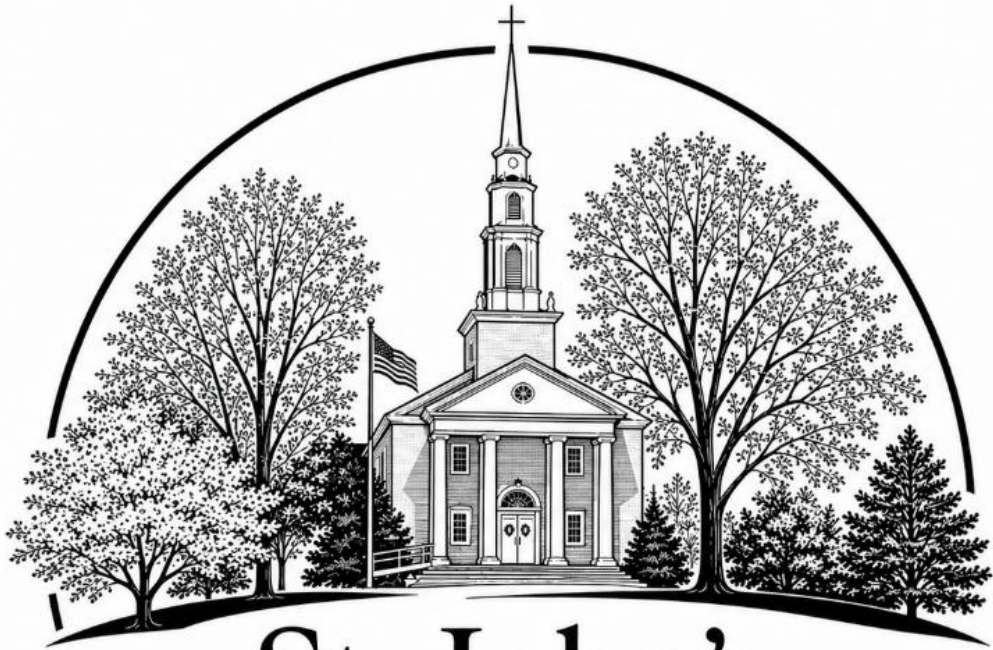




St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2026 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE

*Simple Gifts
Land of Rest and Variation*

arr. Gregg Sewell
arr. Charles Callahan

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

Gather Us In

HYMN 532

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.

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah

O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
 for you have done wonderful things,
 plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

1 The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

**2 He makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3 He re- | vives my soul
and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

SECOND READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you

also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to St Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

HYMN 678

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

Called to Ventures

Robert Bueckley Farlee

O Lord, God, who hast called thy servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with a good courage, not knowing whither we go,
But only that thy hand is leading us,
And thy love supporting us; to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

*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



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 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

HYMN 490

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 *Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

HYMN 547

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in C

David Lasky

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Jan Lucie
Worship Assistant	
Reader	
Communion Assistant	
Acolyte	
Usher	
Altar Committee	Janet Segerdell
Counters	David Hendrickson, Pat Fisher
Little Free Pantry	Shirley Schulz
Coffee Hour	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 14

12:00 noon Weekly Eucharist – Chapel

Friday October 16

6:00 pm Movie Night on the Lawn

Saturday, October 17

5:00 pm Oktoberfest

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, October 18

8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship

9:30 am Sunday School

Wednesday, October 21

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



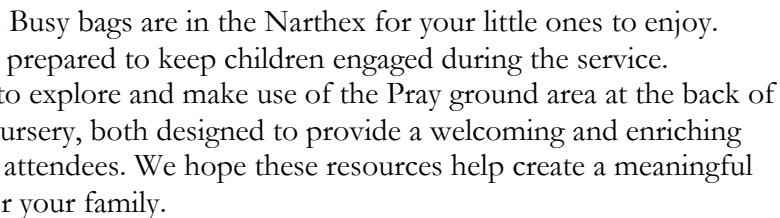
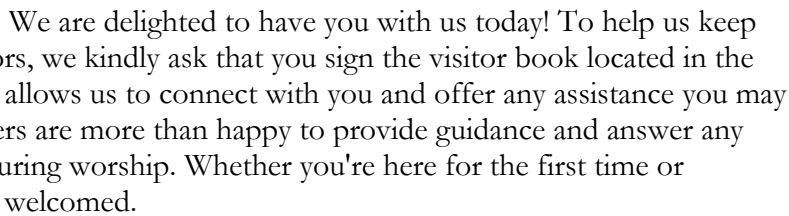
This week we pray for . . . Aiden, Andrew, Barbara, Beryl, Cat, Chrissy, Cody, Debbie, Gary, Gerald, James, Julie, Kelly, Kim, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, Tammis, Barbara, Kim, Debbie, . If you have someone to add to the prayer list, please email the parish office.

Contact Pr Martha for pastoral needs at 406-565-3592.

Parish Office: parishoffice@sjlcstamford.com

Pastor Martha: MMcCreight@sjlcstamford.com

Finance: finance@sjlcstamford.com



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



Everyone's Help Is Needed At the Patch

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!

The poster features a decorative border of autumn-themed illustrations, including various styles of leaves in yellow, orange, and brown, as well as small pumpkins and berries. At the bottom center, there is a large, detailed illustration of an orange pumpkin with a green stem and leaf.

Music And Pumpkins!

October 11, 2026

**at St. John's Lutheran Church,
884 Newfield Ave, Stamford
in the Pumpkin Patch**

Featuring:

12:00-The Argyle Sax Quartet

1:00- Shimmering Winds Flutes

2:00- Seredipity Woodwinds

3:00-The Bartels Family

4:00- Fairfield County Brass Quintet

5:00- Vintage Brass Quintet



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 | ♥ Why Giving Intentions matter |
| ♥ Giving with ease and consistency | ♥ 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