



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING TODAY

Today, we will approve our 2026 Mission Spending plan, elect new Congregation Council members, and elect Cemetery Committee members.

CONFIRMATION MEETS BEFORE WORSHIP

Our confirmation group will meet from 8:45 to 9:45am this morning.

COMMUNION TEAM MEETING

The communion team will meet briefly following worship today behind the sanctuary.

PASTOR MATT ON VACATION

Pr. Matt will be on vacation from Thursday, November 20th through Saturday, November 30th. On-call clergy have been assigned for emergency pastoral care needs. For assistance, please leave a message with the church office.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET NEWS

The Christmas Market committee is excited to announce the following performers on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00-7:00 pm. Can't make it? We'll be live streaming the performances!

3:00 - 3:30 - St. John's Choir

3:30 - 4:00 - St. John's Preschool

4:00 - 4:30 - Flint Ridge Bluegrass

4:30 - 5:00 - Piedmont Choral Group

5:00 - 5:30 - Dance Trapp

5:30 - 6:00 - Cantamos Choir

6:00 - 7:00 - Carol Hinson, Catherine Ritch, and Sharon Ritchie music on recorder, piano, and organ

We also want to invite you to enjoy the craft market and food and beverages by Native Burger, Joy Coffee and Desserts, and Liquid Voyage!

Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, December 7 for a festive lunch and luminary assembly sponsored by the Shell Gardner Circle. Bring lots of can goods--we'll use those as the base instead of sand--and then donate to the Mount Pleasant Food Bank! Luminaries will illuminate the sidewalks during the Christmas Market! Sign up for the lunch is in the Narthex! We hope you will join us!

The Christmas Market committee needs your help! On Saturday, December 13, we need volunteers to help set up and put away tables/chairs/garbage cans/luminaries at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. We also need parking attendants by the playground to help handicap guests and bus drivers if we need to use the overflow parking by the fellowship hall for approximately 30-minute shifts. Please sign up in the Narthex or see Emily Hartsell or Susan Shuping.

SIGN UP SHEET

Sign up sheet in the narthex for the Congregational Meal/Assemble Luminaries on December 7th. Sign-ups will end on December 3rd.

CUDDLE UP COAT DRIVE FOR KIDS

Local attorney Paula Yost Schupp is helping with the Annual Cuddle Up Coat Drive for Kids. This will run November 2025 - January 2026. Sponsored by Cabarrus Partnership for Children. Items needed are new or gently used coats, mittens, scarves, NEW socks and NEW underwear. Can be dropped off at County Law Shack on Hwy. 49. If you want to leave at church, let Ellen Goodman know and she can drop them off for you!

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAYS

We are in need of choir members to help with the Christmas cantata. It is a collage of familiar carols in beautiful arrangements. Please consider joining us to make this a wonderful gift of music to the congregation. The cantata will be done on December 14th during the morning worship service.

HANDBELL RINGERS

We are restarting both a handbell choir for children, and for youth and adults. Children do not need to read music, as they will learn that as they play the bells. For the youth and adult choir, you need to be able to read music. If it's been years since you've used that skill, you will catch up in no time, as you only have two notes to play in the bell choir. Please consider being a part of this as we prepare music for the Advent and Christmas season.

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

The Women of the Church hope you are making plans to attend our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday the 23rd after Worship in Goins Hall. Our offering will go to CCM, Hospice, and Meals on Wheels. We will be collecting BOXED food items for the Mt. Pleasant Food Pantry ---- Cereal, Crackers, Oatmeal, Rice, Mac and Cheese, Pasta, Powdered Milk, Grits, Rice-a-Roni, Popcorn, Biscuit Mix, Cake Mix, Brownie Mix, Cornbread Mix..... Let's enjoy some time together at this luncheon and focus our hearts on Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the women of St. John's for the Lutheran Study Bible, the special wooden cross, and the framed Bible quote given to me upon my graduation from NASCAR Technical Institute. I appreciate these gifts, the thoughtful cards, and for keeping me in your prayers during life's journeys. I am so fortunate to have such a loving and caring church family. Sincerely, Peyton Trexler

MARGARET SHIPTON CIRCLE

The Margaret Shipton Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 10am in the meeting room behind the sanctuary. We will discuss upcoming events and begin planning for 2026. Note: MSC will provide the Advent meal on Wednesday, December 6th.

WORSHIP LEADERS

We need Communion Assistants and Altar Guild for all of December and an Assisting Minister for our Christmas Eve service. Call the church office to volunteer.

HERITAGE COMMUNION

Communion at the Heritage Center, Monday, November 17 at 10 am.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, November 18th.

TEN WEEKS WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Today's Focus: The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

Altar Flowers are given today by Rathel & Ellen Goodman for the Glory of God and in loving memory of Marie Moose Goodman on her November 16th birthday and in honor of Kate Moose Ritchie on her November 13th birthday.

✠ GATHERING ✠

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO ORDER OF CONGREGATION MEETING

PRELUDE

Each Life That Touches Ours for Good

Lyon/arr. Murdock

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Faithful God, you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. **Amen.**

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW #774



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last-ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last-ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last-ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, 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: MALACHI 4:1-2a

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

PSALM 98

¹ O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

² **The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the
sight of the nations.**

³ He has remembered his steadfast love and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

⁴ **Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the
earth; break forth into joyous song and sing
praises.**

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the
Lord.**

⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

⁸ **Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy**

⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

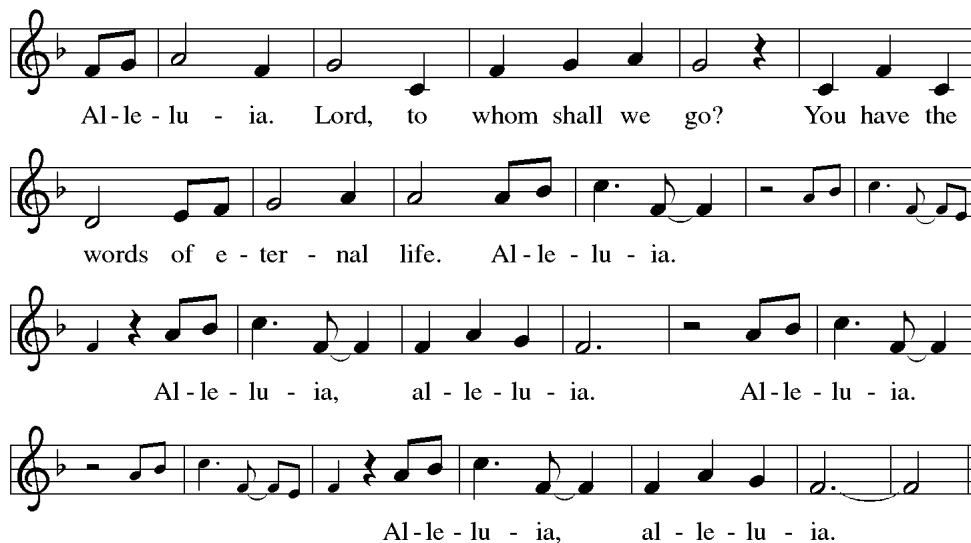
A reading from 2nd Thessalonians.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21:5-19

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

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

SERMON

The Rev. Matt Hansen

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW #596



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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

In Christ Alone

Getty & Townsend

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW #885

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. **Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

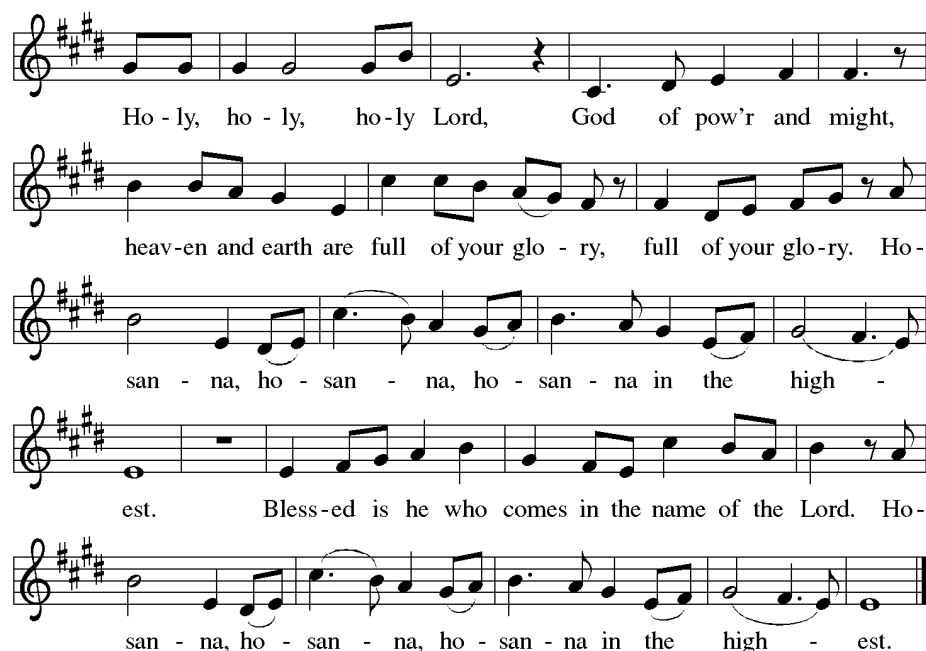
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (con't)

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world. Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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.**

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.*
- ❖ **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.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, **send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.** Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

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

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

ELW #721

Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;

light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is

ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is

ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATION MEETING RESUMES

PRAYER LIST

Immediate Prayer Concern

Nathan Moose (Health Condition), Lori Jones (Kristin Rowland's Mom - Health condition)

Ongoing Prayer Concern

Bob Blackwelder (Health condition), Catherine Carriker (Health condition), Lisa Edwards (Health condition), Judy Fisher (Health condition), Susan Hayes (Health condition), Sandy Hickman (Health condition), Rick McRorie (Health condition), Sandy Moldovan (Health condition), Anne Moose (Health condition), Stan Parnell (Health condition), Roger Shoaf (Health condition), Al Sundling (Health condition), Lucy Thomas (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 (Mt. Pleasant House), Kay Walker (Brookdale Concord)

Homebound

Pat Blackwelder, Nancy Deal, Elaine Petrea

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Matt Hansen *Presiding Minister*

Catherine Ritch *Organist*

Etta Rowland *Lector*

Ellen & Rathel Goodman, Gerald Cline *Communion Assistants*

Bob Cavalline, Rick McRorie, Ken & David Rowlands *Ushers*

Rowland Family *Livestream Support*

Jimmy & Janet Lentz *Nursery Attendants*

Rathel & Ellen Goodman *Altar Guild*

Bob Cavalline *Teller Lead*

CONTACT US

BY PHONE

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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

Church 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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