



Reformation Sunday

October 26, 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. 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 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

Thank you to Carol Hinson for leading worship while our Greece travelers head home today. Please pray for their safe travels.

TRUNK OR TREAT TODAY

Trunk or Treat will be held here **today** from 4 - 5:30 pm. If you are still interested in displaying your trunk, please contact Susan Hayes.

GERMAN 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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a called congregational meeting today to present the nominees for the upcoming Council elections.

CANNED FOOD COLLECTION

We will be assembling 200 luminaries for use at the Christmas Market. Instead of sand in the bottom of the bag, we will be using a can of food. We need the 14.5(ish) oz. size and will be collecting these cans of food until December 7th when we will have a congregational lunch following worship and assemble the bags. After the Christmas Market we will donate all food cans to the Mt. Pleasant Food Pantry. There are boxes in the Narthex for your donations.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

St. John's will again be participating in the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Foothills Maximum Security Correctional Institution in Morganton, NC. This is the 28th Weekend for Kairos scheduled for November 6-9, 2025. The team has been meeting and preparing for the weekend. You, too, can participate in this ministry. You can go into the institution as part of God's team through your donations of prayers and money, which power the light of Christ that shines into the darkness. It cost \$5 to sponsor a meal, or \$30 to sponsor an entire table, or \$210 to sponsor an entire meal. A meal card with your first name will be presented to each participant you sponsor. You can also donate online at kairosfcinc.org. When it says "Select the council...." scroll down and select "Foothills CI" and complete information. Prayer sign-up sheets will be placed in each Adult Sunday School Class, on the table in the Narthex, and in the Choir Room. Checks should be made out to "Kairos of NC". In the memo block write "Foothills CI". The checks can be given to Gerald Cline or Jim Hayes, or put in the offering plate. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a letter from Kairos acknowledging your contribution. All who sign up for prayer will have their names placed on a Prayer Wheel each day and displayed for the participants to view.

On one weekend, a participant was looking at the Prayer Wheels for Thursday – Saturday. A team member said, “That’s a lot of prayers isn’t it”. The participant said, “Yea, there are 869 people praying for us”. He had counted every name!! It is a blessing to see the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of these young men ALL OF US TOGETHER, WITH CHRIST, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

LUTHERAN MEN

Lutheran Men will meet October 29th at 6pm in Goins Hall. Dinner Meeting, all men are invited to attend.

THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS - HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS

On Nov 2 , 2025, during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after the service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase.

BACK TO THE BASICS: TEN WEEKS WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

October is the tenth month of the year, and we will begin ten weeks exploring all Ten Commandments. In 1529, Martin Luther published the *Small Catechism* so households could explain to their children in simple terms the basics of the faith: The Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the Sacraments, and simple prayers for daily living. If you don’t have a copy of the *Catechism*, we will begin distributing the pocket editions in the church Narthex over the next few weeks. To support this effort, consider a gift to the Christian Education fund. Additionally, the *Small Catechism* is found in the back of the ELW (red hymnal) and can be downloaded, in app form, for free:

<https://catechism.augsburgfortress.org/>

Today’s Focus: The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come Build a Church

Medema

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Gracious God, you command us to honor our father and our mother, to show respect for all who have been given authority and care over us. Yet we confess that we have often resisted correction, spoken harshly, withheld gratitude, and failed to see your loving will at work through those who guide and protect us. We have disrespected our elders, ignored wisdom, and sought only our own way. Forgive us, O God. Teach us to love and serve one another, to honor all people as your children, and to live as those who belong to you. **Amen.**

Hear the good news: God does not despise our confession, but meets us with mercy. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven, and you are made new to live in honor, service, and love toward one another. **Amen!**

GATHERING SONG

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW #673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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 on today's readings.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46

We read Psalm 46 responsively

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear, though the
earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart
of the sea,
³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult. Selah
⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar; the
kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.
⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah
⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on
the earth.
⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”
¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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: JOHN 8:31-36

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

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are
descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be
made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave
does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes
you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

SERMON

Carol Hinson

HYMN OF THE DAY

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW #504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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

Here I Stand

Shackley

OFFERING SONG

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

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.**

When our congregation last gathered in worship, we heard again of God's mighty acts and the love shown to us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We shared in the holy meal of the Lord's supper. Now we bring to you this word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, so that you may share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "in the night in which he was betrayed, 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."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

- ❖ *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.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Dearest Jesus, At Your Word

ELW #520



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation

Burton

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Care Concern

The Family of Carl Bost (*Bereavement*), Anne Moose (*Recovery from surgery*), Bob Blackwelder (*Recovery from surgery*), Catherine Carriker (*Recovery from fall*)

Ongoing Care Concern

Pat Blackwelder (*Home*), Nancy Deal (*Home*), Lisa Edwards (*Health condition*), Judy Fisher (*Home*), Susan Hayes (*Rehab*), Rick McRorie (*Health condition*), Roger Shoaf (*Health condition*), Stan Parnell (*Health condition*), Al Sundling (*Health condition*), Lucy Thomas (*Health condition*), Elaine Petrea (*Home*), 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 (*Mt. Pleasant House*), Kay Walker (*Brookdale Concord*)

SERVING TODAY

Carol Hinson	<i>Certified Lay Preacher</i>
Sheryll Garfola	<i>Assisting Minister</i>
Catherine Ritch	<i>Organist</i>
Deane Moorehead	<i>Lector</i>
Kate Ritchie, Brenda Miller, Jill Love	<i>Communion Assistants</i>
John DeVitto, Charles Eudy, Kevin Edwards	<i>Ushers</i>
Rowland Family	<i>Livestream Support</i>
Kristin & Connor Rowland	<i>Nursery Attendants</i>
Anne Shuping & Sheryll Garfola	<i>Altar Guild</i>
Connor Rowland	<i>Teller</i>

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

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ONLINE

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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* ↔

The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to share God's love through revitalization, community, and outreach.



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