

Eagle's View

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May 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS

SACRED HARP

SACRED SONG:

Celebrating the Rich Tradition of
American Folk Hymns



Sunday, May 18, 4 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church Sanctuary

By Jason Harwood

There's no shortage of scripture passages referencing singing songs and playing instruments to give glory and praise to God. Psalm 150, perhaps the most well-known, implores everything that has breath to praise the Lord with all manner of musical offerings. The spring Men's Chorus concert will not only give glory to God through the singing of songs and the playing of instruments, but will also honor the rich and distinctive tradition of American folk hymns and songs that have, for so many generations of Christians, been loudly proclaimed in times of celebration and quietly hummed to provide solace in times of grief and pain.

Please plan to join the St. John's Men's Chorus at 4 pm on Sunday, May 18, for our spring concert, Sacred Harp, Sacred Song: Celebrating the Rich Tradition of American Folk Hymns. The chorus, accompanied by Janie Rollins, will be joined by the Luther Ringers and a host of other gifted musicians. A freewill offering will be collected to go to the NC Synod Disaster Relief Fund for Hurricane Helene relief.



stjohns-salisbury.org

PASTOR'S LETTER

By Pastor Dan

In 2019 St. John's signed a covenant partnership with Christmas Lutheran in Bethlehem, Palestine. In that historic document our two congregations agreed to walk with each other, pray for each other, and accompany each other on our lives of faith and ministry. Since 2019 we have had many opportunities to live this out. Members of each congregation, pastors, lay people, and youth have travelled across the many miles from Salisbury, NC to Palestine and back again. We have prayed for each other over simulcasts and in written devotions. We have stayed in contact over many miles and many time changes.

This May, Christmas Lutheran begins a new chapter in their life and ministry. Rev. Munther Isaac, the pastor of Christmas Lutheran, is moving to a new congregation in his synod, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, and with his move a new pastor, Rev. Ashraf Tannous, will begin his ministry.

For this momentous occasion in the life of the congregation and to form new and lasting bonds with Pastor Ashraf, St. John's is sending a small delegation to attend Pastor Munther's last Sunday. Pastor Dan, Pastor James, and Michael Connor will be traveling to Bethlehem from May 19-27. During their time they will meet with members of the Bethlehem community, Dar Al-Kalima University, and with other groups associated with our Covenant Partnership. Please pray for safe travels and a fruitful visit for all involved. We are especially thankful for Pastor Munther's leadership and ministry and look forward to working with Pastor Ashraf.





Greetings from St. John's CDC. We were excited to celebrate the Week of the Young Child in April which also included a Family Celebration. Our families shopped at our book fair, viewed their child's artwork, and had an opportunity to have a meal together. We were thrilled to display our Alumni Board at this event featuring children who have been a part of St. John's CDC wonderful history with then and now photos. A special thanks to Larry and Marvie Cartner, Eileen Fain, Kim Lentz, and Carol Everhart for volunteering at this event.

We are looking forward to our Pre K graduation in May and all the fun that summer will bring.

Lea Anne Thomas
Executive Director





St. John's Kindergarten

Enroll Now for 2025-2026 School Year

Kindergarten and Pre-K | Contact 704-636-4404 or kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org

Please spread the word that we have a few openings left in our kindergarten class for the 2025-2026 school year.

You may contact
Gina Phifer at
kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org or call at
704-636-4404.

Kindergarten has had a great year of learning and growing. We have a busy month planned with lots of end-of-year activities. A family field trip to Dan Nicholas Park will be on May 6 with a walk to the barnyard, carousel, and wildlife exhibit. We will have lunch together at one of the shelters before ending our day. Our annual walk to a local business for ice cream and fellowship will be on May 14 and finally, our graduation will be Friday, May 16 at 9:30 am in the Faith Center.



St. John's SJK Kindergarten

WE ARE Hiring PRE-K TEACHER

Love children, energetic, creative, confident.
Will create and implement pre-k curriculum
Bachelor's Degree Required; NC K-6 Licensure Preferred

Send your resume to :
james@stjohns-salisbury.org
Deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org

APPLY NOW

Kingdom Kids

St. John's Children's Ministry



Sunday School

- May: 4, 11, 18 (no SS on the 25th, Memorial Day)

Milestones

- Birth-2yr old (school calendar year)
 - Saturday, May 3, 10-11:30am. RSVP to stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org
- 5th Grade - NEW DATE!!!
 - Friday, May 16, 5:30-8pm. See weekly newsletter for details! RSVP to stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

VBS
June 9th-13th
9:00am-12:15pm
St. John's Lutheran Church

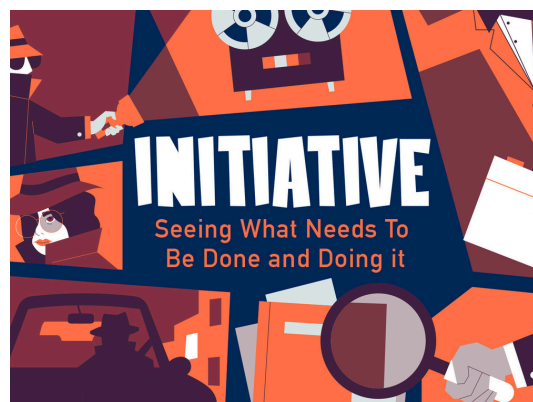
Register today!!!

tinyurl.com/yfmvbw2



VBS Amazon
Wishlist

Email stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org to volunteer! **Join Women's Ministry Thursday, May 8th from 6-8pm for VBS prep!** Please consider donating items from our VBS Amazon wish list.



Kingdom Kids Theme:

"None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others."
Philippians 2:4



First Look Theme:

I know that God helps me."
Psalm 54:4

CURRENT 3rd-5th graders!!

Join Pastor Dan, Stacey, &
St. John's youth for morning
devotions, opportunities to
serve in the community, lunch
and fun afternoon outings!

RSVP today!

Hands and Feet Camp

**St Johns Lutheran
Church**

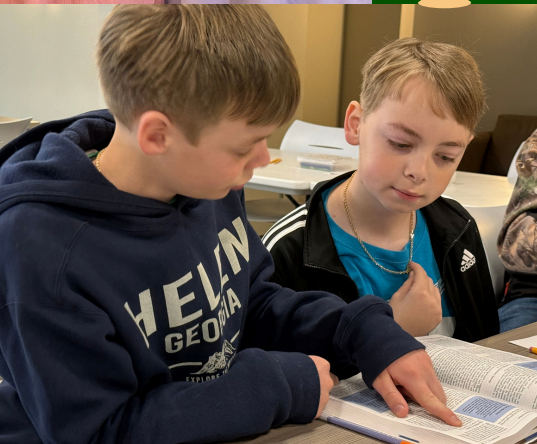
**July 29th-31st 2025
9am-4pm**



Scan the QR code to register!



First Communion



Youth Calendar

- **May 4**
3:30 pm - Confirmation (Well)
5 pm - High School (Pit)
- **May 11**
3:30 pm - Confirmation (Well)
5 pm - High School (Pit)
- **May 18**
3:30 pm - Youth Worship
5 pm - End of Year Party (Shafer's House)
- **June 1**
4:30 pm - Lake Day (Brady's House)

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH

By Pastor James Demmel

I am happy to report that we have wrapped up our most successful Youth Auction ever! The Youth of our church raised over \$27,000 for our upcoming summer trips! A huge thank you to Nancy Shirley, Lori Yang, Mary Wymbs, and Stacey Shafer for organizing the auction and to Eveyln and Sam Medina for providing our excellent meal. Thanks be to you all as well for supporting our youth. Your faithfulness and generosity makes our programs possible, and your investment helps to raise up the next generation of the church!

The end of our academic year youth programming is nearly upon us. In May, Confirmation students will finish the study of the Small Catechism and High Schoolers will continue on through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. May 18 will be Graduation Sunday and we will recognize our seniors and bless them as they head towards their next journey. We will also reward scholarships to 25 deserving college students.

We will celebrate the end of the year with a closing youth worship and a cook out at the Shafer's on May 18. After this our programs will pause for the summer for our trips (more on those next month!). We will also hold a youth group lake day on Sunday, June 1 at the home of Brad and Heather Brady. More good times to come this summer!

Peace be with you.

-Pastor James





You're Invited!

Exploring the Book of Revelation: A Series of Study & Reflection

The Book of Revelation has been described as a book of resistance and hope, a poet's book, and a book of worship. Its vivid imagery and symbolism have inspired theology and music, shaping how we express our faith.

Join us for a unique two-part series each Tuesday, combining historical insight with musical reflection, as we explore the richness of Revelation together.

A Historian Tackles Revelation

Dr. Gary Freeze, History Professor (retired), Catawba College

9:50 – 11:10 am (**Faith Center – May 6, Goodman Dining Room May 13 & 20**)

- May 6 – *So Many Sevens*
- May 13 – *The Heavenly Conflict*
- May 20 – *The Past as Prologue or
The Present as Future*

Break & Refreshments

- 9:30 am – Enjoy coffee and Danish with friends!
- 11:10 – 11:25 am – Enjoy light refreshments as we transition into our second lecture.

A Musician Plays Revelation

Discover how Revelation's imagery and themes have inspired sacred music through the ages.



Stephen Williams, Director of Music Ministries, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

11:30 – 12:45 am (**Goodman Dining Room and Sanctuary**)

- May 6 – *Trumpets, Creatures, Angels, The Lamb, and Holy, Holy, Holy!*
- May 13 – *Grapes of Wrath .. Glimpses of Divine Glory .. Hallelujah!*
- May 20 – *The Vision of All Saints and the New Jerusalem .. When Shall I Come to Thee?*

We look forward to sharing this enriching experience with you!

Feel free to invite friends—everyone is welcome.



MERCY & JUSTICE MINISTRY MINUTE

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Welcome to our new Eagle's View column, Mercy and Justice Ministry Minute! In each issue, we'll highlight one or more of the valuable ministries that fall under the St. John's Mercy and Justice Ministry Group structure.

The ministries in this group serve the community and world in a myriad of ways. Some groups partner with local nonprofits to assist them in fulfilling their missions, others are groups created and administered by members of our congregation.

If you would like to learn more about each ministry, please contact its ministry Shepherd as listed below. (You can find contact information on the One Church app.) And stay tuned for more in depth information about each ministry!

Local Ministries and Their Shepherds

- **Rowan Helping Ministries** - Eva White
- **Bread Riot** - Dottie Hoy
- **Vision for Racial Healing Action Team** - Kathy Roberson
- **Rainbow Makers** - Kathy Roberson
- **Public School Outreach and Support** (Includes the Isenberg Gator Reading Club) - Celia Jarrett & Karen Puckett
- **Circle of Welcome** (New Americans) - Karen Puckett
- **Meals on Wheels** - Elaine Gerst & Amy Ritchie
- **Race Equity Rowan** - Mark Ritchie
- **Community Care Clinic** - Shepherd needed

Global Ministries and Their Shepherds

- **Bethlehem** - Michael Connor
- **Guatemala** - Nancy Shirley
- **South Sudan** - Karen Puckett





Council Corner

President-Elect Election

The Council held an election for our 2025 President-Elect and I am most pleased to announce that Board Secretary Brad Trick was elected on the third ballot. As President-Elect, he will serve as Council President in 2026 and will spend the remainder of this year preparing to hit the ground running. Brad also agreed to continue 2025 as our Secretary. Congratulations to Brad!

Property News

Dennis Rogers reported the good news that the CDC roof issues will be covered by insurance. David Whitley of David's Roofing completed the work on Good Friday and Saturday (i.e., when the CDC was closed). Rogers also reported that the Property Committee is still seeking a third quote on the elevator; it is hard to find people who do the kind of work needed. Mark Lewis observed that the elevator had been out of order for 10 hours two Sundays ago, highlighting the urgency of the issue. Pastor Dan noted that Steven Elliott started a few weeks ago as Brandt Cozad resigned and has done a great job so far, making for a very smooth transition.

Update on search for new Worship Minister

Pastor Dan reported that the Call Committee met to review the first set of applications. They narrowed down 20 applicants to 5, with 3 alternates. They will start letting candidates know whether or not they have been selected for next steps soon.

Tabled Bylaw Proposal

Lewis noted that at the recent congregational meeting to approve the changes to the Constitution, *the proposed* bylaw C12.02.03, which restricts family members of current staff and Council members from serving on Congregation Council sought to codify our current practice. Lewis's recommendation, which the Council endorsed, was to send the proposal to Personnel to review since they never had a chance to weigh in on the matter. He noted that there was plenty of time since the issue would not be addressed again until either the Annual Meeting or when we next update our Constitution.

Approve Outreach Endowment Requests

Lewis explained the purpose of the endowment funds (i.e., outreach) and reminded the Council that, of this year's available \$71,310, with \$5,000 reserved for matching grants. That left \$66,310 to be divided between two 2025 funding cycles. While the Executive Committee typically tries to leave about half of the funds for the Fall session, we had requests for almost \$104,000 this Spring. The Executive Committee accordingly decided to recommend that we grant more than half of the funds this Spring, but it decided to reserve at least \$20,000 for the Fall. In the end, the Council voted to dispense \$41,150 now, leaving \$25,160 for the fall cycle.

Church Leadership TEAM Meeting

On April 1, we held the second quarterly TEAM meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to continue improving our internal communications by sharing our progress on church and individual Ministry Group/Committee goals. Each committee is given a couple of minutes to share and to give one ministry group/committee extended time. This quarter we heard from Karen Puckett, chair of the Mercy and Justice Ministry Group. She shared the extensive outreach efforts taking place under this banner. This was a great chance for those on the Council to hear directly from our leaders and identify areas of those needing support. Plus, it was an opportunity to engage in questions and discussions as we seek to rebuild the infrastructure and rhythm of our work. Feedback was positive from the attendees. Our next quarterly meeting will be the first Tuesday in July.

Rehearsal Calendar

- **Men's Chorus**
Sundays, 4 pm
(Choir Room)
*Concert Rehearsal 5/17
- **Women's Ensemble**
Sundays, 5:15 pm
(Choir Room)
- **The Luther Ringers**
Mondays, 7 pm
(Sanctuary Hand Bell Loft)
- **The Joyful Ringers**
Sundays, 2:30 pm
(Sanctuary Hand Bell Loft)
- **Chancel Choir**
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
(Choir Room)



KINGDOM KIDS CHOIR

The Kingdom Kids Choir sang on Palm Sunday, joined by the Joyful Ringers and the Chancel Choir. We enjoyed this collaboration and learned about Jesus' joyful entrance into Jerusalem! We will now pause our rehearsals until Kingdom Kids starts up again in late summer/fall. All children from 1st-5th grade are invited to join us! Please see Kimberly Lentz or Carol Everhart if you have any questions.

JOYFUL RINGERS

The Joyful Ringers accompanied the Kingdom Kids Choir and Chancel Choir on their Palm Sunday anthem, and then focused in on preparing their piece for Maundy Thursday. This group has really advanced in the short time they have been playing bells!

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir has been putting in long hours of rehearsal in April getting ready for Holy Week and Easter. There were quite a lot of music that had to be learned in a short period of time. We prepared special anthems for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, with special accompaniment on pieces by an oboe and brass. After Easter, we will go back to our regular rehearsal schedule (6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights) until we break for the summer. We continue to sing and lead worship during the summer months, but do not have Wednesday rehearsals. We always welcome new singers to join us!

LUTHER RINGERS

The Luther Ringers enjoyed the Handbell Workshop they attended at the end of March, which was held at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. David Harris, the director of the Raleigh Ringers, was the clinician. They were able to work on and perfect 6-7 pieces that covered different seasons of the church year. They will present one of these pieces on Good Friday, and another on Easter. After Easter, they will continue working on pieces for the Men's Chorus Concert and worship services before taking a break for the summer. The Luther Ringers is a group of experienced ringers who enjoy praising God through playing advanced handbell music.

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

Since Rob Durocher's retirement, the SJLC Women's Ensemble now has a new director, Mark Tysinger. Mark previously served as the Women's Ensemble accompanist and is a frequent guest pianist at St. John's. He was the Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for Opera Carolina for over two decades and also served as the Principal Keyboardist for the Charlotte Symphony for 30 years. Mark holds a Masters of Music degree in vocal coaching/accompanying from the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

The SJLC Women's Ensemble is now accepting new members to join us. We rehearse on Sundays at 5:15pm in the choir room and regularly sing in worship.

Maundy Thursday – Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday

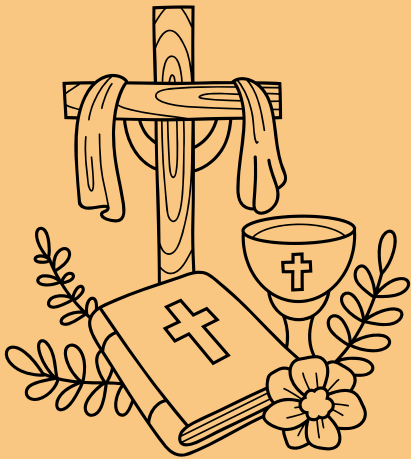




Dear Members of St. John's:

Thank you for the delicious sandwiches you provided for the reception after Tim's celebration and Godspeed service. Not only did they provide sustenance for those at the reception, but the left over sandwiches were shared with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Greensboro, in the words of Pastor Matt, "A hospitality so wide and strong.. where pimento cheese sandwiches prepared for the Bishop wait to be found by neighbors who hunger."

Thank you for blessing so many!
Wendy and Tim Smith



**First Communion Recipients
April 17**

Camden Blair Baucom
Sabine Aurelia Witt
Katherine Joyce Gebhardt
Bree Carter Schenk
Mara Evangeline Pope
Jensen Novak
Landyn Novak



**Congratulations to our
Octogenarians Celebrating
April Birthdays**

Perry Hood, Eleanor Andrews, Harold Deal, Diane Everhart, James Bradshaw



Connie Hurlocker - 4/9/2025



Serenity Sisters

Upcoming Dates

June 22

May

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8 am- Men's Bible Study 6 pm – 9:27 Worship Rehearsal 6 pm – Women's Tea	2	3
4 Usher Team 3 Buck-A-Meal 2:30 pm – Joyful Ringers 3:30 pm – Confirmation 4 pm – Men's Chorus Rehearsal 5 pm – High School Youth 5:15 pm – Women's Ensemble	5 9:30 am – Chair Yoga 7 pm – Luther Ringers	6 8 am – Women's Bible Study 9:30 am – Senior Academy	7 6:30 pm – Chancel Choir	8 8 am- Men's Bible Study 6 pm – 9:27 Worship Rehearsal 6 pm – Women's Ministry VBS Prep	9	10
11 Usher Team 4 2:30 pm – Joyful Ringers 3:30 pm – Confirmation 4 pm – Men's Chorus Rehearsal 5 pm – High School Youth	12 9:30 am – Chair Yoga 7 pm – Luther Ringers	13 8 am – Women's Bible Study 9:30 am – Senior Academy	14 6:30 pm – Chancel Choir	15 8 am- Men's Bible Study 6 pm – 9:27 Worship Rehearsal	16 10:30 am – Kindergarten Graduation	17 12 pm – Men's Chorus Dress Rehearsal
18 Usher Team 5 10:30 am – Party in Peeler Hall 2:30 pm – Joyful Ringers 3:30 pm – Youth Worship 4 pm – Men's Chorus Concert 5 pm – Youth End of Year Party 5:15 pm – Women's Ensemble	19 9:30 am – Chair Yoga 7 pm – Luther Ringers	20 8 am – Women's Bible Study 9:30 am – Senior Academy	21 6:30 pm – Chancel Choir	22 8 am- Men's Bible Study 6 pm – 9:27 Worship Rehearsal	23	24
25 Usher Team 6 Buck-A-Meal 2:30 pm – Joyful Ringers 5:15 pm – Women's Ensemble	26 9:30 am – Chair Yoga 7 pm – Luther Ringers	27 8 am – Women's Bible Study	28 6:30 pm – Chancel Choir	29 8 am- Men's Bible Study 6 pm – 9:27 Worship Rehearsal	30	31

St. John's Ministry Staff

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Daniel Joyner Miller....ext.2060
Pastor for Congregational Care.....Lori Carter....ext.2050
Pastor for Youth and Outreach.....James Demmel....ext.2040

Worship and Music Ministry

Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins....ext.2190
Contemporary Worship Leaders..... Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Bell Choirs and Choral Director.....Kimberly Lentz
Organist.....Connie Burleson
Women's Ensemble Director.....Mark Tysinger
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard Jr, deacon

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer....ext.2020
Kindergarten Director (4 and 5 year olds).....Gina Phifer....ext.2120
CDC Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas....ext.3212

Administrative Team

Church AdministratorDeborah Cross....ext.2030
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor....ext.2000
Ministry Coordinator.....Mary Wymbs....ext. 2180
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias....ext.2170
Facilities Manager.....David Ellenburg....ext.2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott

St. John's is a congregation of the ELCA

(Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

The Rev. Dr. Timothy M Smith, Bishop of the NC Synod
The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

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Kindergarten 704.636.4404
Kindergarten@stjohns-salisbury.org
Child Development Center 704.636.6756
cdc@stjohns-salisbury.org

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Eagle's View Deadline

The June/July Eagle's View will be published in May. Please email stories and news to deborah@stjohns-salisbury.org by June 13.

Prayer Chain

Prayer Chain emails are sent on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. To submit a prayer request, please visit our website, or contact Mary Wymbs at mary@stjohns-salisbury.org.



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