

St. John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday of Christ the King
November 22, 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 by Bob and Anne Shuping to the glory of God and in honor of their son-in-law, Roman Dorton, for his November 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

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING TODAY
Today's meeting will have two sessions. Prior to the service, we will distribute ballots and begin voting. When all ballots are cast, we will end the meeting. Following the service, we will vote to approve the mission spending plan, elect Cemetery Committee members, and announce the results of the Congregation Council election. Please note: You must be a *Voting Member* of St. John's to participate in the annual meeting. Voting members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record in the past calendar year.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON
Today we will enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon together with a variety of soups, sandwiches, and desserts following Worship. The offering collected will be donated to CCM, Hospice, and Meals on Wheels. We will also gather food items for the Mt. Pleasant Food Pantry.

LUTHERAN MEN MEETING/MEAL
The Lutheran Men will meet on Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm in Goins Hall. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be served. Please sign up in the Narthex.

POINSETTIAS ORDERS
Order forms for Poinsettias are in the Narthex today and orders and money must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, December 6th.

CHRISTMAS TREE
We will put up the Christmas Tree on Monday, November 23rd at 6:00 pm. We need some strong men to help with this! The sanctuary will be decorated on Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 am. Please plan to join us! The decorations will be taken down Monday, January 4th at 4:30 pm.

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF 2026 IRS CHANGES?
Good news for those considering a year-end gift! Beginning in 2026, taxpayers who take the standard deduction may also deduct up to $1000 (or $2000 for married couples filing jointly). This new benefit applies to qualifying monetary gifts, including contributions to St. John's. As the year draws to a close, we invite you to consider an additional gift to support the ministry and mission of St. John's.

THANK YOU!
To our dear Saint John's church family. Angie and I would like to extend a warm Thank You to everyone. The calls, cards and prayers are deeply appreciated after my last incident. Once again, Thank You - *Angie & Al Sundling*

PEWS FROM ORGAN-SIDE CHOIR LOFT
Anyone who would like to take home a pew from the choir loft please contact the church office.

✢ SUNDAY OF CHRIST THE KING ✢

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

✢ GATHERING ✢

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

ANNUAL MEETING – SESSION 1 Vera Drye, *Congregation Council President*

PRELUDE *Andante and Chorale* Ernest Dicks

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 *Rejoice, for Christ Is King!* ELW #430



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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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 minister.

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 34:11–16, 20–24

A reading from Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort
out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from
all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them
out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will
feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will
feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie
down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will
be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and
I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and
the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean
sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns
until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I
will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them
and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among
them; I the Lord have spoken.

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

PSALM 95:1–7

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

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;
  let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
  let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
3 For the LORD is a great God
  and a great King above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
  the heights of the mountains are his also. ***Refrain***
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
  and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
6 O come, let us worship and bow down;
  let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
7 For he is our God,
  and we are the people of his pasture
  and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice! ***Refrain***

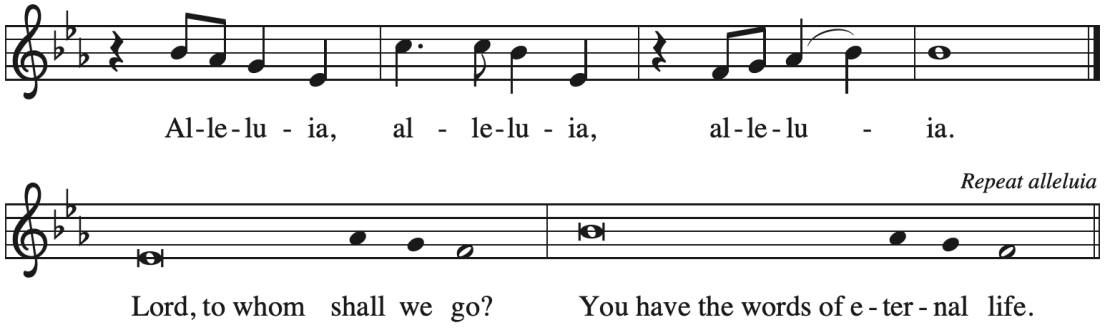
SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 1:15–23

A reading from Ephesians.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31–46

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then
he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate
people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his
right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who
are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I
was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger
and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was
in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw
you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you
sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to
one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his
left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels,
42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a
stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and
you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them,
'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these
will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus Shall Reign* ELW #434



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. Prepare your church for your coming reign. Make us bold in faith, generous in love, and confident in your never-ending care. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore and protect your creation. Bring healing to lands affected by disasters, pollution, and destruction. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of nations and communities in the ways of justice, mercy, and peace. Bring reconciliation where there is division. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bind up the wounds of your people. Comfort those who grieve, strengthen those who are ill, and give hope to all who face uncertainty, especially those we name before you, either out loud now or silently in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing to communities experiencing conflict. Teach us to listen with compassion, forgive one another, and seek peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King. **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

Be Strong in the Lord Fettke

OFFERING

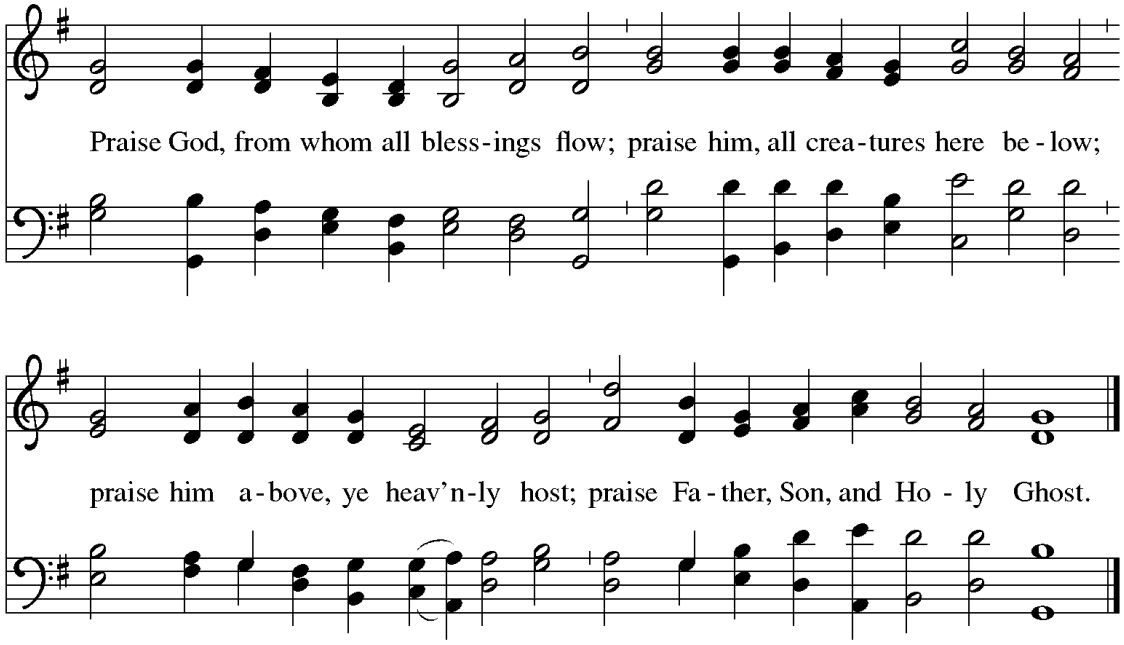
You may give online, by visiting www.stjohnsconcord.com/give or by texting "give" to (704) 706-2115.

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, you alone are Majesty, you alone are Excellency, you alone are Sovereign. Within the vast reaches you splashed into being, you formed our star and this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains, crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines. Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue, yet each one created equal, to care for one another and our earthly home. In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire, you came in Jesus to share our life. Born under the rule of a merciless king, Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God. Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed, Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.

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, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

God, shed your grace on us. Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered this day. Ignite in us the flame of freedom—freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear; freedom for acceptance, for welcome, for the shalom that you have first shown to us. Faithful God, loving God: Your Majesty shines forth in weakness. Your Excellency is revealed to infants. Your Sovereignty reigns from a cross. Yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the everlasting kingdom, the peaceable power, and the humble glory, 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 *Beautiful Savior* ELW #838

✢ SENDING ✢

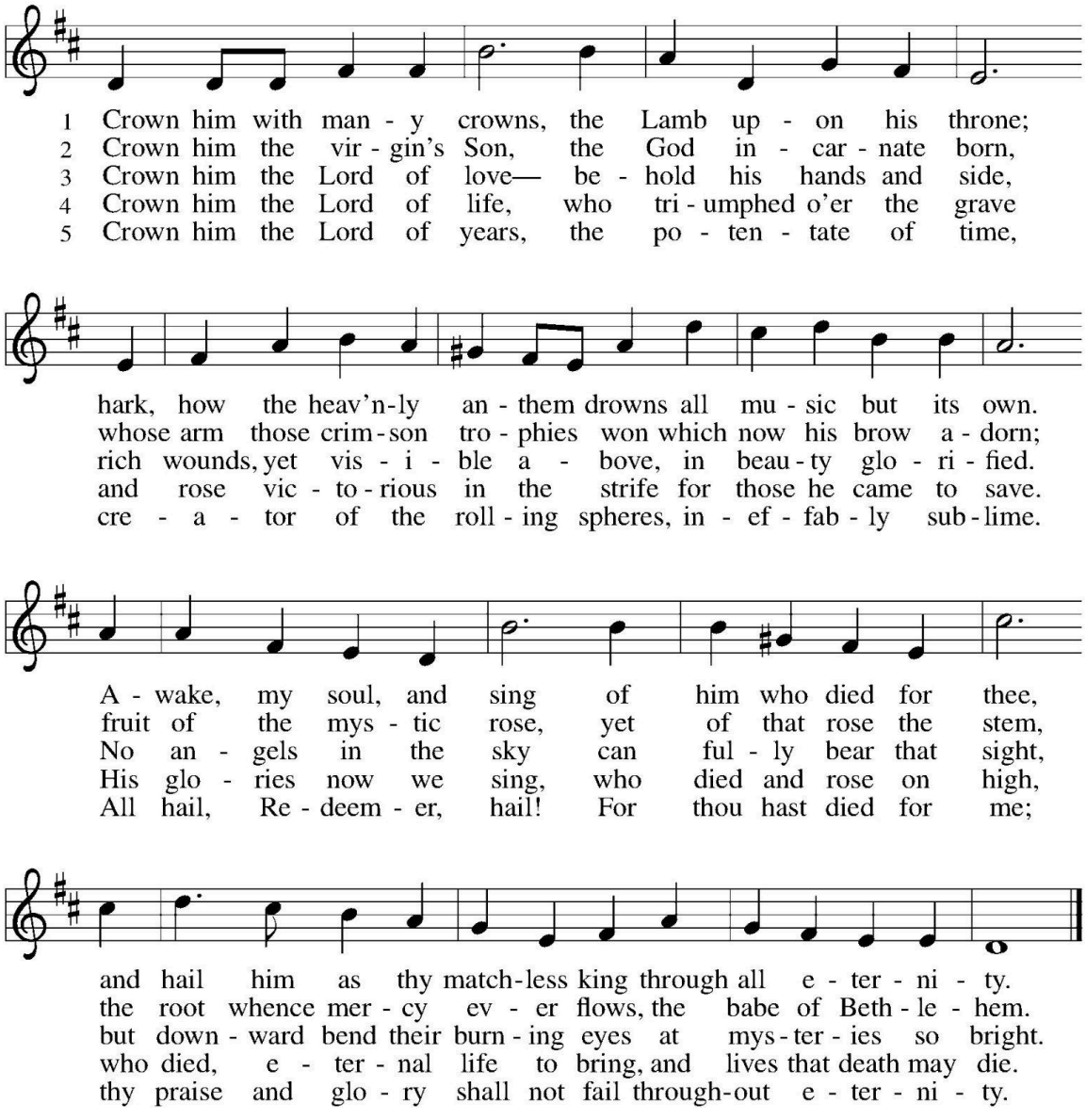
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns (vv.1-3) ELW #855



DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Prince of Denmark's March* Jeremiah Clarke

ANNUAL MEETING – SESSION 2 Vera Drye, *Congregation Council President*

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	*Presiding Minister*
The Rev. Deacon Brittany Perry	*Director of Discipleship & Outreach*
Dr. Kevin Carmody	*Director of Music*
Melanie Hudson	*Lector*
Markley Family	*Communion Assistants*
John Hartsell, David Ritchie, Jacob Sigler, Eddie Walters	*Ushers*
Emily Hartsell	*Broadcast Team*
Steve & Vera Drye	*Altar Guild*
Meredith Dorton	*Nursery Attendants*
Kevin Edwards	*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-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

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.*