

St. John's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 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*, the *ELW* supplement.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God by the Margaret Shipton Circle in honor of Betty Ritchie's 96th birthday on November 17th.

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 minister.
- Grape juice, instead of wine, is also available.

PRAYER LIST

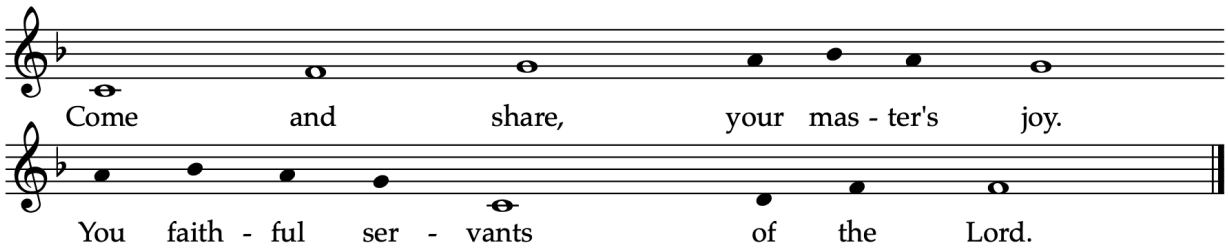
We invite you to join us in prayer for members and friends of St. John's. A printed prayer list is available in the Narthex and is emailed each morning at 4:30 a.m. in the *Daily Cycle of Prayer*.

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.

✢ GATHERING ✢

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

INTROIT



PRELUDE

Resignazione Franz Liszt

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✢ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

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

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ✢ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

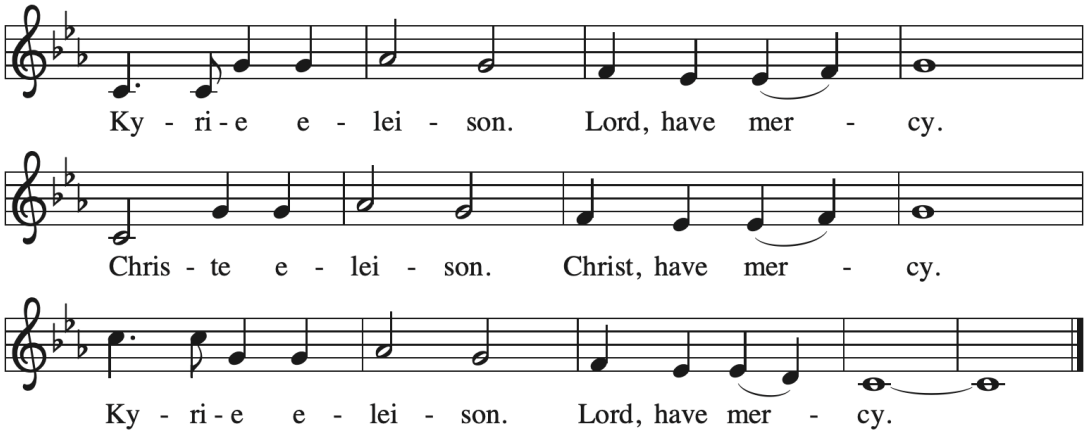
GATHERING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* ELW #705



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



GLORIA



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, 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: ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12–18

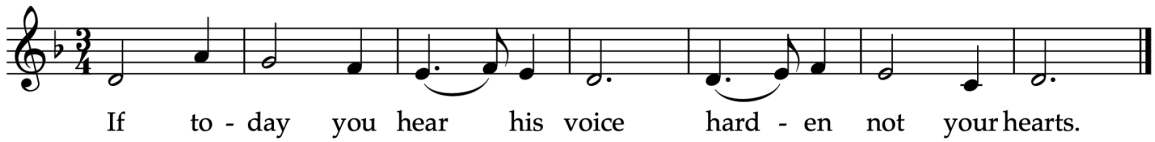
A reading from Zephaniah.

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he
has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do
harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall
not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. 14 The great day of
the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud
there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day
of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against
the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall
walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will
make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

PSALM 90:1–12

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



[1] Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
[2] Before the mountains were brought forth
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
[3] You turn us back to dust
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."
[4] For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
or like a watch in the night. ***Refrain***
[5] You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
[6] in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
[7] For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
[8] You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance. ***Refrain***
[9] For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
[10] The days of our life are seventy years
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
[11] Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.
[12] So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart. ***Refrain***

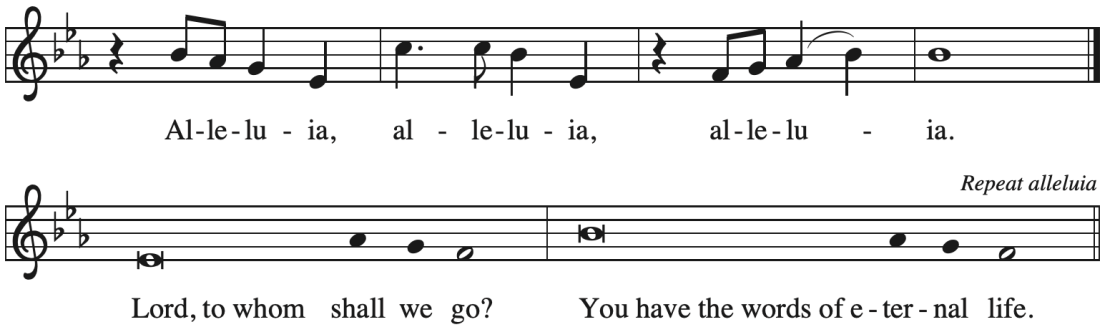
SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

A reading from First Thessalonians.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything
written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as
labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are
not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of
the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But
since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the
hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14–30

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

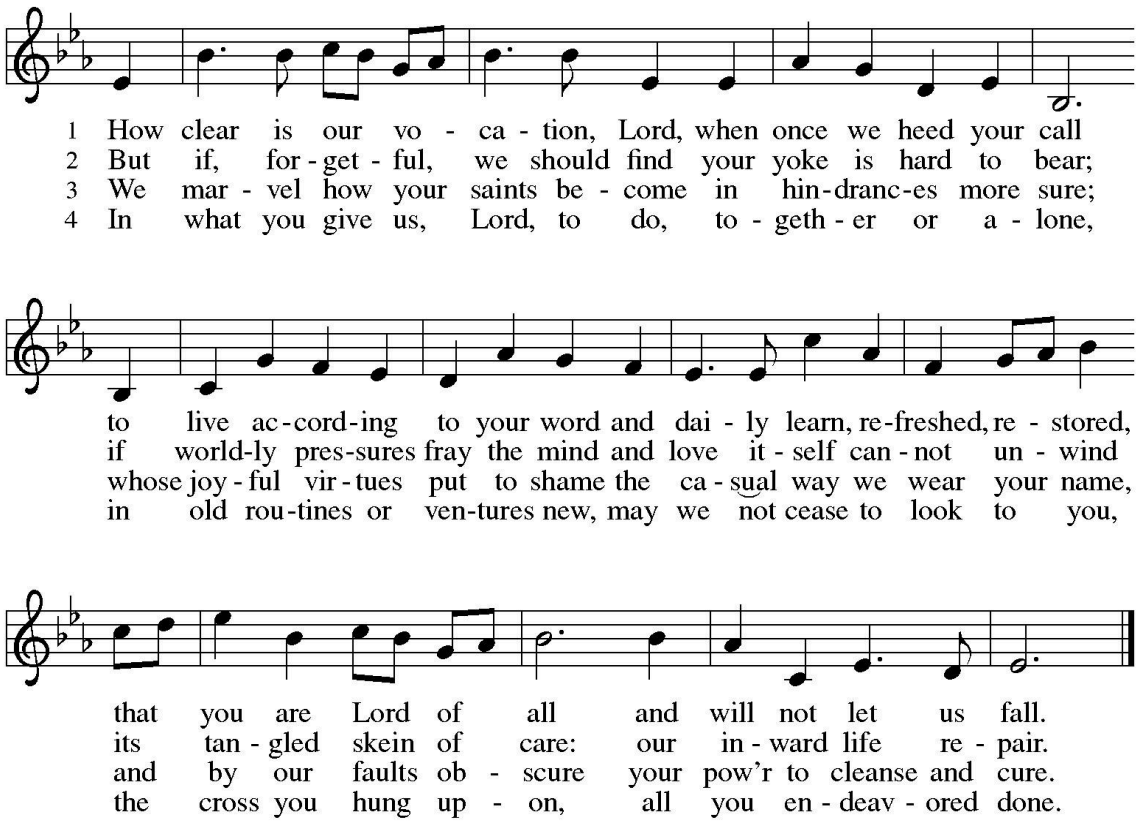
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted
his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his
ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with
them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more
talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,
'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His
master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping
where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your
talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave!
You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought
to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own
with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those
who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even
what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* ELW #580



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

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council and committee members. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

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 *Halleluja, We Sing Your Praises* Trad. South African Hymn

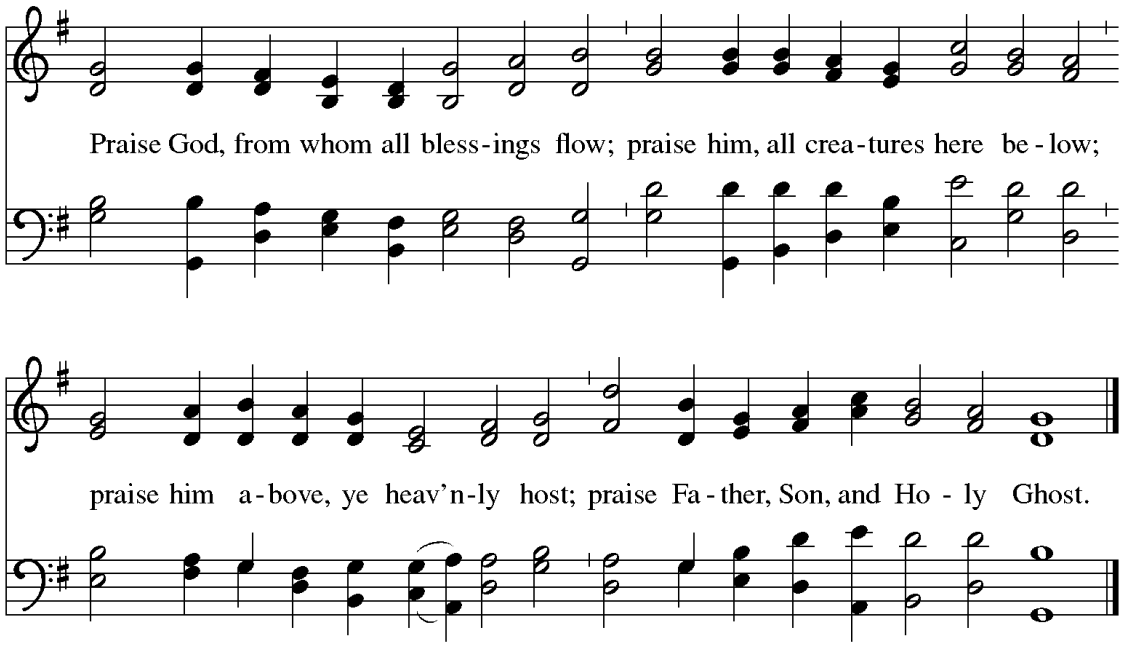
OFFERING

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. **Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

OFFERTORY *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

In the night in which he was 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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

Be Thou My Vision ELW #793

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. **Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. 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

We All Are One in Mission ELW #576



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata P. Martini

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	*Presiding Minister*
The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry	*Director of Discipleship & Outreach*
Dr. Kevin Carmody	*Director of Music*
Ellen Goodman	*Lector*
Peyton Trexler, Jennifer Suther	*Communion Assistants*
John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters	*Ushers*
Ellen Goodman, Gerald Cline	*Broadcast Team*
Steve & Vera Drye	*Altar Guild*
Kevin & Lisa Edwards	*Nursery Attendants*
Kevin Edwards	*Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

Church Office & Pastoral Care (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-Thu, 8am to 1:30pm; 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.

St.John's

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