



Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

August 10, 2025

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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.

SERVICE NOTES

- ❖ 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.
-

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

People of St. John's:

Today, as we bless students and teachers at the start of a new school year, we're reminded that showing up matters. We're formed in community by the faithful rhythms of showing up, learning, and growing.

The same is true in the life of faith. We don't earn God's grace. But we do show up. We come to worship, pray together, hear God's Word, share in the sacraments, and serve our neighbors. In doing so, we keep our lamps lit (as we hear about in today's Gospel text). We live with holy readiness, not out of fear, but in trust that the One who comes like a thief in the night is not coming to take something from us, but to bring us everything we need. And together, in this church, we keep the lights on. We stay ready. Because Christ is with us. And Christ will come again.

The Lord be with you,



THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

- ❖ **Today is the Ninth 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.
 - ❖ Today's liturgy is Setting Eight from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.
 - ❖ The flowers on the stand are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Ella Walter's 80th Birthday on Tuesday August 12th by her Family.
-

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude in g minor

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

God Is Here!

ELW #526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, 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 pastor.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-6

A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM 33:12-22

We read a portion of Psalm 33 responsively by verse.

¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his
heritage.

¹³ **The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.**

¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—

¹⁵ **he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great
strength.

¹⁷ **The war horse is a vain hope for victory,**

and by its great might it cannot save.

¹⁸ Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who
fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.**

²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.

²¹ **Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.**

²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 12:32-40

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

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW #818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

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.**

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Treasures in Heaven

Pote

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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

For the marvels of your creation,

we praise you, O God.

For the opportunity to explore and study,

we praise you, O God.

For those who guide us, teachers and mentors,

we praise you, O God.

Dear God, as we get ready to start another year in school, we ask your blessing on these teachers and students. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and students, that they may form healthy relationships; happiness when learning is easy and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard; faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend. We ask that you would protect these, your own children. Watch over them and keep them safe as they travel to and from school. As they learn, help them also to discover the different gifts that you have given each one of them to be used in your work in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

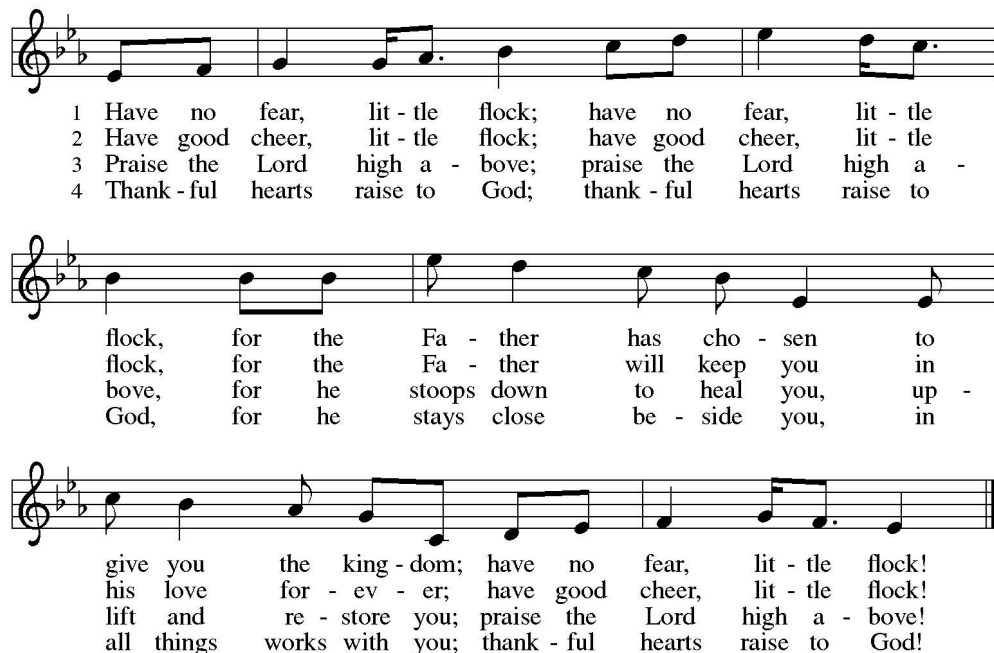
BLESSING

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

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW #764



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

Manz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our Journeys of Paul book study resumes Monday, August 11, at 6:30 pm in Goins Hall.

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.

NC SYNOD YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The Lead Boldly, LYO Leadership Retreat is an exciting opportunity for 9th–12th graders across our synod to grow as confident leaders in their faith communities. Through interactive workshops, worship, and fellowship, participants will develop essential leadership skills, explore their unique gifts for service, and gain confidence in leading small group conversations. The goal is to equip young leaders with the tools they need to inspire and serve their congregations and communities. This retreat fosters connections among youth from different congregations, encouraging fresh ideas and shared experiences. To ensure broad participation, we ask that no more than three youth attend from each congregation. Attendees must also plan to attend the LYO Assembly in 2026 and agree to serve as a small group leader with the learning they gained from this retreat! St. John's will cover the cost for all interested youth participants.

FRESH START

Thank you for supporting the Fresh Start program this year. The program provided assistance to 54 children in the Mt. Pleasant Community. The students received new outfits, shoes, underwear, socks, school supplies and a new book bag. The children were also given the opportunity to receive a haircut. In addition to the clothing and school supplies, the children chose a small gift for their teacher and bus driver. Thank you for giving the children in our community a FRESH START to the 2025–26 school year!

SONSHINE BACKPACKS

The Sonshine Backpacks will begin the 14th year of providing food assistance to children on the weekends and extended holiday breaks. If you are interested in packing or delivering food bags to the schools. Please contact Bonita Rowland 704-791-3223 or email sonshinebackpack@stjohnsconcord.com. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the families we serve.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Joy Waddell is now living at Mt. Pleasant House, 935 Page St., Mt. Pleasant. Her room number is 19.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Evan DeVitto for passing his National Physical Therapy Exam!

PARSONAGE CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR MATT

Everyone is invited to a taco lunch in the fellowship building after church on August 24 to celebrate Pastor Matt moving into the parsonage. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Gift ideas: Home Depot, Visa, Food Lion gift cards. Gifts are not required.

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

Bob Shuping (*Recent hospitalization*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*), Roger Shoaf (*Health condition*)

Ongoing Care Concern

Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*Recent hospitalization*), 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 (*Recent hospitalization*), Nancy Deal, Judy Fisher, Elaine Petrea

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen	<i>Preaching & Presiding</i>
Catherine Ritch	<i>Organist</i>
Rathel Goodman	<i>Lector</i>
Peggy Clontz, Steve & Vera Drye	<i>Communion Assistants</i>
Larry Allman, Bob Blackwelder, Gerald Cline, Stan Parnell	<i>Ushers</i>
Connor Rowland	<i>Livestream Support</i>
Bonita & Claire Rowland	<i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Peggy Clontz	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Janet Lentz	<i>Teller</i>

CONTACT US

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, <i>by appointment</i>.
↪ 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.



Copyright © 2025 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.