

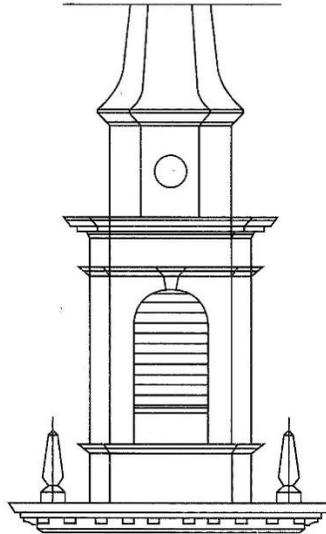


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St. John's  
Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

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HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 1, 2026 | 10:30AM



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

PRELUDE ***THE PRELUDE SIGNALS A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION.***

*We stand.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God: ✚ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures forever.**

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, asking him, in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to you Word, that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Lift high the cross*

HYMN 660

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

SOTHO

*mp* 1. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
*mf* 2. Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.  
*p* 3. Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
 Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.  
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.  
 Kri - - sti, re hau - he - le.  
 Mo - re - na, re hau - he - le.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

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### OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 12:1-4

A reading from Genesis.

**N**OW the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Here ends the readings.

### GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 121

*Sung by the choir. Music by Janet Yieb (contemporary)*

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord himself watches over you; \*  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

A reading from Romans.

**W**HAT then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 1

HYMN 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## GOSPEL

JOHN 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**N**OW there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.<sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.<sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.<sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,<sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.<sup>17</sup>“Indeed,

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

SEQUENCE

SING VERSE 2

*We sit.*

SERMON

THE REV<sup>D</sup> MARTHA MCCREIGHT

*We stand.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Jesus, keep me near the cross*

HYMN 335

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.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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**

*God so loved the world*

STAINER



*We stand.*

**HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION CREATE IN ME**

**HYMN 188**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**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 salutary . . . *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, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

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.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

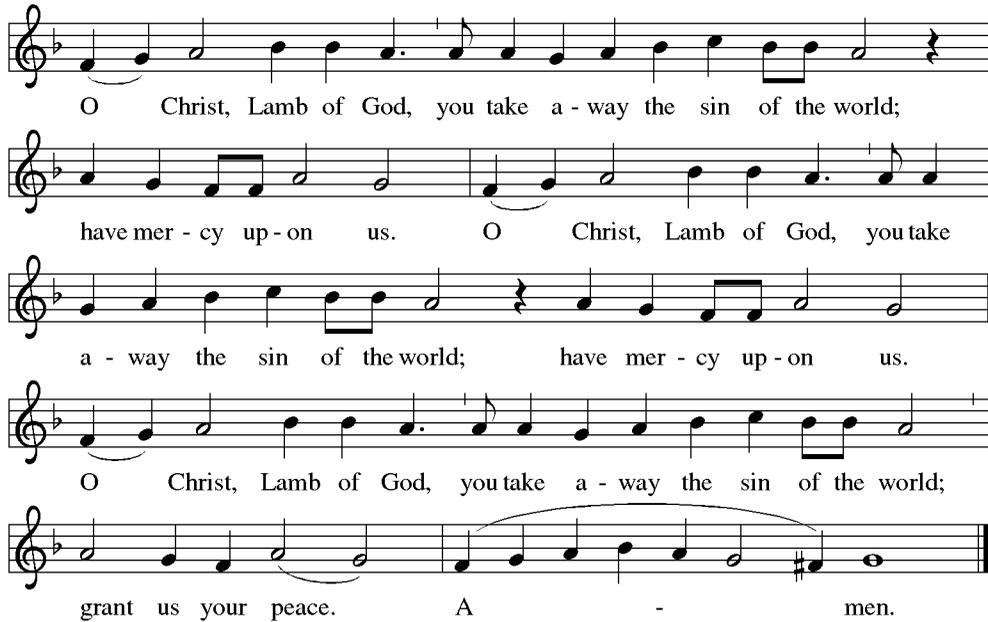
Our Fa - ther who art in\_\_ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;  
Thy king - dom come; thy will be\_\_ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us this day our\_\_ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as  
we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst\_\_ us. And lead us  
not 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 upon request.*

## LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

*We sit.*

## MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

*Blessed assurance*

HYMN 638

*We stand.*

## POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through 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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*The Lord's Prayer, trad. Afrikaans, arr./translated by Marnus Lively-Greyling*

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**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight, Pastor
Organist	Jan Lucie
Worship Assistant	Patricia Fisher
Reader	
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin
Acolytes	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Cheryl & Joe Milukas, Shirley Schulz, Michele Taylor
Coffee Hour	The OWLS
Little Free Pantry	

**WEEKLY CALENDAR****Tuesday, March 3**

7:00 pm Sneak Peek Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 4**

11:15 am Weekly Lenten Lunch and Bible Study

12:00 pm Weekly Lenten Eucharist in the Nave

12:15 pm Weekly Lenten Organ Meditation

4:30 pm Confirmation Class



## **MARCH**

### **Monday, March 9**

4:30 pm Sunday School - Sweden Room

### **Sunday, March 15**

9:30 am Sunday School

5:00 pm Joint Evensong at St. Francis (livestreamed for those who do not wish to make the drive)

### **Sunday, March 22**

11:30am - Worship and Hospitality Guest: Eden Refaelovich

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## **-AROUND THE PARISH-**

We need your help **cooking for Pacific House** on March 8. If you are interested and willing to help, please contact Michele Effren or the Parish Office.

**First Communion classes** are set to commence on March 9 at 4:30 PM in the Sweden Room. Parents or guardians interested in enrolling their children or seeking further information should reach out to Pastor Martha, who can provide additional details and guidance on the enrollment process. **First Communion is scheduled for Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 PM.**

We are delighted to welcome Jan Lucie as our guest organist today. We are grateful for her presence. Please join us in making her feel at home. While Cantor Nathan is away this weekend, he will be back in the office on Tuesday.

Join us for our upcoming service by accessing the **livestream link** on our website—please note that this link is available for live viewing only. To watch the service after it airs, check your Sunday morning email for the link, or wait for our Tuesday newsletter, which provides access to the previous Sunday's service. We are currently updating our church's website to make finding the livestream link even easier. **Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to enhance your viewing experience.**

**Get ready for an exciting adventure! We're organizing** a youth trip to upstate New York for skiing, snowboarding, or snowtubing on March 14th. If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Pastor Martha. Additionally, let us know if you have an EPIC pass or any other ski pass, as this information will help us plan accordingly. Don't miss out on this fun-filled day in the snow!

## ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, READERS, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR, AND LFP SIGN-UP



## PRAYER LIST



Beryl, Charlotte, Diane, Robert, Valerie, Dom and family and friends of Pr Nick, unspoken, Gary, Br. Ian, Pr Harv Weitzel, Trish. Pam, Robert, Charlotte, Paul, Becky, Margaret, Jack

If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.  
Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

## The Great Litany- Hymn 238

We sang The **Great Litany** last Sunday. Why? It is one of the oldest and most solemn prayers in our tradition. A *litany* is a responsive prayer: a leader offers petitions, and the congregation replies—often with phrases such as “Good Lord, deliver us” or “We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.” Its structure emphasizes humility, repentance, and urgent dependence on God’s mercy.

### What is the Great Litany?

The Great Litany consists of:

- **Invocations of the Holy Trinity**
- **Petitions for deliverance** from sin, evil, injustice, disaster, and death
- **Intercessions** for the Church, the nation, leaders, and all people
- **Prayers for mercy and peace**

Its tone is penitential and serious. The congregation repeatedly asks for deliverance and mercy, which makes it especially fitting for seasons of repentance and preparation. The version we use was compiled in 1544 under the guidance of Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury during the English Reformation.

## Why We Sing It on the First Sunday in Lent and Advent

In many Lutheran, Anglican, and Episcopal churches, the Great Litany is sung or said on the **First Sunday in Lent** and the **First Sunday in Advent**.

## Lent

Lent is a season of repentance, fasting, and self-examination leading up to Easter. The Great Litany's repeated cries for mercy— "Remember not, Lord, our offenses"—echo the central themes of repentance and spiritual renewal that mark the beginning of this season.

## Advent

Advent is a season of preparation for Christ's coming—both at Christmas and at the end of time. The Litany's prayers for deliverance, justice, and readiness reflect the Church's watchful expectation and longing for Christ's reign.

Because these two seasons begin with a call to spiritual seriousness, the Great Litany helps set the tone for what follows.

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## Henry VIII and the Litany in Times of War

The Great Litany was first authorized for use in 1544 during the reign of Henry VIII. England was at war with France and Scotland, and the king ordered that the Litany be prayed regularly—sometimes every Sunday—during times of national crisis.

Its petitions for deliverance from "battle and murder," "rebellion," and "sudden death" made it especially appropriate in wartime. It functioned not only as a church prayer but as a national prayer for protection and peace.

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## The First English Liturgy

One of the most historically significant facts about the Great Litany is that it was **the first official part of the Church's liturgy to be set in English.**

Before the Reformation, church services in England were conducted in Latin. In 1544, Cranmer produced the Great Litany in English.

This marked a turning point. For the first time, the people could fully understand and participate in the Church's public prayer in their own language. The Great Litany thus stands at the beginning of English worship as we know it today.

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## A Prayer of Humility and Hope

The Great Litany endures because it gives voice to the Church's deepest needs:

- Repentance
- Protection
- Unity
- Peace
- God's mercy

Whether sung solemnly in procession or prayed kneeling in quiet reverence, it reminds the Church that in every season—repentance, preparation, peace, or war—we depend entirely on the mercy of God.

# LENTEN ORGAN MEDITATIONS

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
STAMFORD, CT

FEBRUARY 25  
MARNUS LIVELY-GREYLING

MARCH 4  
JAN LUCIE

MARCH 11  
LIYA PETRIDES

MARCH 18  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF  
PENNSYLVANIA ORGAN DEPT

MARCH 25  
NATHAN LIVELY-GREYLING



Join us each  
Wednesday for  
30-minute  
meditations from  
12:15pm-12:45pm



## Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2026 @ St. John's

### Lenten Wednesdays at St. John's

11:15 AM Book study ("Lent" by Esau McCaulley) and brown bag lunch  
12 PM Noon Eucharist  
12:15 PM to 12:45 PM Lenten Organ Meditations

### Mid-lent choral evensong | *March 15*

5pm at St. Francis Episcopal  
Father Andrew Kryzak from St. John's Episcopal is preaching.  
Combined choirs from St. John's Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, and St. Francis.

*\*This service will be livestreamed for those who don't wish to travel to St. Francis.*

### Palm-Passion Sunday | *Sunday, March 29*

10:30am single service in St. John's Lutheran Nave

### Maundy Thursday | *April 2*

First Holy Communion | 7pm  
Altar of Repose | 8pm to Midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel  
Reading of the St. John Passion | midnight in St. John's Lutheran Chapel

### Good Friday | *April 3*

Stations of the Cross | 12:15 PM  
Good Friday Concert | 7:30pm at Fish Church, Stamford

### Great Easter Vigil | *Saturday, April 4*

First Mass of Easter at 7 PM | with a combined choir and brass

### Easter | *Sunday, April 5*

Holy Communion | 8:30am & 10:30am  
9:30am Easter Egg Hunt

# Melodies of Renewal

A Springtime Organ Celebration



REBECCA DAVY

Organist at the historical Bruton Parish Church  
Colonial Williamsburg, VA

Sunday, March 8 | 5PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

Stamford, CT



Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church of America

