



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026 ✚ Preschool Sunday

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

- ❖ We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you're a visitor, please enter your name in the guestbook near the entrance and our pastor will reach out to you.
- ❖ 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 Ten** from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ella Dorton's 19th birthday today, April 12, given by her grandparents, Bob & Anne Shuping.

The stand flowers are given by Pastor Matt in honor of the students, families, and teachers of St. John's Preschool. We give thanks for you and rejoice in the life and joy God is raising up among us through you.

Altar flowers are a meaningful way to glorify God and honor loved ones in worship. A gift of \$75 to the St. John's Flower Fund is encouraged. To sponsor altar flowers, please contact the church office.

HOLY COMMUNION

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ **Please note: The homemade communion bread is gluten, dairy, and nut 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.

PRAYER LIST

We invite you to join us in prayer for members and friends of St. John's. A printed prayer list is available in the Narthex and is emailed each morning at 4:30 a.m. in the *Daily Cycle of Prayer*.

*To add a name, please submit a request through our website or contact the church office.
Scan the QR code below to view the current list.*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

WELCOME PRESCHOOL FAMILIES

We are so glad you are here today! It is a joy to welcome the students, families, and teachers of St. John's Preschool into worship. Whether this is your first time with us or one of many visits, know that you are always welcome here.

WELCOME TO OUR GUEST MUSICIAN

Lyla Alexander is a 7th grader at Union Academy, where she is a member of both the school marching band and the pep band. She plays both the sousaphone and the tuba, and today is playing the tuba. Lyla has 2 younger brothers, she loves all animals, she loves baking, and she has found a love of music through her school band.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY UPDATE

You are invited to join Gerld Cline and Jim Hayes as they join with the Kairos Ministry Prison Team for Weekend #26 at Foothills Correctional Institution in Morganton on April 23-26. Join us as we go in to share the Good News of Jesus' Unconditional Love, Grace, Forgiveness and Resurrection. You can participate through your prayers and monetary donations. Prayer Sign Up sheets have been placed in all the Sunday School rooms, outside the Secretary's office, in the choir room, and in the Narthex. There is an online Prayer Vigil website, but it is easier to sign up here at church, or send me an email with the time(s) you will be praying (jimhayes325@gmail.com) and I will see that your name gets put on the Prayer Wheel. The Prayer Sign up sheets will be picked up after our services on April 19th. Donations can be cash or check. Checks can be made out to KAIROS OF NC, and put FOOTHILLS CI in the Memo block. You can give your check to Gerald Cline or Jim Hayes, or put it in the offering plate and the Teller Team will get it to us or turn it into the office. You can donate online at Kairosfcinc.org. Click top orange box to donate. Use the drop-down box and click on Foothills CI. Complete your name, address, and payment information, prove you are human and click Submit. You will receive a Tax Donation letter at the end of the year. Let us know if you donate online, otherwise we can't thank you personally. May God bless our St. John's family for supporting this ministry.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Friedell

Lyla Dare Alexander (Tuba)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us; for Dutch Buffalo Creek, Cold Water Creek, and the Rocky River. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

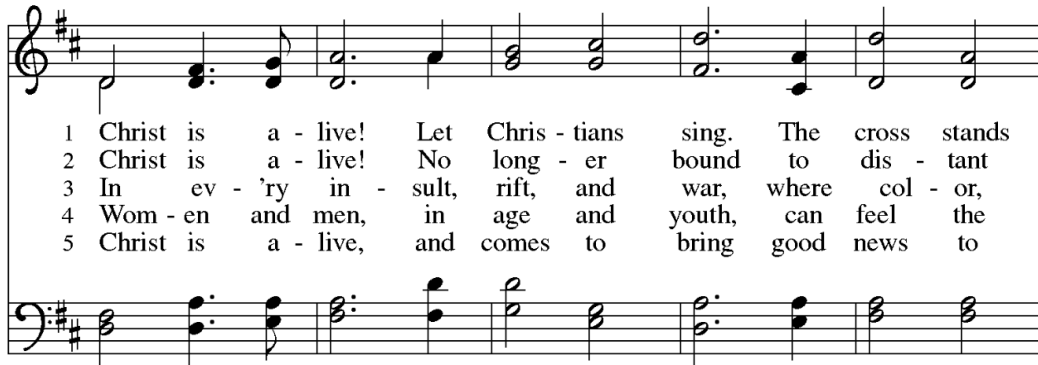
Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

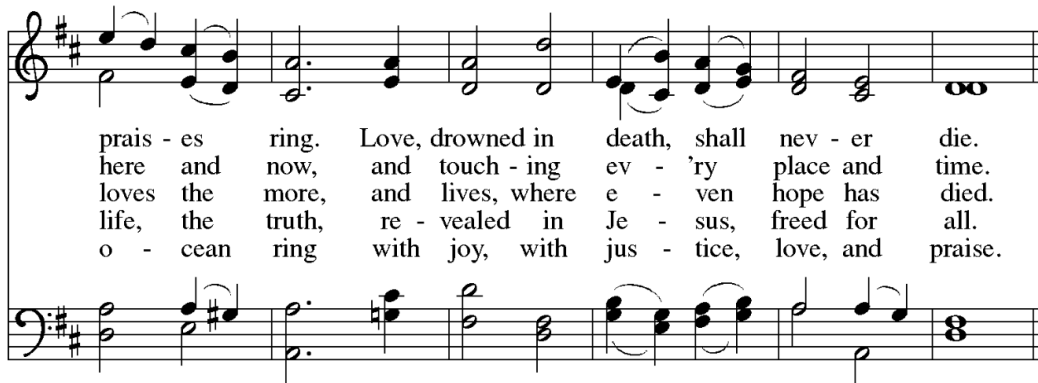
ELW #389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re-ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, 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: ACTS 2:14a, 22-32

A reading from Acts.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ ²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ ³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Christ is risen! This is the Word of life. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 16

We read Psalm 16 responsively.

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² **I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.”**

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

⁴ **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.**

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ **I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ **For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

A reading from 1st Peter.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Christ is risen! This is the Word of life. **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

PRESCHOOL MUSIC OFFERING

HYMN OF THE DAY

Aleluia, Sing to Jesus

ELW #392



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -
 5 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,



his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your
 his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you
 vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
 sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on
 Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."

BLESSING OF STUDENTS, FAMILIES, & THEIR TEACHERS

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (*Luke 18:16*)

Let us pray together. Loving God, we thank you for the gift of children—for their curiosity, their laughter, their wonder. **Be with our preschoolers as they grow in heart, mind, and spirit. Bless their families with patience, wisdom, and joy as they nurture their little ones in love and learning. And bless their teachers with energy, creativity, and compassion. Amen.**

Children of God, may you be filled with joy in your learning, comfort in your fears, and peace in all things. God goes before you and behind you, surrounding you with love every step of the way. **May you grow strong in body, mind, and spirit, knowing you are deeply loved by God and by us.**

Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers, God has entrusted you with a sacred task. May you find strength for the daily routines, wisdom in the uncertain moments, and grace for the times you feel stretched thin. Know that you are never alone. **We give thanks for you. We promise to walk with you, pray for you, and support you as you raise your children in faith and love.**

Teachers, assistants, and preschool leaders, God has called you to a beautiful and sacred work—shaping young minds, nurturing growing hearts, and creating safe places for discovery and delight. May you be filled with patience when days are long, encouragement when you feel weary, and joy in the daily gift of helping children grow. **We give thanks for your dedication and care. May God bless the work of your hands and hearts. You are a gift to this community.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, watch over these children and families. Bless their teachers and classrooms, their friendships and growth. Let your light shine through them, and may they always know they belong—to you, to this community, and to one another. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

The Lamb

Coleman

OFFERING

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

OFFERING SONG

He's Done So Much For Me

Sing! Hymnal #169

1. He's done so much for me, I can-not tell it all, I can-not
2. He washed my sins a - way; I can-not tell it all, I can-not
3. He walks and talks with me; I can-not tell it all, I can-not
4. He gave me vic - to - ry; I can-not tell it all, I can-not

tell it all, I can-not tell it all. He's done so much for me,
tell it all, I can-not tell it all. He washed my sins a - way;
tell it all, I can-not tell it all. He walks and talks with me;
tell it all, I can-not tell it all. He gave me vic - to - ry;

I can-not tell it all, I can - not tell it all.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: F, F, Bb, F, C in the first system; C7, F, F, F, F in the second system; Bb, F, Bb, F/C, C7sus, F in the third system. The lyrics are aligned with the notes in the vocal line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

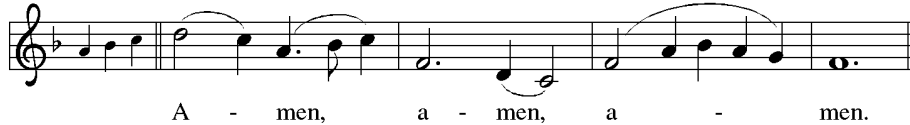
ACCLAMATION



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Holy God, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. **Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

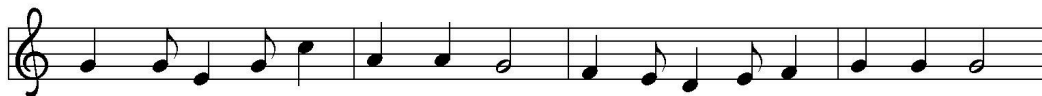
BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW #674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Lemmens

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Matt Hansen *Pastor*

Catherine Ritch *Director of Music*

Lyla Dare Alexander *Guest Musician, Tuba*

Sheryll Garfola *Lector*

Angela Ferguson & Sheryll Garfola *Communion Assistants*

John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters *Ushers*

Rowland family *Livestream Support*

Patti & Hailey Fletcher *Nursery Attendants*

Angela Ferguson & Sheryl Garfola *Altar Guild*

Vera Drye *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

Church Office (704) 436-6081

ONLINE

Office Email office@stjohnsconcord.com

ON-SITE

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

Church Office Hours Mon-Fri, 8am to 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.



Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS016664. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. *Used by permission.* All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. *Used by permission.*