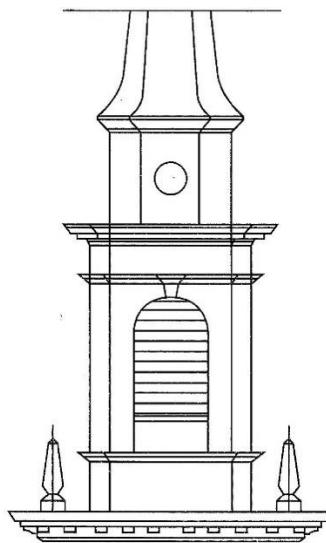




STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 25, 2026 | 10:30AM

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**



We are delighted to have you with us today! To help us keep track of our cherished visitors, we kindly ask that you sign the visitor book located in the Narthex. This small gesture allows us to connect with you and offer any assistance you may need. Additionally, our ushers are more than happy to provide guidance and answer any questions you might have during worship. Whether you're here for the first time or returning, we hope you feel welcomed.

Join us for  
**Godly Play**  
Every Sunday at 10:30

**Parish Office:**  
parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

**Pastor Martha:**  
MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

**Cantor Nathan:**  
NLivelyGreyling@sjlcstamford.com

**Finance:**  
finance@sjlcstamford.com

203.322.0066

[www.stjohnelca.org](http://www.stjohnelca.org)

884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT



Busy bags are in the Narthex for your little ones to enjoy. These bags are thoughtfully prepared to keep children engaged during the service. Additionally, we invite you to explore and make use of the Godly Play area at the back of the Nave, designed to provide a welcoming and enriching environment for our young attendees. We hope these resources help create a meaningful and enjoyable experience for your family.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.**

*Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.*

*The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.*

## **PRELUDE**

*We stand.*

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

*Thy strong word*

**HYMN 511**

## 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.**

## GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heavenly King, al-might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



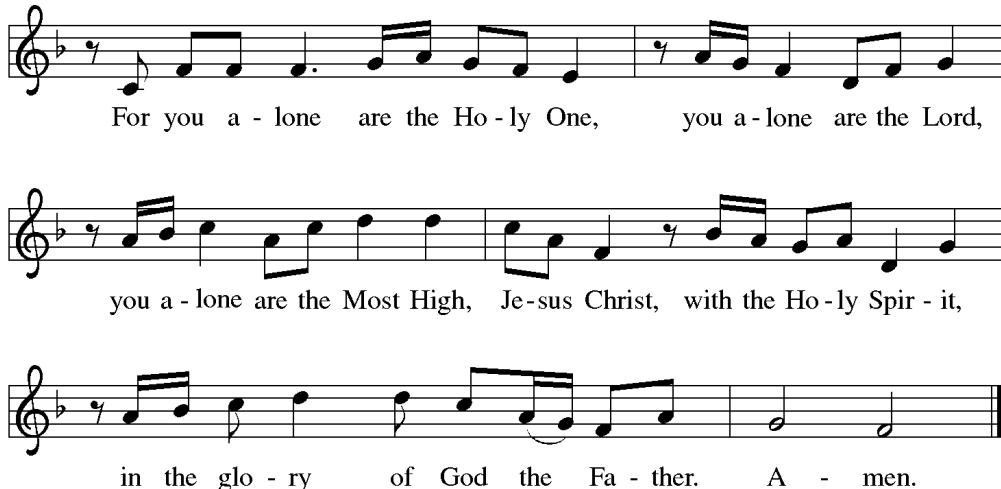
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WORD

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### OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 9:1-4

A reading from Isaiah.

**B**UT there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Here ends the reading.

**PSALM**

PSALM 27: 1, 5-13

*Sung by the choir. Music by Sarah MacDonald and Margaret Burk (contemporary).*

- 1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” \*  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

A reading from I Corinthians.

**N**ow I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and face the center aisle to welcome the Gospel.*

SEQUENCE

*Sing verses 1 & 2.*

1 Light shone in darkness at the world's creation,  
 2 Light shone in darkness at the new creation;  
 3 Light shines in darkness till the full creation;

bathing in beauty nature's revelation. All that has been, Christ rose in glory, won for us salvation. Sing, earth and heaven, Christ's body, groaning, suffers tribulation, longs for God's justice,

cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"  
 hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!  
 glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**N**ow when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.<sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,<sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.<sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.<sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SEQUENCE**

*Sing verse 3.*

*We sit.*

**SERMON**

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*O God of light*

PASTOR MARTHA

**HYMN 507**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**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.

*We kneel or sit for the prayers.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each intercession ends with these words:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*We stand.*

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We sit.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us  
and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*The Call*  
STROOPE (*contemporary*)



*We stand.*

### HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

KING'S LYNN



Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,



and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,

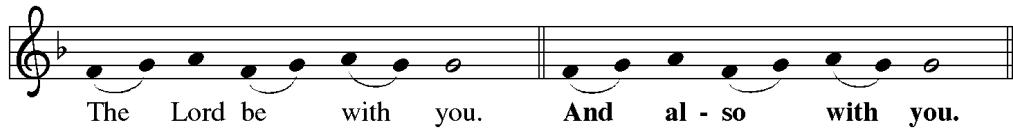


till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - ccribe to God a - lone.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

Our Fa - ther who art in hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;

Thy king - dom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres-passes as

we for-give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us

not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the

king-dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.

A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

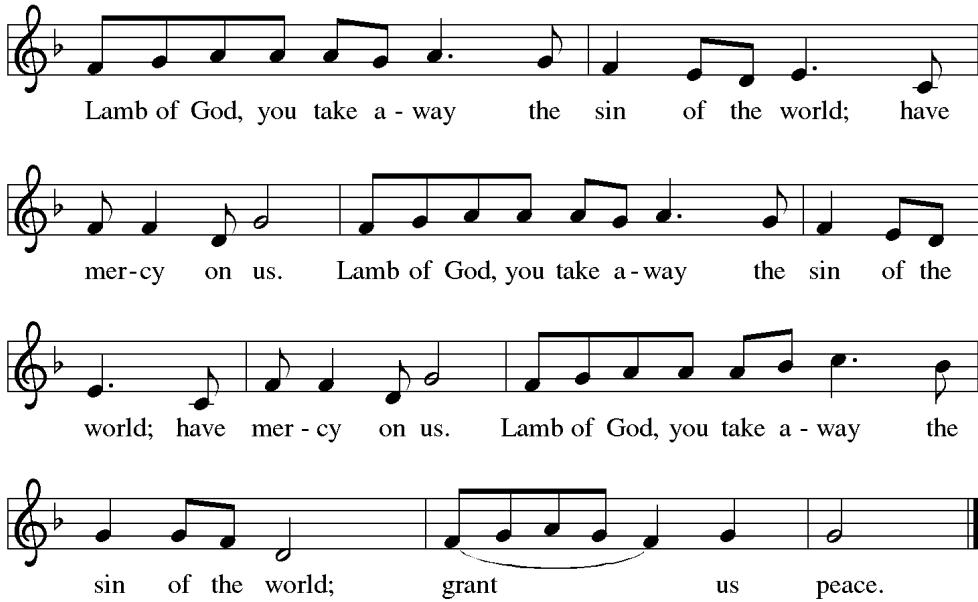
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast.

*All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin, and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.*

*We sit.*

### LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

*O for a closer walk with God*

STANFORD

*We stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

## SENDING

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### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

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## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Jennifer Leffers
Communion Assistants	Jennifer Leffers
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	Lois Coffin, Gary Esposito, Pat Fisher
Fellowship Time	Karen and Sue Brandt
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz

## THE ANNUAL MEETING



**Sunday, February 1**

Immediately following  
a single 10:30am worship service

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Tuesday, January 27

Sneak Peek Bible Study - 7:00 pm

### Wednesday, January 28

12:00 noon - Midweek Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm - Confirmation Class - Sweden Room

6:00 pm - Bells - Reformation Room

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal Choir Room



## FEBRUARY

1 10:30am single service worship  
Annual Meeting to follow (**Agenda and material is now available.**)  
5:00 pm Evensong for Presentation of the Lord

8 Super Bowl of Caring Chili Cook-Off after 10:30 worship  
Bring your best chili to be judged by the congregation! Donations will benefit  
ELCA World Hunger

15 Transfiguration Sunday, burying the Alleluia by the Children

17 Shrove Tuesday Youth Pancake dinner

18 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday service in Chapel  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at SJLC

22 First Sunday in Lent

25 11:30 am First Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study  
12:00 pm First Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave  
12:30 pm First Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

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## -AROUND THE PARISH-

Worship assistants, readers, communion assistants, acolytes, coffee hour hosts

If you would like to find a way to contribute your time to St. John's in one of these roles, please speak to Pr Martha or Nathan. **There's room for you to help**, and training is provided.

If you're **interested in joining St. John's**, reaching out to the church office is a great first step. The church office can provide information on membership, upcoming events, and the various ministries and programs you can get involved with. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, find a spiritual community, or volunteer, the church office is there to support and

guide you. Don't hesitate to contact them with questions or to schedule a visit to learn more about what St. John's offers.

Join us for our **First Holy Communion classes** for children in grades 1-5. Classes will begin in February, offering thorough and engaging preparation for this important sacrament. The First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM. This marks a significant milestone in your child's spiritual journey, and we are excited to be part of it. For more information or to enroll your child, please contact our office. We look forward to guiding your child through this sacred experience.

**Baptisms** will take place at the Easter Vigil this year on April 4 at 7 PM. This sacrament marks a new beginning and a spiritual rebirth. Those interested in being baptized, or parents wishing to have their child baptized, are encouraged to reach out to Pr. Martha for more information and to make necessary arrangements.

**2026 offering envelopes** are now available in the Narthex. If you prefer not to use envelopes this year, please let us know. For your convenience, online giving is also available. Thank you for your continued support in advancing St. John's Mission and ministry.

### **Large Print Bulletins Available!**

Large print bulletins are now available for anyone who needs them. If you or someone else needs a copy, please visit the narthex and ask an usher for help. Thank you for helping us ensure everyone can fully participate in our service!

We are updating our **church photo directory**! To ensure it accurately reflects our vibrant community, we kindly ask you to contact the parish office with your updated photo, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses. This update will help us stay connected and support each other better. Please reach out at your earliest convenience to share your information.

### **Upcoming Eversource Maintenance**

We want to inform you that Eversource will be conducting essential maintenance work on our property to update its underground transmission system. This project is scheduled to commence in January and is expected to last approximately six months. We understand this may cause some inconvenience and appreciate your patience and understanding during this period. We will keep you updated with any further details as they become available. Please speak with Gary Olson, Pr Martha, or Janet Segerdell if you have any questions.

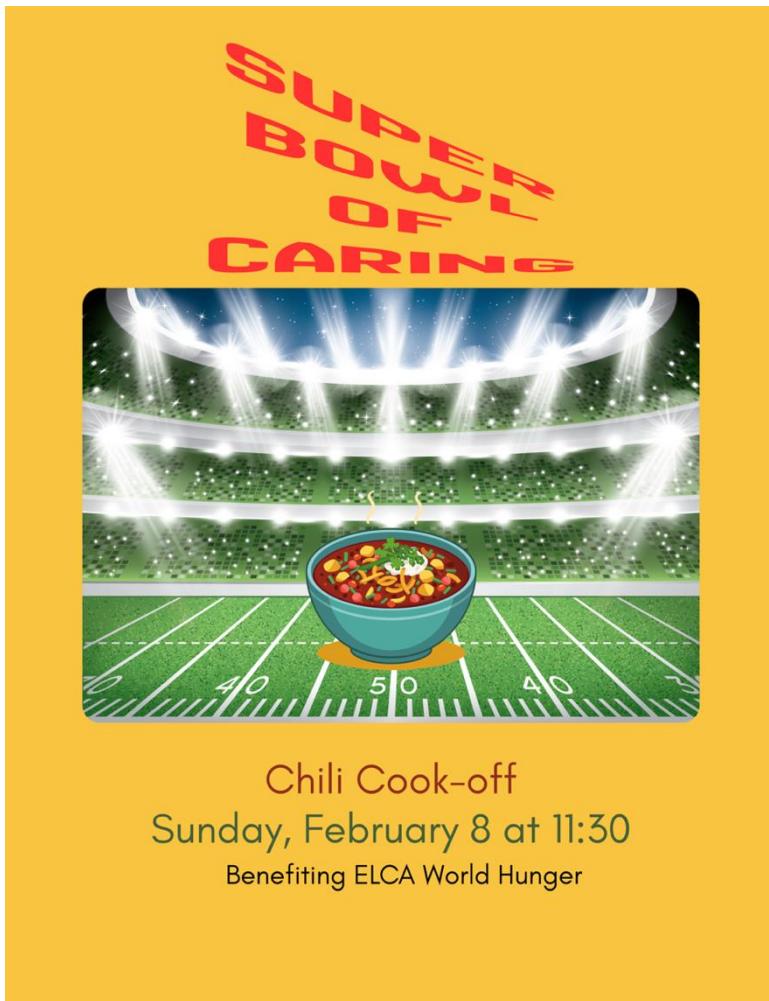
# PRAYER LIST



Pastor Emeritus Dennis Albrecht, Beryl, Diane, Ron, and Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, Sue Sachs and family on the loss of her mother, Joe, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.  
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs.

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Music by Tom Jordan and  
Vintage Brass Quintet

# St. John's Lutheran **Mardi Gras**

RSVP



**17**

**FEBRUARY**

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

**PANCAKE DINNER**

**LUTHER HALL**

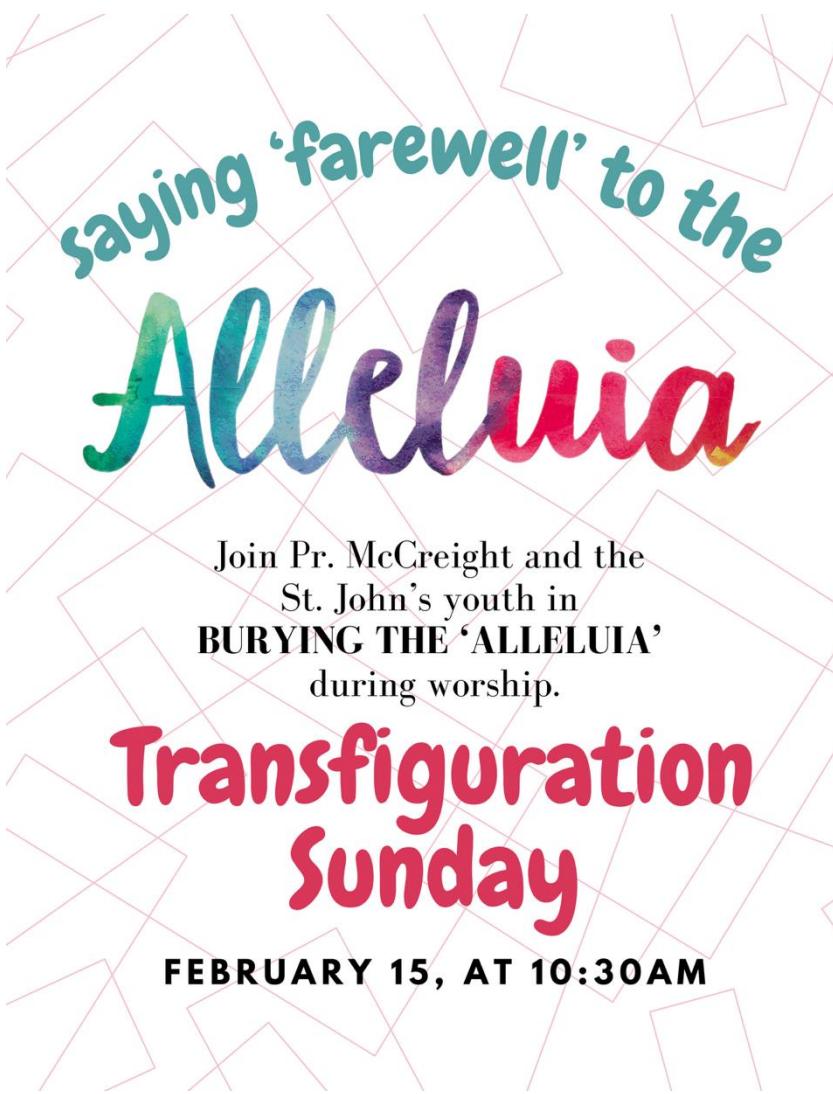
**Proceeds go to St. John's Youth**

**6-8pm**

**Tickets: \$25**

**Menu: pancakes, egg casserole, sausage,  
hashbrowns, milk, coffee, orange juice,  
and your favorite pancake toppings**

**BYOB!**



saying 'farewell' to the  
**Alleluia**

Join Pr. McCreight and the  
St. John's youth in  
**BURYING THE 'ALLELUIA'**  
during worship.

## Transfiguration Sunday

**FEBRUARY 15, AT 10:30AM**

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### INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, CT, is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.