

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27, 2023 | 9:15 AM



Hear God's Word. Reflect God's Grace.
Share Christ's Love.

All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor	pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music	charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator	crothman@stjohnssummit.org
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator	jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation	wk154linda@gmail.com
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton	

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book*

ACS *All Creation Sings: Purple Book*

PRELUDE Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now, Op. 7, No. 1

Paul Manz

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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.

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.**

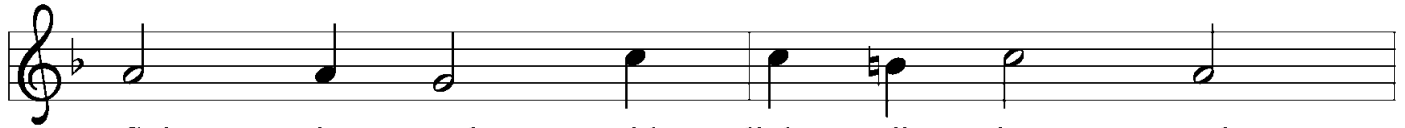
GATHERING HYMN ELW 527 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now



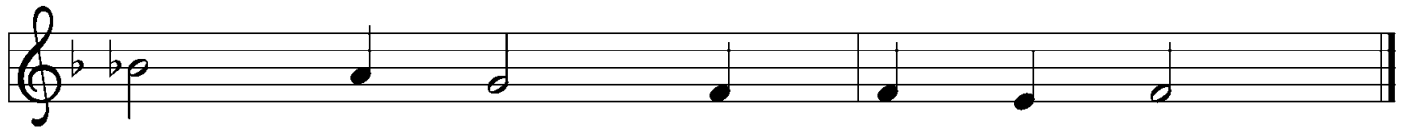
1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our
 2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise in
 3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O
 4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and



hearts in true de - vo - tion bow. Your
 end - less hymns through all our days; in -
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord Most High!" And
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One! To



Spir - it send with light di - vine, and
 crease our faith and light our minds; and
 in the light of that blest place we
 you, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty, be



let your truth with - in us shine.
 set us free from doubt that blinds.
 then shall see you face to face.
 praise through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: attr. Wilhelm II, 1598–1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

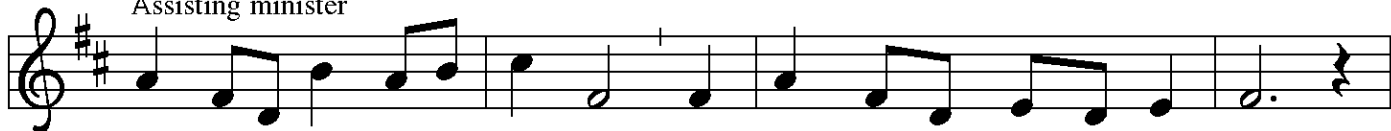
Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND, *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly 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.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 51:1–6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138

Spoken responsively.

- ¹I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶**The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸**You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING Romans 12:1–8

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:13–20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 652 Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

David A. Schack

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

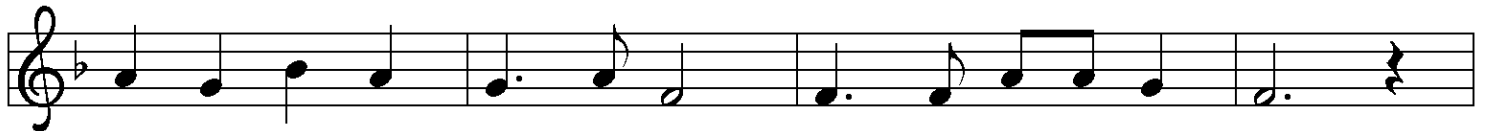
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

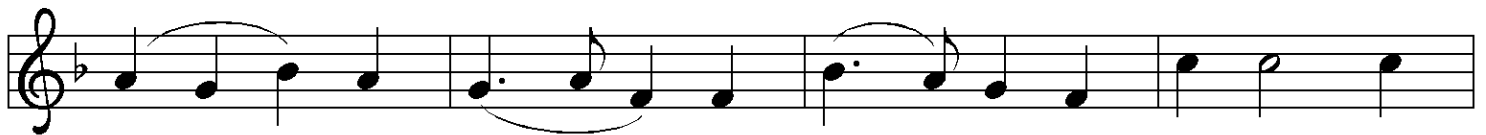
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



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



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

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

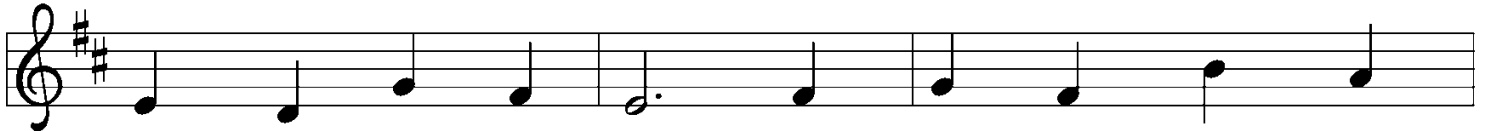


take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 620 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
me in vain, and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

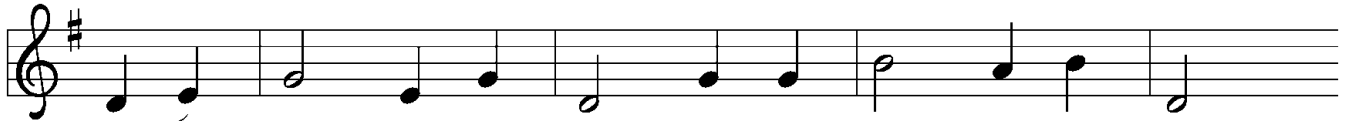
Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 796 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Short Festival Postlude

Hugh Blair

August 27, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God with thanks for the Bowman family and for all they do for St. John's.

We welcome the Wayne Dietterick as our guest organist today.

Hawaii Wildfires Relief: Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with local agencies to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction on Maui and is committed to assisting communities in the years ahead. You may give through St. John's, noting Hawaii Wildfires in the memo line. Donations will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected.

Applications are now being accepted for the Hinman Scholarship Fund. For any questions, please contact Linda Mesenbrink.

Homecoming Sunday—Join us as we kick-off the fall program year on **September 10**. This is an exciting time to re-engage in worship, education, music and service. Services will be held at **8:00 AM** and **10:30 AM** followed by a **picnic at Noon**. Sign-up in the entryway. We ask that you bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.

St. John's Choir is open to high school students through adults and rehearses Wednesdays at 7:30–9:00 PM beginning **September 6**. They sing most Sundays (Sept. to June) at the 10:30 AM service. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for more information.

Children's Choir: The children's choir is open to everyone in the community, grades K through 6, rehearsing Sundays at 9:30–10:00 AM and singing the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 AM service. Rehearsals begin **September 10**. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for more information.

Faith Formation is for children ages Pre-K through 6th Grade. There will be two classes this Fall, Pre-K through 2nd Grade and 3rd through 6th Grade. All are welcome as we grow our faith together through Bible reading, fun and sharing on Sundays at 10:00–10:30 AM beginning **September 10**. Contact Deacon Walker for more information.

Forum Series starting on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 AM through October 15. The ELCA is developing a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship between church and state. We will dialogue about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics. Feedback is solicited by the ELCA following these sessions.

Cross Roads Women's Retreat, October 20–22: The Women's Retreat at Cross Roads is designed to provide a sanctuary for women to reconnect with themselves, foster meaningful connections with like-minded individuals, and embark on a journey of self-discovery and renewal. This retreat is a unique opportunity for you to prioritize self-care, gain valuable insights, and create lasting memories. See the weekly email for more information.

Have you been worshipping at St. John's for a while now? Do you consider St. John's your spiritual home? Maybe it's time to become a member! Contact Pastor Blake to schedule a meeting and take that next step!

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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