

Sunday, October 25, 2020 | 11 am  
Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday



St. John's Lutheran Church  
Historic Salisbury, North Carolina

Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

# Welcome to St. John's!

*You'll notice that our worship follows a simple pattern that has guided the church's worship since the first century — Gather, Word, Meal, Sending — a pattern designed to nourish and strengthen us for the week ahead. Welcome to worship!*



## Gathering

*The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God*

**Confirmation Sunday.** *This morning, four youth will make public profession of their faith and lay claim to their baptismal promises. In baptism, we are welcomed into the covenant God first established with Abraham, the age-old reminder that God has taken the first step in our relationship with Him. In Confirmation — also known as Affirmation of Baptism — we say “yes” to that covenant relationship and agree to bear the image of Christ to all the world.*

*At St. John's and throughout most of the ELCA, Confirmation Sunday is the culmination of a two-year process of faith formation, which includes classwork, servant projects, retreats, and a week-long confirmation camp. These four students represent a handful of those whose confirmation journeys were cut short because of Covid-19. We rejoice with these students, while holding in prayer our other confirmands who continue this journey of faith.*

**A Litany for Reformation and ringing of the St. John's bell.** *As the litany begins, we make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.*

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

O God, You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.

**Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and the mountains tremble**

Though its waters roar and foam, the nations rage, and the kingdoms shake,

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord: he makes wars cease,

he breaks the bow and shatters the spear and proclaims,

“Be still and know that I am God.”

**The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

*Adapted from Psalm 46, the psalm that inspired Martin Luther's writing of “A Mighty Fortress.”*

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.**

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Spirit upon us today. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## Word

*We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**First Reading:** Romans 3:19-28

<sup>19</sup>*St. Paul writes:* Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**The Holy Gospel:** John 8:31-36

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. "

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Statements of Faith.** *Each year, our confirmands make statements of faith, sharing with the congregation why Jesus is central in their lives.*

**Solo**

*This I Believe*

written by Ben Fielding and Matt Crocker  
Hannah Addair, soloist



## **Affirmation of Baptism and Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

*Dave Roof presents the following confirmation students.*

I present Lucy Burks and Millie Wymbys, who desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism, and Kari Downs and Makenna Martin, who desire to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters in Christ, whom you make your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold them in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

*Addressing the students:*

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*I renounce them.*

Then let us all speak confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each person responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

*The minister addresses the entire congregation.*

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Stir up in (*Lucy, Millie*) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Kari and Makenna, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized? *I do.*

As you are baptized today you, likewise, are entrusted with these responsibilities:

- To live among God's faithful people,
- The hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word  
and deed,
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Do you promise to live into these responsibilities?

*(Kari and Makenna respond individually) I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

*To the Congregation:* People of God, do you promise to support Kari and Makenna and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

**We do.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*As water is poured three times over her head:* Kari Brandon Downs, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Applying the oil.* You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*As water is poured over her head:* Makenna DongNuo Martin, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Applying the oil.* You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*Kari and Makenna kneel individually.*

Let us pray. Stir up in (Kari, Makenna) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*A candle (the light of Christ) is presented to Kari and Makenna:* Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The confirmands and newly baptized stand and face the congregation:*

Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God**

**And proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Hymn 574

*Here I Am, Lord*  
(See Page 13)

HERE I AM LORD

**Prayers of Intercession.** *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

## The Lords Prayer

**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.**



## **Sending**

*Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.*

### **Benediction**

**Sending Hymn 654**

*The Church's One Foundation*  
(See page 14)

AURELIA

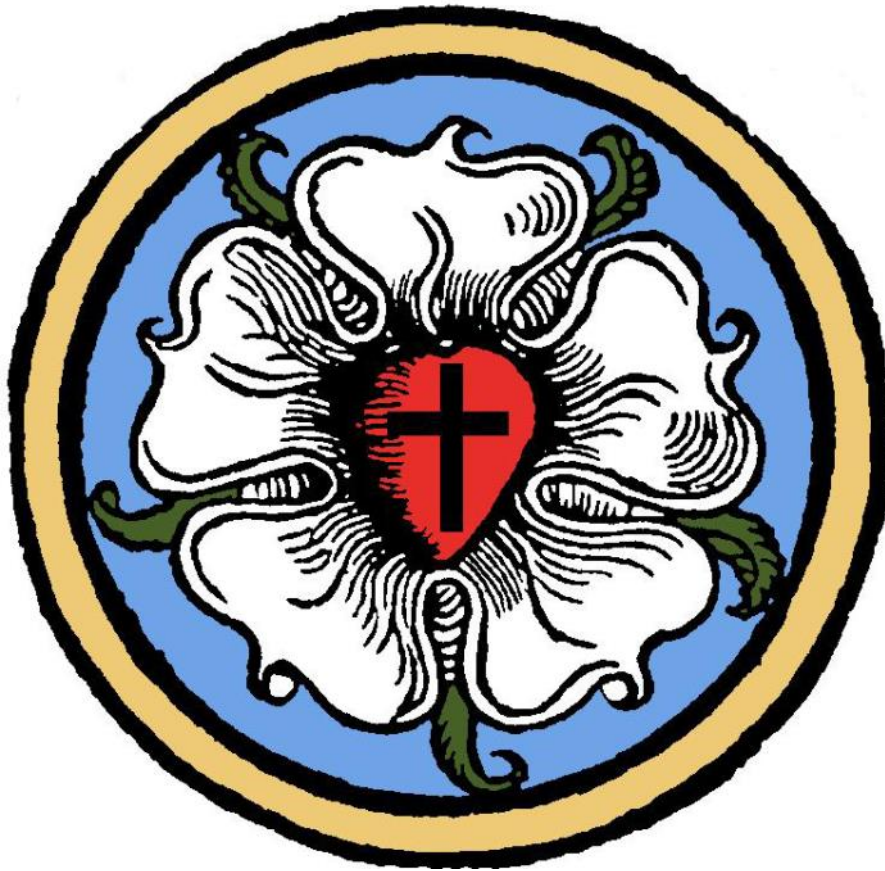
### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

### **Postlude**

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## The Luther Rose

The symbolism of the Luther rose goes back to the 1520s. Luther explained that the red heart with the black cross at the center should remind us that the righteous live by faith in Christ the Crucified. The heart rests on a white rose to show that faith gives joy, comfort and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the color of heavenly spirits and angels. The white rose stands in a field of blue, the color of heaven, to show that joy in the spirit and in faith in this life is only the beginning of future heavenly joy. Surrounding the sky-blue field is a gold ring to show that happiness and joy in heaven has no end but lasts forever, just as gold is the highest, most noble and precious metal.

# Worship Participants

**CONFIRMANDS:** Lucy Burks, Millie Wymbs, Kari Downs, Makenna Martin

**SONG LEADERS:** Rosemary Kinard, Kim Lentz, Corinne Mauldin, Dave Roof, Carter Woolly

**GUEST SOLOIST:** Hannah Addair

**READER:** Cora Wymbs

**GREETERS:** Linda Phillips, Linda Safrit, Corinne Mauldin

**USHERS:** Glen Stokes, Bill Safrit, Larry Cesario

**SOUND:** Mike Agee

**VIDEO:** Taylor Hutchins

## Join Us In Prayer For The Following:

**CONGRATULATIONS** — Aries Clark, who will be baptized after our 11 am service on Sunday, Oct. 25. Parents are Ryan and Calanthea Clark. Grandparents are Eric and Ann Watkins.

**THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS** — Donna Beilfuss, Ed Shinn, Phyllis Edwards

**ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS** — Randy Overcash, Shirley Trexler, Robin Cohen, Paula Kafitz, Richard (Dick) Petherick, Benny Banks, Ed Shinn, Ott Pinkston, Karen Shelton, Cathy (Wayne Norris), Lee Wagoner, Jack Connery, Gerald Jones, Phyllis Edwards, Betty Denker, Nancy Austin, Rachel Safrit, John Myers, Jane Shuping, Barbara Rufty, Hal Furr, Walter Tatum, Jim Rabon, Matt Stahl, Nancy Parrish, Thomas Livesay, Gene Myers, Kent Brown

**HOMEBOUND** — Anita Foreman, Peggy Taylor, Lois and Paul Carter, Alda Smith, Nan Graeber, Margaret Ketner, Sonny Allen, Dottie Bedford, Hal Furr, Fran Hoke, Sherry Morgan, Ermine Peeler, Shirley Smith, Peggy Smith, Fran Tannehill

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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## Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Rhodes Woolly  
Pastor for Youth and Discipleship..... Laura Henrik  
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

## Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon  
Associate Parish Musician .....Rosemary Kinard  
9:27 Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut  
8:30 Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner  
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins  
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon

## Program Ministry

Youth..... Laura Henrik  
Children.....Stacey Shafer  
Adults.....Danny Hines  
Senior Adults .....Diane Poole  
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds) .....Teresa Stoner  
CDC Interim Directors.....Lonna Richardson and Kristy King

## Administrative Team

Business Manager .....Ruth Ann Diehl  
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross  
Accounting.....Mark Bias  
Communications Specialist.....Angel Owens  
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe  
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.

2 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.

Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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## The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 3 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.