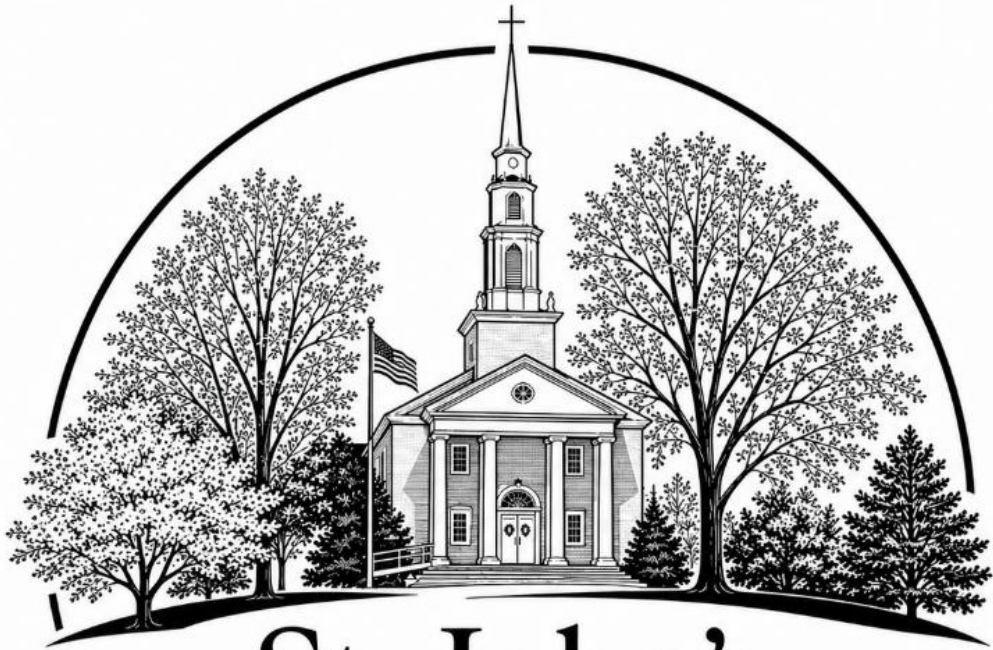




St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2026 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE

Recit tendre pour le nasard

Gaspard Corrette

We stand.

CONFESSION 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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

We kneel or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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

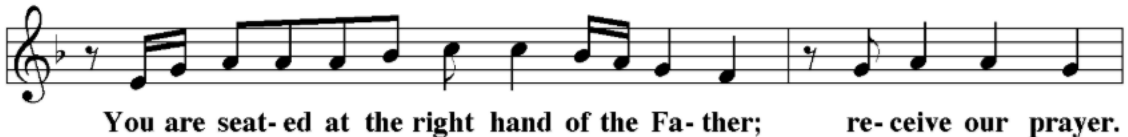
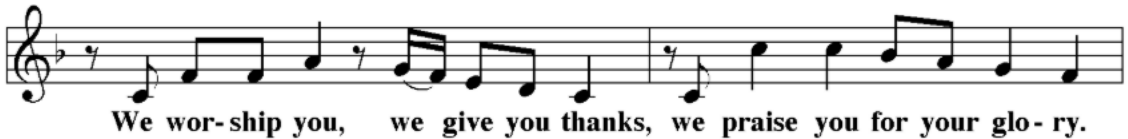
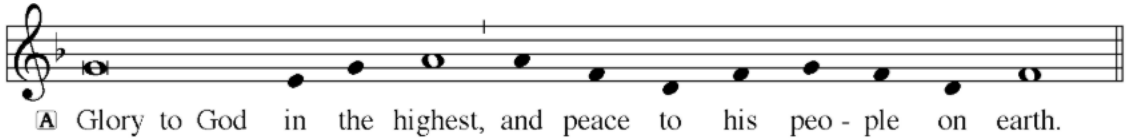
Now Thank We All Our God

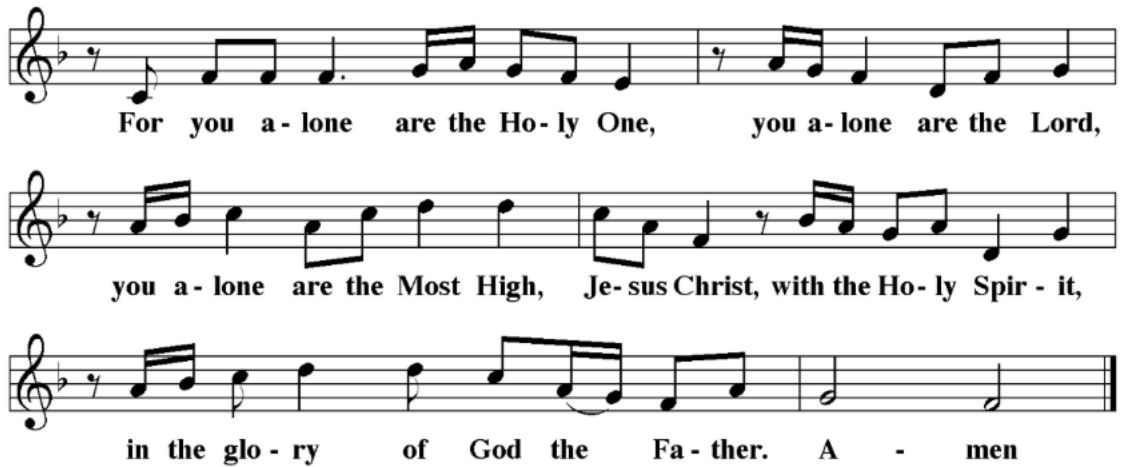
HYMN 840

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah

I will sing for my beloved
 my love song concerning his vineyard:
 My beloved had a vineyard
 on a very fertile hill.
 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones
 and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

5 And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



- 7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- 8 You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.**
- 9 You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
- 12 Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
- 14 Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;**
- 15 behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

A reading from Philippians

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them

as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to St Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they

treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?"

43 "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

We sit.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

REV. MARTHA MCCREIGHT

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song is Love Unknown (vs 1-3, 6)

HYMN 343

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

We kneel or sit for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We sit.



GREETINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Build on God's Strong Word*

Johann Walther

I build on God's strong word the rock of faith
and mercy grounding.

No human wisdom will endure: God's word is truth defining.
The word of God is clear and sure, the star o'er all is shining.

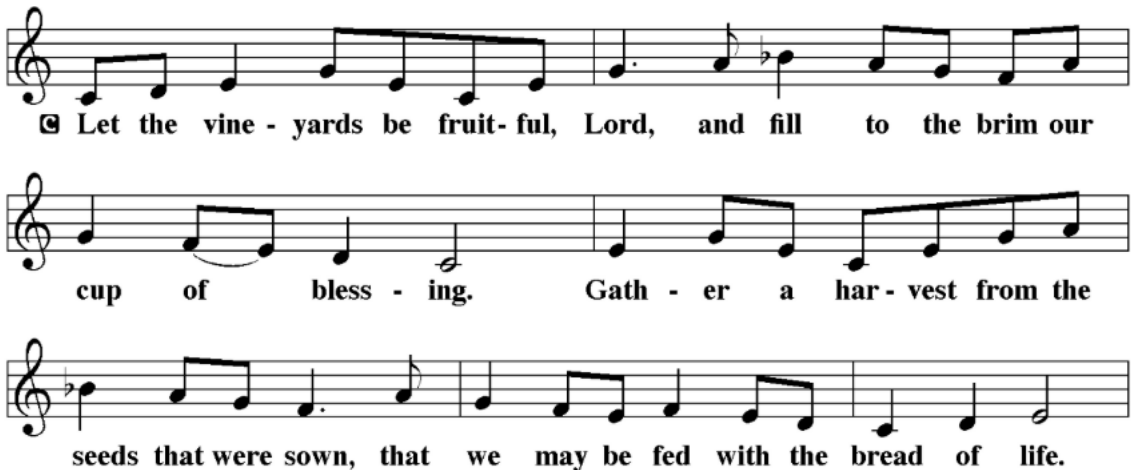
*To support the mission and ministry of St. John's, you can give online at
www.stjohnelca.org or scan the QR code above.*

We stand.

MEAL

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

HYMN 182



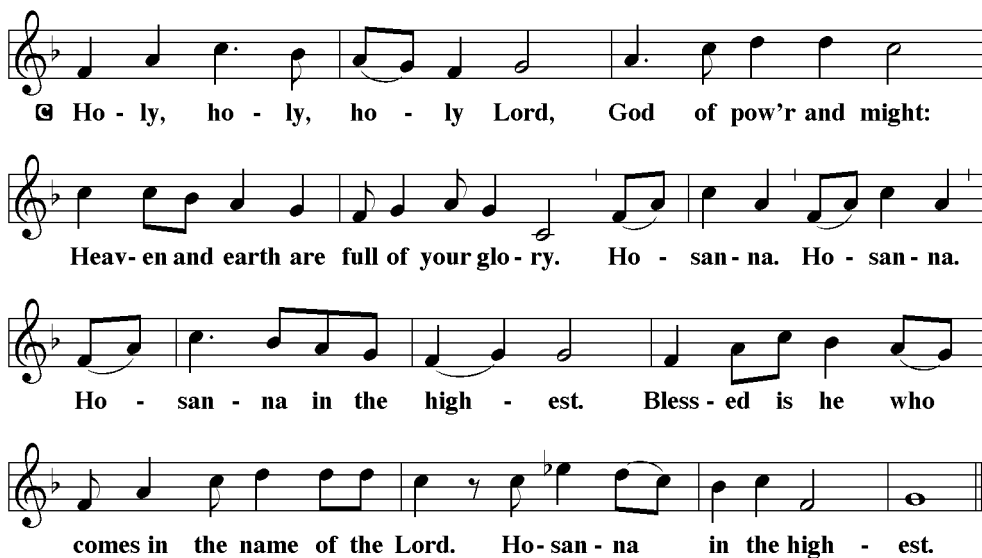
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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.

Here the minister continues with 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.

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,
 that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
 Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
 and accomplished 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 his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore 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;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.

Amen

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

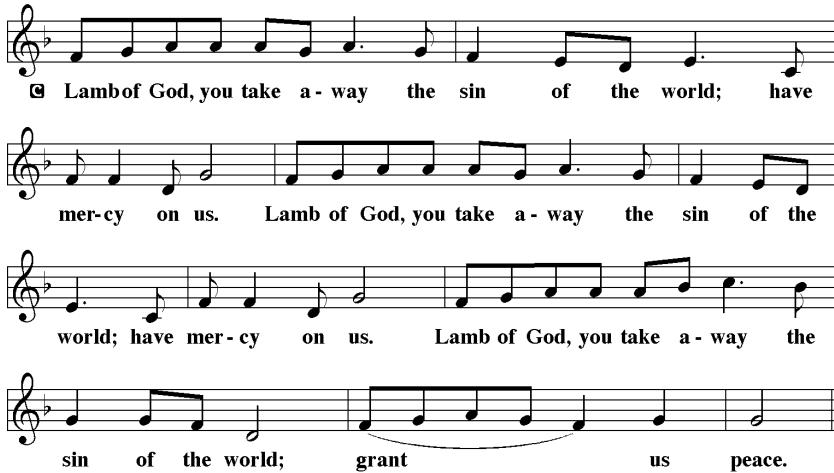
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sins, and promising eternal life, are welcome at the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus Loves Me

HYMN 595

We stand.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Thine the Amen

HYMN 826

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Finale

Eugene Gigout

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Jan Lucie
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	David Hendrickson, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler
Coffee Hour	Karen Weinseiss

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 7

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm Confirmation Class



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

Wednesday, October 14

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist - Chapel

4:30 pm No Confirmation Class

WE NEED YOU!

ACOLYTE SIGN-UP



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





This week we pray for . . . Andrew, Beryl, Cat, Cody, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, and Tammiss. 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.

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



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.



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 Pray ground area at the back of the Sanctuary and/or the Nursery, both 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.



Everyone's Help Is Needed At the Patch

On Saturday, September 26, we unloaded the semi-truck of pumpkins for the Pumpkin Patch. Thank you to everyone who joined.

Please don't forget to sign up to work at the Patch throughout October...all help is needed.

This project is an all congregation effort. All of the funds raised are given away to Building One Community, Kids In Crisis, and Future Five. As such, it is the biggest mission project of the year for St. John's.

Don't delay signing up – do it now. Thank you!



GIVING WITH LOVE

Our 2026 Giving Intention Campaign

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” • Mark 12:31

This fall, St. John’s begins a six-week journey of faith, gratitude, generosity, and love.

How do we love our neighbors through St. John’s?

Our gifts help make possible the worship, care, fellowship, outreach, and ministry we share together.

- ♥ **Why St. John’s matters**
- ♥ **Giving with ease and consistency**

- ♥ **Why Giving Intentions matter**
- ♥ **Making faithful commitments**

Giving with Intention. Giving with Gratitude. Giving with Love.

MAKE YOUR GIVING INTENTION ONLINE

Scan the QR code to complete your Giving Intention through our secure Google Form.



🕯️ **SAVE THE DATE!** 🕯️

CONSECRATION SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2026



Bring your Giving Intention to worship, then stay for our Ice Cream Social!

Sundae Fun for Everyone!

The St. John’s Stewardship / Giving Intention Committee