choir members to help with the Christmas cantata. It is a collage of familiar carols in beautiful arrangements. Please consider joining us to make this a wonderful gift of music to the congregation. The cantata will be done on December 14th^t during the morning worship service.

HANDBELL RINGERS

We are restarting both a handbell choir for children, and for youth and adults. Children do not need to read music, as they will learn that as they play the bells. For the youth and adult choir, you need to be able to read music. If it's been years since you've used that skill, you will catch up in no time, as you only have two notes to play in the bell choir. Please consider being a part of this as we prepare music for the Advent and Christmas season.

TEN WEEKS WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

October is the tenth month of the year, and we will begin ten weeks exploring all Ten Commandments. In 1529, Martin Luther published the *Small Catechism* so households could explain to their children in simple terms the basics of the faith: The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Sacraments, and simple prayers for daily living. If you don't have a copy of the *Catechism*, we will begin distributing the pocket editions in the church Narthex over the next few weeks. To support this effort, consider a gift to the Christian Education fund.

You shall not murder.

Today's Focus: The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

People of St. John's:

It is wonderful to be back with you following our pilgrimage in the footsteps of Paul through Greece and Turkey. It was, in many ways, a life-changing journey for me, and I hope my fellow travelers feel the same way.

To walk the same roads as the Apostle Paul, to stand where he once preached, and to see the ruins of the communities who first heard his letters was awesome.



The Bible can feel strange and distant at times — full of long, old stories that can be hard to visualize today. This trip reminded me that the story of Scripture is also *our story*. These letters were written to *real* people living *real* lives of faith, wrestling with the *same* questions we do today: Where is God leading us? What does it mean to follow Jesus in an often messy world?

In Ephesians, Paul reminds his readers — *and us today!* — that we are part of something larger than ourselves. "In Christ we have obtained an inheritance," he writes, "so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:11–12).

In Ephesus, we saw a once bustling city filled with temples, marketplaces, and competing claims of loyalty. Paul's message cut through all of that noise: Jesus is Lord, not any of the other false gods we often chase.

That same reminder, if you ask me, applies today. We too live surrounded by competing claims for our time, our hearts, and our attention. But Paul calls us back to what matters most: to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to the hope that grounds our life together as his Church.

On this All Saints Sunday, I am grateful for this congregation's "faith in the Lord Jesus and love toward all the saints" (v.15). May we continue to live out that faith with holy curiosity, appreciating the traditions of our past, being open to the movement of the Spirit in the present, and trusting that the God who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

The Lord be with you,

+ GATHERING +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

PRELUDE

God Is the Refuge of the Saints

Bach

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the shepherd of our souls, the keeper of the saints in light. Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we are clothed with mercy and forgiveness, and called into a family that stretches beyond time and place—a communion of saints, parents, mentors, and friends in the Let us give thanks for the gift of Baptism. (Water is poured into the font.)

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints and faithful ones who first placed the Scriptures in our hands, who brought us to the font, and who showed us your love. Through these waters, you claim us as your own—beloved daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers in Christ. To you be given honor and praise, now and forever. Amen.

As we remember the baptized who have gone before us and those newly washed in your name, renew us in your covenant, O God. Teach us to live with honor, humility, and hope, serving one another in love until that day when every generation is gathered together at your table of grace. **Amen.**

REMEMBRANCE OF ALL SAINTS

Let us remember all the saints before God.

We praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, especially...

Natalie Princess Diane Mullis Fisher – February 26, 2025
Charles "Chuck" David Sigler - February 28, 2025 - Jacob Sigler's Father
Tommy Wayne Fletcher – March 13, 2025 - Brandon Fletcher's Father
Floyd C. Hartsell - April 2, 2025 - Jacob Sigler's Grandfather
Jane Hudson Bost – March 5, 2025
Robert James Hansen – March 22, 2025 – Pr. Matt's Grandfather
Ronald Brown Hurlocker – September 3, 2025
Gloria Collins Casper – September 28, 2025
Carl Alexander Bost – October 12, 2025

And now for adding us who celebrate the love of Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion. With them we praise and bless you, O holy Trinity. Amen.

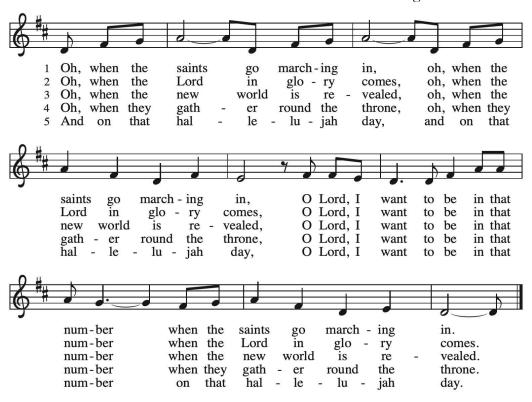
Jesus says, Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. And you will find rest for your souls.



GATHERING SONG

Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In

ACS #950



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.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

Children are invited to come forward for a conversation with the pastor.

FIRST READING: DANIEL 7:1-3, 15-18

A reading from Daniel.

¹In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³ and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵ As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶ I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷ "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

PSALM 149

¹ Praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

²Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

³ Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

⁵Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

⁶Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,

8 to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron,

⁹to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:11-23

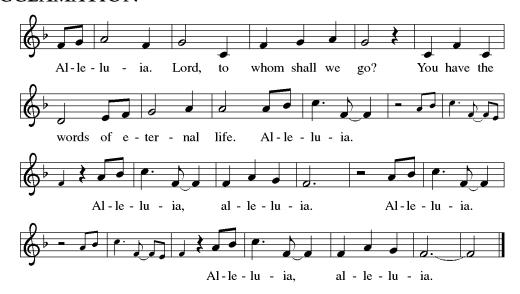
A reading from Ephesians.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: LUKE 6:20-31

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰ Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,

for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

For All the Saints

ELW #422



THE NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

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 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 THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

You may give online, by visiting <u>www.stjohnsconcord.com/give</u> or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

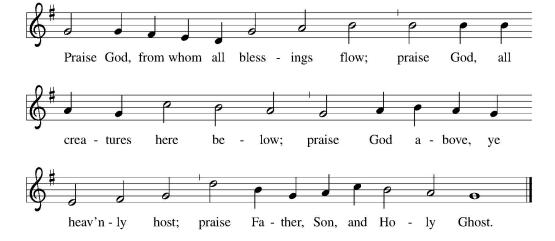
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

arr. Hawkins

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #885



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

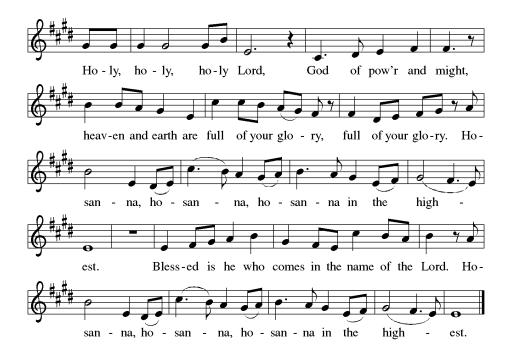
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world. Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ You are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward during the distribution with your arms crossed.
- The homemade communion bread is gluten free. If you prefer a wafer, please indicate by raising a finger as you approach the pastor. Grape juice, instead of wine, is also available.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. Amen.

+ SENDING +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

By All Your Saints Still Striving

Williams

PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Care Concern

Bob Blackwelder (Health condition), Pat Blackwelder (Home), Catherine Carriker (Health condition),
Nancy Deal (Home), Lisa Edwards (Health condition), Judy Fisher (Home),
Susan Hayes (Health condition), Rick McRorie (Health condition), Anne Moose (Health condition),
Roger Shoaf (Health condition), Stan Parnell (Health condition), Al Sundling (Health condition),
Lucy Thomas (Health condition), Elaine Petrea (Home), King Walters (Health condition),
Pr. Bob Young (Health condition)

Residents in Care Facilities

Larry & Faye Cline (*Trinity Oaks*), Pr. Don Deal (*Trinity Oaks*), Betty Ritchie (*Trinity Oaks*), Amelia Ritchie (*Terra Bella*), Martha Suther (*Brookdale Concord*), Joy Waddell (*Mt. Pleasant House*), Kay Walker (*Brookdale Concord*)

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen Pastor

Ellen Goodman Assisting Minister

Catherine Ritch Organist

Deane Moorehead Lector

Ellen & Rathel Goodman, Gerald Cline Communion Assistants

Bob Cavalline, Rick McRorie, Ken & David Rowlans Ushers

Ryleigh Hartsell Livestream Support

Emily & Raegan Hartsell Nursery Attendants

Rathel & Ellen Goodman Altar Guild

Bob Cavalline Teller Lead

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

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ONLINE

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Pastor Matt's Email matt@stjohnsconcord.com

ON-SITE

Address 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church Office Hours Mon-Thu, 8am-1:30pm; Fri, 8am-Noon

Pastor Matt's Office Hours Mon-Thu, by appointment.

→ Please note: Pastor Matt observes Sabbath every Friday ←

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.

