



**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 3, 2025

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

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*Founded by German immigrants in 1745, St. John's Lutheran Church is one of the oldest congregations in the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are part of a rich heritage that now spans 184 congregations and 45,000 Lutherans in North Carolina, nearly 3 million ELCA members across 65 synods in the United States, and a global communion of 78 million Lutherans through the Lutheran World Federation.*

*From a humble meetinghouse in 1745 to our place in the global body of Christ, St. John's continues to share God's love far beyond our own walls, living into the promise of the communion of saints.*

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### THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

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- ❖ **Today is the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost.** The Season after Pentecost (the long, green season also commonly known as Ordinary Time) begins following Pentecost Sunday and ends on Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025. This season focuses on discipleship and the teachings of Jesus. Our Gospel texts come from Luke.
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### SERVICE NOTES

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- ❖ A printed cross ✝ is an invitation to make the sign of the cross on your forehead or body.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The homemade communion bread is gluten 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.
- ❖ Today's liturgy is Setting Eight from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

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People of St. John's:

This Sunday's Gospel text underscores the fragility of life and the foolishness of storing up treasures for yourself while neglecting God's will. To Jesus, this is anxious accumulation: *more savings, more security, more control*. But none of it lasts. Our first reading sets the tone for that.



But let's be real: The rich man in the Gospel parable is not condemned for his success. He's condemned for his isolation. He talks only to himself. He builds bigger barns, but no wider tables. He prepares for everything, well, except death. He's rich in things, but poor toward God.

At St. John's, we're blessed with a strong heritage, a thriving community of believers, and a beautiful property. I hope today's parable reminds us that our purpose isn't simply to maintain what we've inherited. We're called to use it boldly, generously, and faithfully for the sake of our neighbors and the gospel.

How can we be rich toward God in this moment? What barns do we need to stop building so we can make room for something more lasting, more in line with God's will?

The Lord be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt".

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

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

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### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Jesu, Priceless Treasure*

Bach

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. **Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*You Servants of God*

ELW #825



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -  
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of  
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his  
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the  
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!  
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!  
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.  
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

## 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.* Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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: ECCLESIASTES 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

<sup>2</sup> Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>2:18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

## PSALM 49:1-12

*We read a portion of Psalm 49 responsively by verse.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,  
<sup>2</sup> **both low and high,  
rich and poor together.**  
<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak wisdom;  
the meditation of my heart shall be  
understanding.  
<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb;  
I will solve my riddle to the music of the  
harp.**  
<sup>5</sup> Why should I fear in times of trouble,  
when the iniquity of my persecutors  
surrounds me,  
<sup>6</sup> **those who trust in their wealth  
and boast of the abundance of their  
riches?**

<sup>7</sup> Truly, no ransom avails for one's life;  
there is no price one can give to God for it.  
<sup>8</sup> **For the ransom of life is costly  
and can never suffice,**  
<sup>9</sup> that one should live on forever  
and never see the Pit.  
<sup>10</sup> **When we look at the wise, they die;  
fool and dolt perish together  
and leave their wealth to others.**  
<sup>11</sup> Their graves are their homes forever,  
their dwelling places to all generations,  
though they named lands their own.  
<sup>12</sup> **Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;  
they are like the animals that perish.**

## SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.

<sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: LUKE 12:13-21

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

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

## SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*All Depends on Our Possessing*

ELW #589



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and  
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y  
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -  
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing  
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.  
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.  
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.  
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.  
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are  
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly  
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing  
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so  
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.  
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.  
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.  
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.  
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

## 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

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## 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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## OFFERING

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

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Colvin

## OFFERING SONG

*One Bread, One Body*

ELW #496

*Refrain*

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of  
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y  
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.  
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,  
*Refrain*  
wom - an or man, no more.  
one in the Lord of all.  
gath - ered to one for all.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray.* Almighty God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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, 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 might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and 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**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Let us pray.* Almighty God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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✠ SENDING ✠

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

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**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

# SENDING SONG

## Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW #583

*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

*To stanzas* *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

*Refrain/Estribillo*



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

## God of Grace and God of Glory

Manz

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our next Journeys of Paul Bible study will meet at 6:30pm on August 4th in Goins Hall.

### NEW NURSERY

Today we begin offering a nursery for our youngest disciples. Temporarily, this will be held in the classroom closest to the office in the educational building. Children may be brought to the room prior to worship starting and picked up there following worship. Please reach out to Patti Fletcher if you would be willing to keep the nursery one Sunday morning.

### LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

The church has ordered copies of the newly released *Lutheran Study Bible*. These hardcover Bibles may be purchased for \$37 in the church office.

### CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir resumes practice today at 5pm.

### JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Many thanks to those who came to help with Day 1 of our Journey to Bethlehem as our youngest disciples began to prepare their hearts for the promise of Christmas. Thanks to Catherine, Bonnie, Bonita, Deana, and Carol for leading the activities. It was a faith-filled, fun-filled afternoon. Everyone is invited to Day 2 of our Journey in October.

### WELCA BI-ANNUAL MEETING

Our WELCA Bi-Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 17th at 3:00pm with the Executive Meeting at 2:30pm. Pastor Emily Lemoine will present our program.

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## PRAYER LIST

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### ***Immediate Care Concern***

Ruth Wiertzema (*friend of Catherine Ritch*)  
Rick McRorie (*Health condition*)  
Roger Shoaf (*Health condition*)

### ***Ongoing Care Concern***

Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*recent hospitalization*), Ken Hayes, brother of Jim Hayes, (*surgery*), Ronald Hurlocker (*Health condition*), Stan Parnell (*Health condition*), Al Sundling (*Health condition*), King Walters (*Health condition*),  
Pr. Bob Young (*Health condition*)

### ***Residents in Care Facilities***

Larry & Faye Cline (*Trinity Oaks*), Pr. Don Deal (*Trinity Oaks*), Betty Ritchie (*Trinity Oaks*), Amelia Ritchie (*Terra Bella*), Martha Suther (*Brookdale Concord*), Joy Waddell (*Concord Living Center*), Kay Walker (*Brookdale Concord*)

### ***Homebound***

Pat Blackwelder, Gloria Casper, Nancy Deal, Judy Fisher, Elaine Petrea

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## SERVING TODAY

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**The Rev. Matt Hansen** *Preaching & Presiding*  
**Catherine Ritch** *Organist*  
**Peggy Clontz, Steve & Vera Drye** *Communion Assistants*  
**Larry Allman, Bob Blackwelder, Gerald Cline, Stan Parnell** *Ushers*  
**Connor Rowland** *Livestream Support*  
**Patti & Hailey Fletcher** *Nursery Attendants*  
**Peggy Clontz** *Altar Guild*  
**Janet Lentz** *Teller*

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## CONTACT US

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### BY PHONE

**Melinda Redding, Church Office** (704) 436-6081  
**Admin Assistant's Mobile** (704) 213-0784  
**Pastor Matt's Mobile** (612) 704-2828

### ONLINE

**Office Email** office@stjohnsconcord.com  
**Pastor Matt's Email** matt@stjohnsconcord.com

### ON-SITE

**Address** 100 St. John's Church Rd, Concord, NC 28025  
**Admin Assistant's Office Hours** Mon-Thu, 8am-1:30pm; Fri, 8am-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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