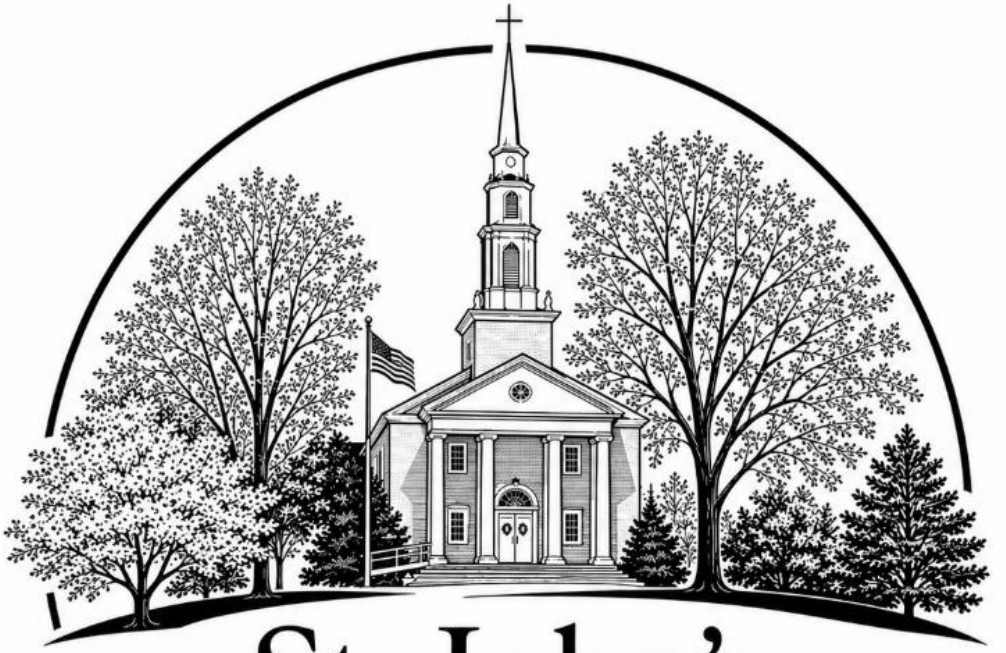


St. John's Lutheran Church

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STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 22, 2026 | 10:30am

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

PRELUDE *Prelude in Classic Style* GORDON YOUNG

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.

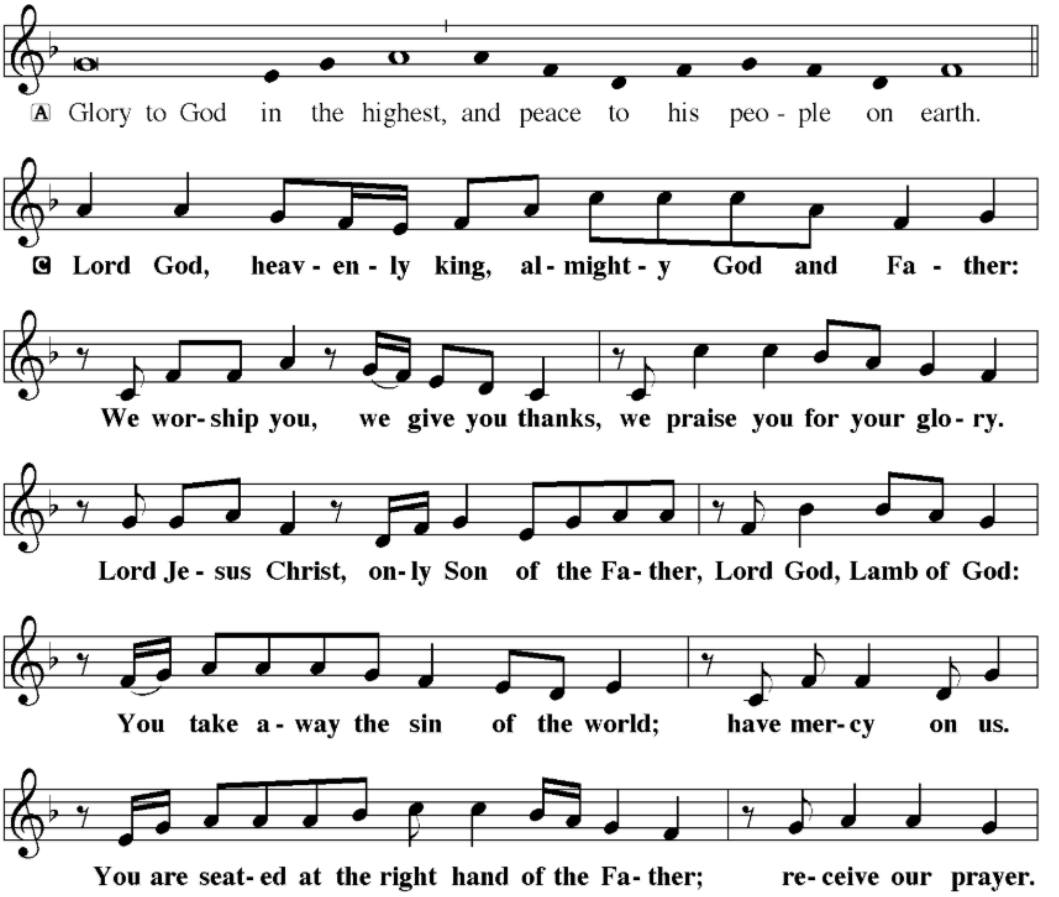
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and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

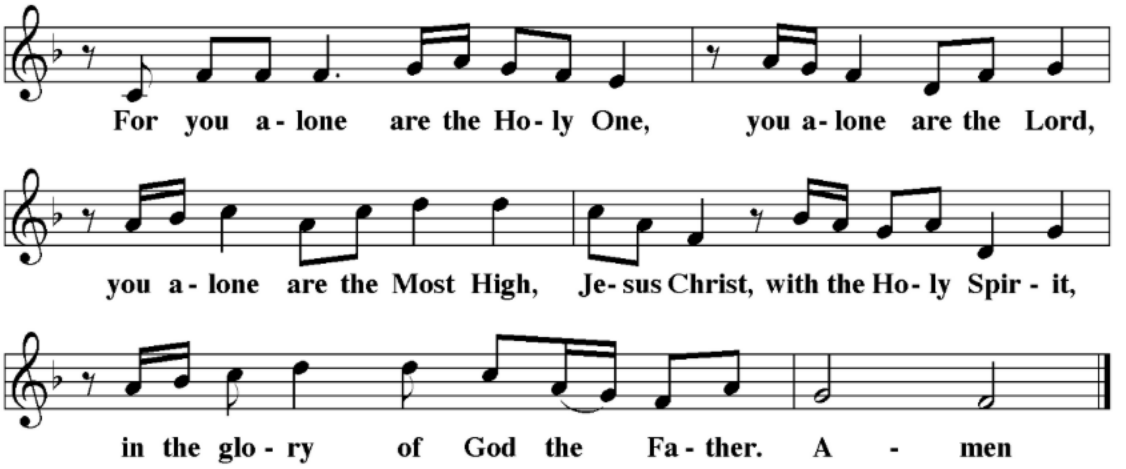
HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *Crown Him with Many Crowns* HYMN
855

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 and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out.
12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited

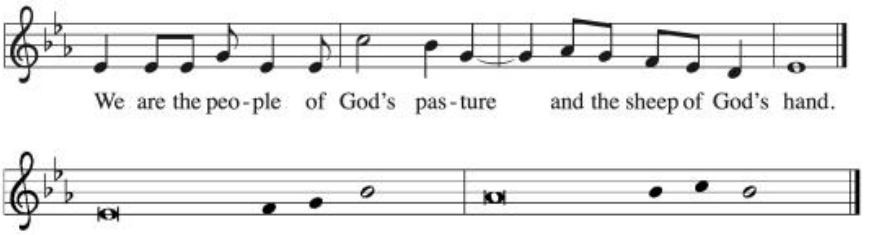
parts of the land. [14] I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of
Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall
feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. [15] I myself will be the shepherd of my
sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. [16] I will seek the lost, and I will
bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but
the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

[20] Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at
all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save
my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

[23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he
shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God, and my
servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM . PSALM 95:1-7A



[1] Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.
[3] For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R
[5] The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**

let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.

[7a] For the Lord | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

SECOND READING EPHESIANS 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and
for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a
spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your
heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what
are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable
greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.
[20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated
him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power
and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the
age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over
all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:31-46

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

Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33] and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34] Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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 *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* HYMN 634

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.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *He is King of Kings* *arr.*
Alice Parker

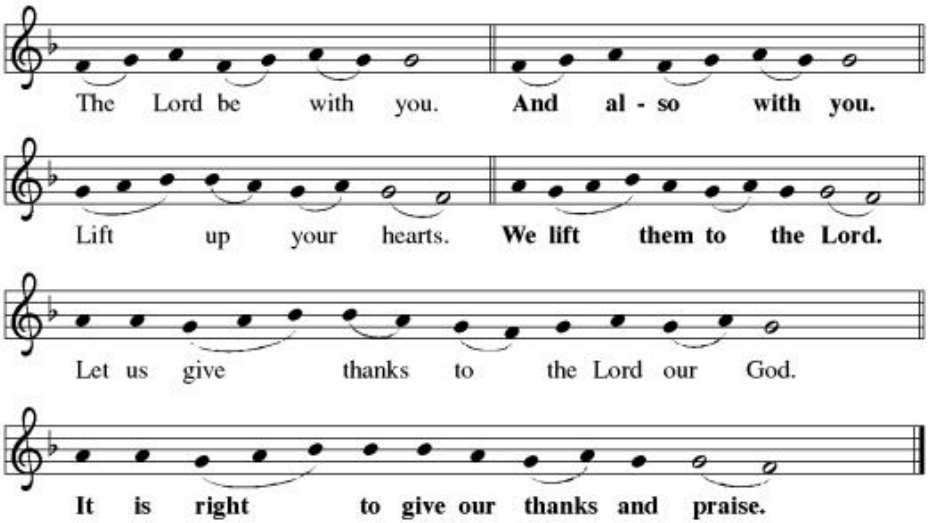
We stand.

MEAL

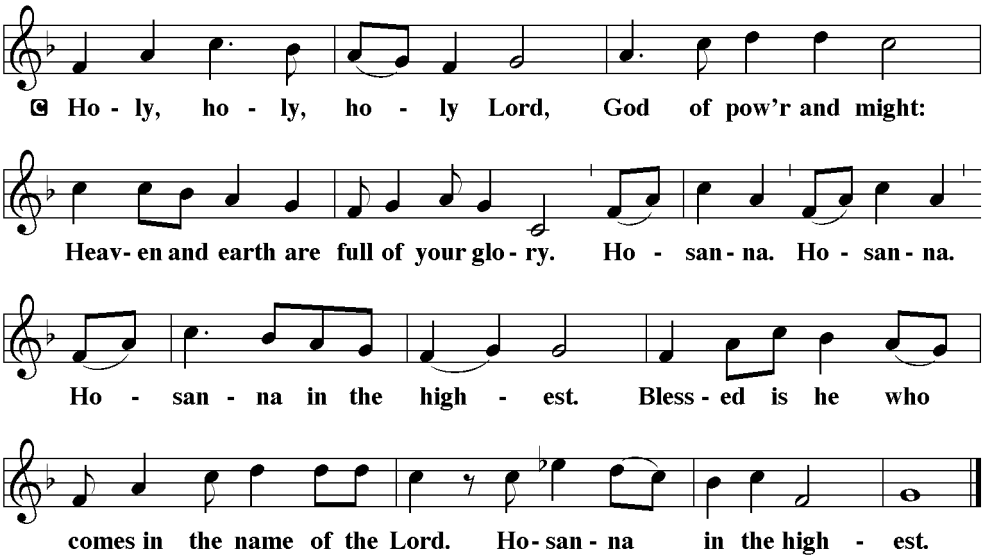
HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION



GREAT THANKSGIVING



Here the minister continues with preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

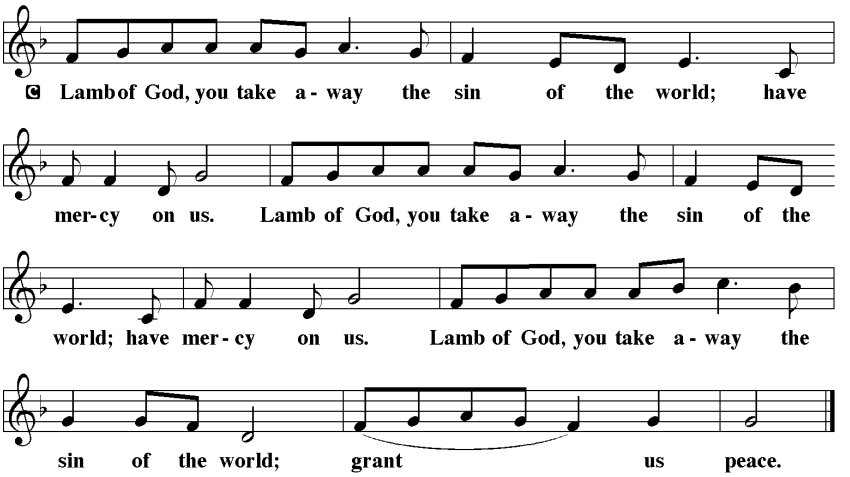
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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



COMMUNION HYMN *Thine the Amen* HYMN 826

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. **Amen**

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* HYMN 362

DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE *Crown Him with Many Crowns* *arr.* RICK SEATON

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Martha McCreight
Organist	Patrick Walker
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Jen Leffers
Communion Assistant	Jen Leffers
Acolyte	Sam Leffers
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler
Counters	Pam Bartlett, Cheryl & Joe Milukas
Little Free Pantry	
Coffee Hour	

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday November 23
7:00 pm Finance

Tuesday November 24
6:15pm Executive Committee - Zoom
7:00pm Sneak Peek Bible Study
7:15pm Council - Zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Help make or deliver thanksgiving meals at St John's Episcopal Church – call 203-348-2619

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
8:30 am & 10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Advent Night

Sunday, December 13
6:00 pm Santa Lucia Program with Scandinavian goodies afterwards

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, Lily, Marie, Sandra, Shirley, Toby, Valerie, Volter, Barbara, Kim, Debbie, Chrissy, Christian, and Baby Gianna . 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
Interim Director of Music: musicdirector@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.

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Advent at St John's Lutheran 2026



Sunday Worship in Advent: November 29th | December 6th | December 13th | December 20th

Join us for weekly worship at 8:30am (chapel) and 10:30am (sanctuary) where we will light the Advent wreath with prayer and join in together on the journey throughout the season.

Wednesdays in Advent: December 2nd, December 9th, December 16th

Join us for weekly Advent book study and discussion in the Sweden Room after the noonday service. This year, we will be discussing Rev Tish Harrison Warren's book "Advent: The Season of Hope" – feel free to purchase a copy or let Pastor Martha know and she will order one for you.

Advent Night: Sunday November 29th at 5pm

At 4:30pm we will decorate the tree in the sanctuary. Please join us if you can.

At 5pm, we will be down in the Welcome Room for our annual Advent Night with dinner and various crafts to make as an individual or as a family.

Santa Lucia with Advent Lessons and Carols Service: Sunday December 13th at 6pm

We will hold our annual Santa Lucia program (in the evening this year!) coupled with an Advent Lessons and Carols service. It will be complete with children's and choir groups, guest musicians, and goodies afterwards down in the Welcome Room! Invite your friends and neighbors to join in this blessed St John's tradition!

The 4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday December 20th

After the 10:30am worship, we will decorate the sanctuary and chapel for the Christmas season – any and all help would be greatly appreciated!





Sunday, December 13 - 6:00pm

This service will weave together the beauty and mystery of the Scandinavian Santa Lucia observance and the traditional Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. Come hear both the children and adults of the St. John's Choir singing seasonal Scandinavian songs and join your own voices in favorite Advent carols. A reception will follow featuring Scandinavian goodies.

We are currently seeking children and adults interested in taking part in this service either in the Santa Lucia procession or singing with the choir. Please speak with Patrick Walker if you would like to get involved!

Rehearsals will start November 22 in the choir room directly following fellowship hour.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship - 5:00 pm
Prelude & Candlelight Service - 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

December 25 Christmas Day Worship
10:00 am in the Chapel



Sunday, December 27 Worship

A single service at 10:30 am will feature Congregational Lessons and Carols. For the coffee hour, please bring your leftover Christmas cookies and treats to share with everyone.