



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2026

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 Twelve** from *All Creation Sings*.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by the people of St. John's.

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

SHARING THE BOUNTY FOOD DRIVE

All food collected in the distributed bags from Homecoming Sunday will go to the Mt. Pleasant Food Bank.

CLASSIC RESTAURANT OUTING TODAY

Following the service, we'll head to Denton for a meal at the classic restaurant.

THANK YOU FROM TED RITCHIE

Thank you for all of the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers that I received from all of you during my recent illness. God bless each of you. *—Ted Ritchie*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The Blessing of the Animals will be at 5pm today at the Labyrinth. There will be snacks for all our faithful friends following the blessing.

HEALING SERVICE

Join us Wednesday, October 7th at 6pm for a Taize Healing Prayer Service in the sanctuary. We will hold these services the first Wednesday of every month.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY WEEKEND

St. John's will again be participating in a Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend at the Foothills Maximum Security Correctional Institution in Morganton, NC. The weekend will be November 4-5, 2026. It is a blessing to see the Holy Spirit work in the hearts of these young men. You can go into the institution as part of God's team through your donations of prayers and money which power the light of Christ that shines into the darkness. It cost \$5 to sponsor a meal, or \$30 to sponsor a table, or \$210 to sponsor an entire meal. The checks can be made out to KAIROS NC and given to Gerald Cline or Jim Hayes, or put in the offering. Be sure to put in the Memo section: FOOTHILLS. You can also donate online at <http://www.kairoscinc.org>. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a letter from Kairos acknowledging your contribution. We will be working on preparing Prayer signup sheets which will be available in Sunday School Rooms, the Narthex and outside the church office. Your participation in this Kairos Prison Ministry is greatly appreciated! All of us together with Christ make a difference!

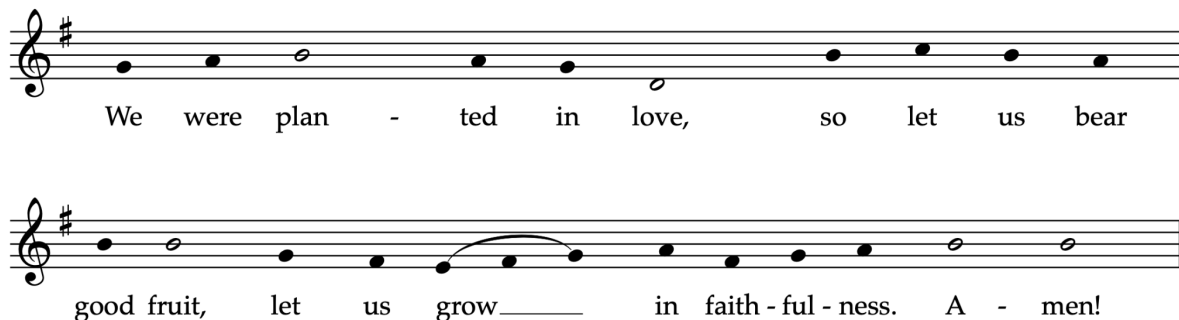
TRUNK OR TREAT

All ages are invited to dress up and decorate their vehicles for Trunk or Treat on October 25 from 4pm to 6pm. A grab-and-go dinner will be provided. If you are bringing a decorated car, arrive no later than 3:30pm. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex so we know how many cars to expect. See Deacon Brittany with any questions.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

INTROIT



PRELUDE

Elévation

Léon Boëllmann

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW #858



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

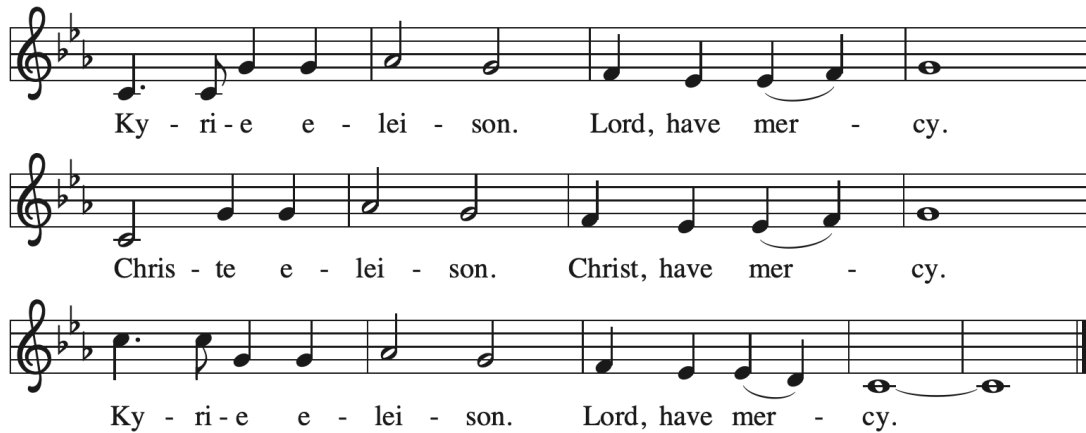


join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 minister.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.
- ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?
- ⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
- ⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
 he expected justice
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness
 but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 80:7-15

The assembly responds with the refrain. The Deacon reads the text.



- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.
⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt;
 you drove out the nations and planted it.
⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
 it took deep root and filled the land.
¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade,
 the mighty cedars with its branches;
¹¹ it sent out its branches to the sea
 and its shoots to the River. **Refrain**
¹² Why then have you broken down its walls,
 so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it,
 and all that move in the field feed on it.
¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts;
 look down from heaven and see;
 have regard for this vine,
¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-46

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

[Jesus said:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?’

⁴³“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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



SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW #714 (vv.1-4)



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. Bless our pets and their companionship to us. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation, especially St. Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering, especially those on our prayer list and those whom we now name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith, especially Sunday School and Vacation Bible teachers from generations before and today. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheryll Garfola

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Nothing Can Ever

Jacques Berthier

OFFERING

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. **Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE *(continued)*

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. 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.**

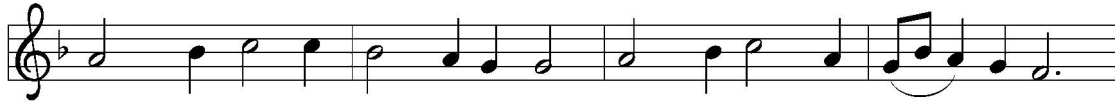
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

ELW #501



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

BLESSING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Let us pray. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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

Oh, Sing to the Lord

ELW #822

1 Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!

Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Herzliebster Jesu Op. 122

Johannes Brahms

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen *Presiding Minister*

The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry *Director of Discipleship & Outreach*

Dr. Kevin Carmody *Director of Music*

Sheryll Garfolo *Lector*

Tina Suther, Jennifer Suther & Peyton Trexler *Communion Assistants*

Jimmy Lentz, Carl Walker, Brandon Fletcher & Brad Cress *Ushers*

Patti Fletcher, Charles Eudy *Broadcast Team*

Sheryll Garfolo, Ellen Goodman & the Confirmands *Altar Guild*

Emily & Raegan Hartsell *Nursery Attendants*

Patti Fletcher *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

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ONLINE

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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.



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