



# St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 19, 2026

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## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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- ❖ 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*.

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## ALTAR FLOWERS

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Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Catherine Ritch for her 19 years as our Director of Music by the Choir.

Today's stand flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bernice Blackwelder Casper in celebration of her April 19 birthday by Phillip Casper.

*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.*

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## HOLY COMMUNION

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- ❖ 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.

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## PRAYER LIST

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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.*



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **JOIN US FOR A MEAL IN HONOR OF CATHERINE RITCH**

Following worship today, we will gather at the Fellowship Building for a meal in honor of Catherine Ritch. All are welcome!

### **MONETARY GIFTS FOR CATHERINE RITCH**

The church will collect monetary gifts in honor of Catherine's 18-year tenure at St. John's. You may designate a check in her name and place it in the offering plate or in the notes section online. We are accepting gifts for her until April 26, her final Sunday at St. John's.

### **FAITH NIGHT AT THE CANNONBALLERS**

May 29 is Faith Night at the Cannonballers. We have a group of 20 tickets available. The cost for each ticket is \$13. Please let the church office know if you want tickets.

### **EVENTS AND RESERVATIONS CALENDAR**

FYI: All events and reservations for Goins Hall and the Fellowship Building are listed on the St. John's Master Calendar. You may view this calendar at [stjohnsconcord.com/events](http://stjohnsconcord.com/events). If you would like to add an event or reserve one of the halls, please contact the church office.

### **NEW ADDRESS FOR MARTHA SUTHER**

Martha Suther has moved from Brookdale Assisted Living to Holiday Crescent Heights. Phone number remains the same. Her new mailing address is Room 1, 240 Branchview Dr. NE, Concord, NC 28025. *She has a larger place with a kitchen and outdoor space for Charlie. She is very happy!*

### **NC SYNOD GATHERING**

The Synod Gathering is scheduled for Thursday- Saturday, May 28-30, at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory. Church members and visitors, pastors, and deacons from across the synod will gather to develop community, grow in faith, and grow skills for building God's church. All are welcome. To register, visit the synod website.

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

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### WELCOME

### LITURGICAL DANCE PRELUDE

Raegan & Ryleigh Hartsell

### 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.

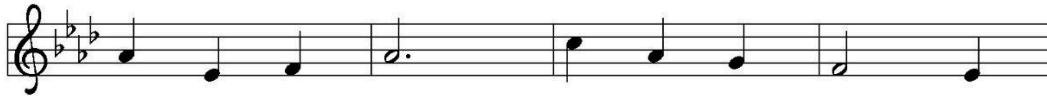
Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

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

## Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

ELW #377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent;  
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



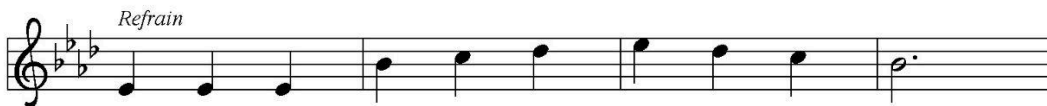
Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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.* O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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✠ WORD ✠

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

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**TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES**

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

**FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14a, 36-41**

A reading from Acts.

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

**PSALM 116:1-4,12-19**

*We read a portion of Psalm 116 responsively.*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the LORD,  
“O LORD, I pray, save my life!”**

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his bounty to me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD;**

<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

<sup>16</sup> **O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.**

<sup>17</sup> **I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> **I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,**

<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the LORD!**

## SECOND READING: 1 PETER 17-23

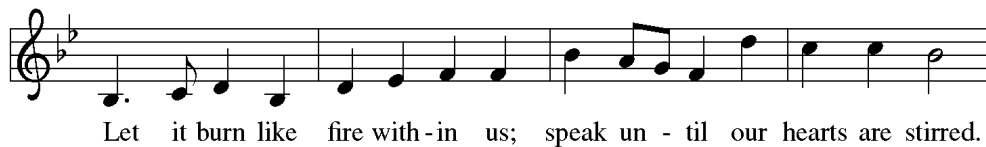
A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.

<sup>17</sup> If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup> You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup> He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## **GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35**

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

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

*With High Delight Let Us Unite*

ELW #368



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in  
 2 True God, he first from death has burst forth  
 3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all  
 in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now  
 Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To  
 van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And  
 word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
 yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says  
 shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
 he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.  
 death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

## 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 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 THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

## PEACE

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

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## ✚ MEAL ✚

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### OFFERTORY

*Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*

Larson

### OFFERING

You may give online, by visiting [www.stjohnsconcord.com/give](http://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 with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system includes lyrics for four verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the lyrics with 'I can-not tell it all, I can-not tell it all.' Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line: F, F, Bb, F, C, C7, F, F, F, F, Bb, F, Bb, F/C, C7sus, F.

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray together.* 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

In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

## 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.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## 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.**

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## ✠ SENDING ✠

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

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## BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light of God

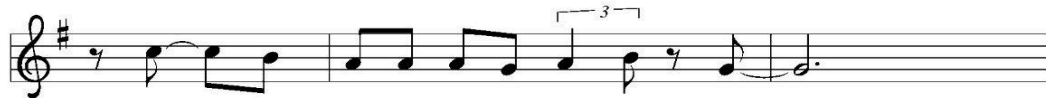
ELW #866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

You Shall Go Out with Joy

Dauermanns

Following worship, we gather at the Fellowship Building for a meal honoring the service of Catherine Ritch as Director of Music.

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## SERVING TODAY

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**The Reverend Matt Hansen** *Pastor*

**Catherine Ritch** *Director of Music*

**Sheryll Garfola** *Lector*

**Sheryll Garfola & Angela Ferguson** *Communion Assistants*

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

**Shuping Family** *Livestream Support*

**Connor & Kristin Rowland** *Nursery Attendants*

**Angela Ferguson, Sheryl Garfola** *Altar Guild*

**Vera Drye** *Teller Lead*

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## CONTACT US

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### BY PHONE

**Church Office** (704) 436-6081 *(Please leave a voice message)*

### ONLINE

**Office Email** [office@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:office@stjohnsconcord.com)

**Bulletin Announcement Email** [announcements@stjohnsconcord.com](mailto:announcements@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* ↔

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



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