



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 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.

THIS SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN'S

- ❖ **Today is the Eleventh 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

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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*.
- ❖ Have questions? Ask the pastor. He is happy to discuss the movements of our worship service and why we do what we do as Lutherans.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MATT HANSEN

People of St. John's:

We may not face the same physical problems as the woman in our Gospel text this week, but I suspect there are many of us facing great personal challenges. In the reading, the bent over woman is healed simply for showing up where the assembly and Jesus are present. She was seen by Jesus, with her pain, before she could even ask for help. There's a clue for us here.



Week after week, we are drawn into the presence of Christ. At St. John's, in Word and Sacrament, Jesus sees us. Jesus calls us. Jesus frees us from the power of sin. Jesus reminds us of how much he loves us.

The leaders in the synagogue were upset because this healing took place on the Sabbath. But Jesus insists that the Sabbath is precisely the day for release and renewal. In other words, rest and freedom are not luxuries for another time, but God's promise for today.

So when you come to worship, know this: you don't need to have it all together, or even know what to pray. Simply being here is enough. Christ seeks you out, sees you as you are, and gives you what you most need: the mercy and freedom of God.

The Lord be with you,

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

Lucy Thomas (*Health condition*), Ellen Goodman (*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*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*) Roger Shoaf (*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

✝ GATHERING ✝

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Traditional Spiritual

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

All Are Welcome

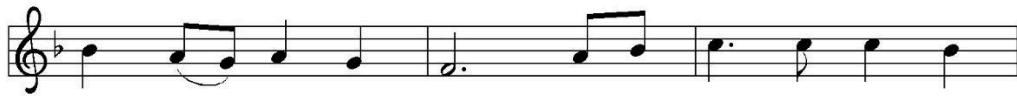
ELW #641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:




all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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

Refrain



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✚ WORD ✚

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

TIME FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

This Little Light of Mine

Maria, Charlotte, and Sam Moorehead

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:9b-14

A reading from Isaiah.

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the Lord honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the Lord,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

PSALM 103:1-8

We read a portion of Psalm 103 responsively by verse.

- ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- ² **Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ **The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ **The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 12:18-29

A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

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

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

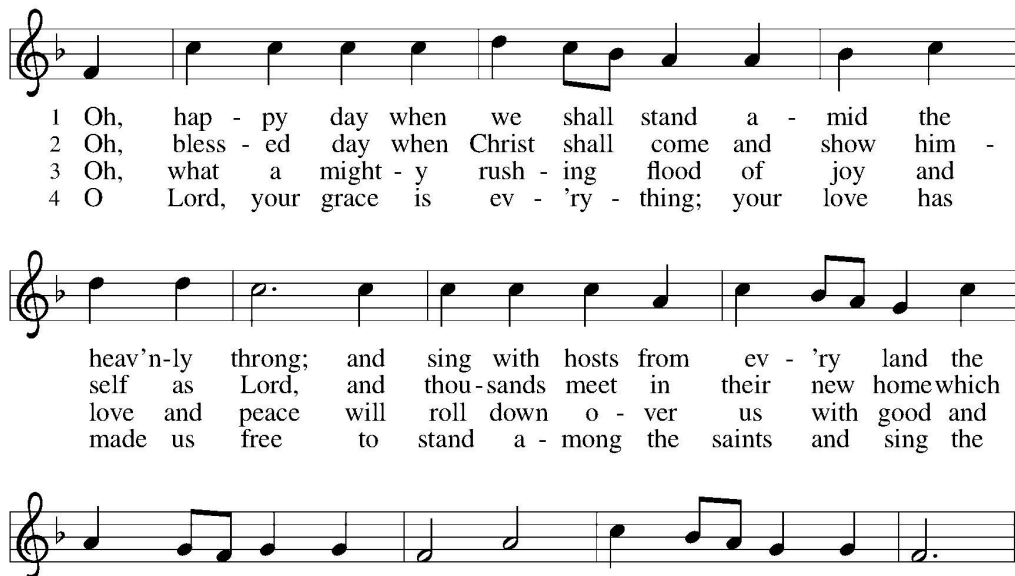
SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

ELW #441



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has

heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new homewhich
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the

new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

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

Child of God

arr. Grotenhuis

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

God of Sinai and Zion, you have met us on a mountain...singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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

Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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

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

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

ELW #647



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God! He whose word can - not be bro - ken
ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters,
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring,
mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y,



formed you for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges
and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, while such a
show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their
I will glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain



found-ed, what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal -
riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,
ban - ner light by night and shade by day, safe they
plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id



va - tion's walls sur-round-ed, you may smile at all your foes.
like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

O Happy Day

arr. Rimwalt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TACOS AFTER WORSHIP

Don't forget: Following worship, we will gather for tacos at the Fellowship Building.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our final Paul-themed Bible study is Monday, August 25th. Beginning September 15th, we will explore *The Church: A Guide to the People of God* by Brad East. Books are available for \$7 in the church office.

TUESDAY EUCHARIST AT THE HERITAGE CENTER

At 10am on Tuesday, we will offer an abbreviated Holy Eucharist service at the Heritage Center.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Heritage Committee will meet at 11am on Wednesday in the Heritage Center.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday in the conference room behind the sanctuary.

NEW MINIMUM BUS PASSENGER POLICY

The Congregation Council, at its regular August meeting, unanimously passed a change to the Church Bus Use Policy effective immediately. The required number of passengers, including the driver, is now 5 instead of 7.

HOMEcoming MUMS

Orders are being taken for mums to be placed in the church for Homecoming Sunday on September 21st. The cost for each mum is \$6.50 (wrapped and bowed in a 6" pot). They may be placed in memory or honor of someone. Please fill out the form found in the Narthex and return to the church office with your payment by Sunday, September 14th.

THANK YOU FROM JOEY SISINYAK

I want to sincerely thank all the members of St. John's Lutheran Church for your prayers and support throughout my collegiate journey. I especially want to thank all the WELCA members who sent me cards and gifts. Your kindness and encouragement has been a great support through my four years at East

Carolina University and will continue to be as I begin my service as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. Currently I am assigned to the 846th Transportation Battalion located in Salisbury, NC. At the end of October, I will be leaving for a four month assignment to complete BOLC - Basic Officers Leadership Course at Fort Lee (Fort Gregg-Adam's) in Prince George County, Virginia. I deeply appreciate your continued prayers and support as I start this new chapter in my military and civilian careers. Knowing I have such a caring, strong, and faithful church family behind me means so much. St. John's is a community I'm honored to belong to and the people here will always be close to my heart. No more gifts are necessary but cards and prayers of encouragement are appreciated. Thank you again for your kindness and prayers. God bless you all. With gratitude, Joey Sisinyak

THANK YOU FROM NANCY BLAIR

To my church family: thank you for all of the support that I have been given over the last few months. The cards, calls, financial help and most of all, the prayers, have been appreciated more than you will ever know. The next few months are going to be difficult also but knowing the support that I am receiving from everyone - we will get through this. Much love to all. Sincerely, Nancy

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Celebrate the magic of Christmas on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00-7:00 pm with a craft market, entertainment, food trucks, and tours of the heritage museum at St. John's Christmas Market Celebration! Come enjoy the season or sell your handcrafted items!

MISSION DELIVERY

There will be a truck at the Church on Saturday, September 20th, for a Kentucky Mission Delivery. Catherine will leave following Worship on September 21 to take our items.

HOMEcoming ON SEPTEMBER 21

The Rev. Cassie Overcash, Assistant to the NC Bishop, will preach at 10am. Wanda Casey and Jeannie Thornton from Cabarrus Hospice will lead a special Sunday School in the Sanctuary at 9am. A covered dish meal will follow worship in the Fellowship Building.

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> |
| Emily, Ryleigh, and Raegan Hartsell | <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.



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