



St John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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 are given by Duane Miller & Angela Helms to the glory of God and in honor of Joyce Hardin as she celebrates her October 27th birthday.

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

CLERGY APPRECIATION SUNDAY

We will be honoring Pastor Matt, Deacon Brittany, and Licensed Lay Preacher Carol with a reception following worship today.

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

Over the past year, the St. John's Preschool Committee has worked to bring greater structure and organization to St. John's Preschool. We have adopted formal bylaws, established a Board of Directors, and begun transitioning the Preschool Committee into a new committee called Friends of St. John's Preschool. As we look ahead, we believe our greatest opportunity is to strengthen connections with both the church and the community. For many years, our focus was primarily internal, centered on curriculum development and teacher alignment. Now, we are ready to build stronger relationships that will more closely connect the preschool with the church and the community. To support this new chapter, we would like to formally establish the Friends of St. John Preschool committee. This committee will be led by Deacon Brittnay. **If anyone would like to be a part of this committee, please contact John DeVitto or Deacon Brittnay.** Board of Directors are Pastor Matt Hanson, John DeVitto, Bonita Rowland, Patti Fletcher, Paula Ritchie, Jennifer Suther and a parent volunteer from the school. Friends of St. Johns Committee - Deacon Brittnay, Deane Moorehead, Carol Hinson, Ellen Goodman, and Emily Hartsell. We would like a few more folks to fill out the committee. Thank you for the tremendous support. – *John DeVitto*

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

Mark you calendars for November 22nd when we will enjoy a Thanksgiving Luncheon together after worship. More details to come.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

PRELUDE

Re

Niels Frahm

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

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW #673



- 1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
- 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
- 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
- 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

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. O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, 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: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

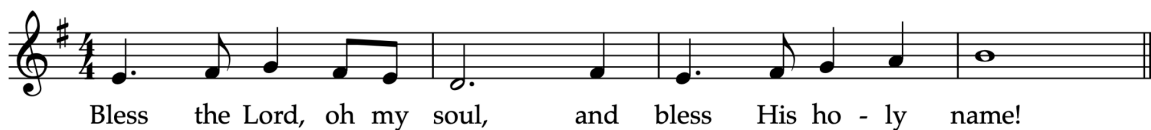
A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46

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



¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. ***Refrain***

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. ***Refrain***

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. ***Refrain***

SECOND READING: ROMANS 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

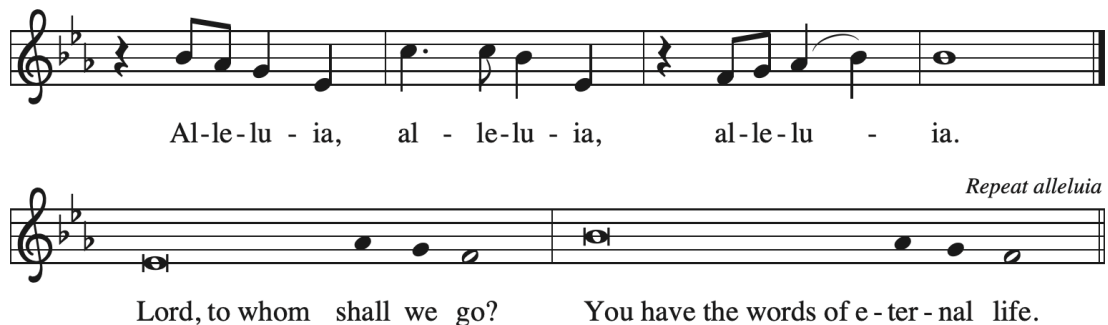
¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: JOHN 8:31-36

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

³¹ The demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." ³² And he said to them, "Go!" So they came out and entered the swine, and suddenly, the whole herd stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the water. ³³ The swineherds ran off, and, going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the men possessed by demons. ³⁴ Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their region.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for the Frantz family. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of the Spirit, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? *If so, say we renounce them.*
Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? *If so, say we renounce them.*
Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? *If so, say we renounce them.*

People of God, Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus *If so, say we do and we ask God to help and guide us.*

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray. Stir up in the Frantz family, the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ. **We rejoice with you. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✙ MEAL ✙

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Here I Stand

Shackley

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, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, with the Bass staff providing harmonic support. 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

Abide with Me

ELW #629

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW #520



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen *Pastor*

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

Dr. Kevin Carmody *Director of Music*

Ellen Goodman *Lector*

Jacob & Teka Sigler, Sheryll Garfola *Communion Assistants*

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

Hailey Fletcher *Broadcast Team Volunteer*

Sheryll Garfola, Ellen Goodman, Confirmands *Altar Guild*

Peyton Trexler & Natalie Ray *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-Thu 8am-1:30pm; Friday 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.

