



Title: Survey the Wondrous Cross. Artist: John Koban.

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Open My Life, Lord
March 22, 2026, 11:00 am



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We're so glad God has brought you here!

New Members Sunday - Join us in welcoming our new members: Elizabeth and Harrison Williams (Owen); James and Brook Marino (Anna Lynne, Carson, Paige); Adam and Robin Listerman (Sutton); Chris and Carrie Charest (William, Cooper, Emma Grace); Kris and Kristine Wolfe; Devin and Kristin Hannon (Francis, Molly-Catherine); Brittany and Zachary Sumner (Payton, Benson, Jetson); David and Kathryn Cornell; Mark and Lori Havemann; Jason Ussery

Serenity Sisters – Tonight at 5 pm. If you are interested in joining, contact Stacey@stjohns-salisbury.org.

Bibles and Brew – Men's Ministry - Mar. 24 at 6 pm. Join us at Grove Cartel, 211 N. Main St., China Grove, NC.

Palm Sunday – Mar. 29, 9:27 (Faith Center) **and 11 am** (Sanctuary and online).

Stripping of the Altar—Maundy Thursday, Apr. 2, 7 pm in the Sanctuary. This is a very significant and meaningful part of Holy Week which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his followers and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. Any interested adults in assisting during the service, please contact Melody Moxley (mamoxley@icloud.com) or Maria Lewis (mhlewis3@gmail.com), **no later than Mar. 19.**

Holy Week Schedule—

- **Apr. 2** (Maundy Thursday) **7 pm** (Sanctuary and Online).
- **Apr. 3** (Good Fri.) **12:15 pm** (Chapel) **and 7 pm** (Sanctuary and Online).
- **Apr. 5** (Easter) **6:30 am**, Sunrise Service at the Bell Tower Green;
 - **8:30 -11 am**, Easter Breakfast in Ritchie Hall;
 - Easter Sunday services **9:27** (Faith Center and online) **and**
 - **11 am** (Sanctuary and Online).

Decorating Help Needed for Easter—Sat., Apr. 4 from 9 am—3 pm. The Decorating Team is looking for volunteers to help decorate our Sanctuary, Faith Center and Peeler Hall with flowers for Easter. To volunteer, please contact Mindy Hochuli (malindahochuli@gmail.com) or Marian Hough Schouweiler (mlhough17@gmail.com).

Women's Ministry – Packing Party, Apr. 9, 6 pm-7 pm at Rowan Helping Ministries. Join us for a night of fun, fellowship and service to our community as we pack food bags.

Altar Flowers—will once again adorn our altar after the Lenten Season concludes on Easter Sunday. You may scan the QR code here or visit our website, to reserve flowers for various available dates.





*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.*

PRELUDE

We rise and face the cross.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross ✠, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses (*silence is kept for reflection*).

Lord of all life,

**when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,
open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.**

Lord of all life,

**when we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,
open our hands to do your work in the world.**

Lord of all life,

**when we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,
open our ears, that all will know your love.**

Lord of all life,

**when we are hardened against our neighbor,
open our hearts and heal our resentment.**

Lord of all life,

**when we are closed to the grace you long to give us,
open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, our lives
have been transformed by the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins
are forgiven. You are made new. **Amen.**



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
 4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
 trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
 life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect -



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
 find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
 more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
 ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
 Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

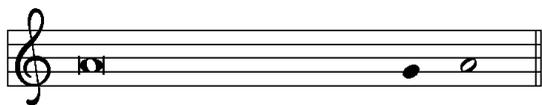


thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
 its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

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.

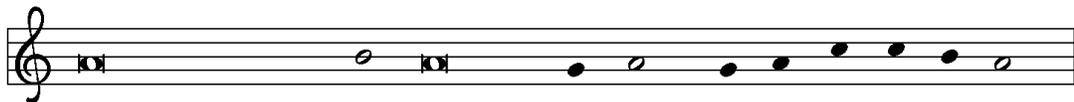
LORD, HAVE MERCY



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



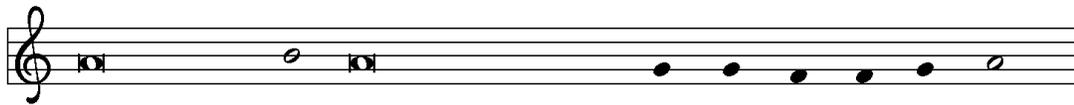
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Open our lives, Lord, to reflect your glory. Lead us to the cross, to the grave, to the empty tomb, and into the world as imitators of Christ. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Children ages 3 through 3rd grade are now invited to **Kingdom Kids**, exiting through the door near the baptismal font. Children will return to the worship service after the sermon.*

WORD

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



FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy, the 30th chapter.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

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

SECOND READING

Galatians 2:15-20

A reading from Galatians, the 2nd chapter.

¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not gentile sinners, ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by doing the

works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. ¹⁷ But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, ²⁰ and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:23–25

Lord, o - pen my eyes.

Lord, o - pen my hands.

O - pen my ears. O - pen my heart.

Lord, o - pen my life.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff is 'Lord, o - pen my eyes.' The second is 'Lord, o - pen my hands.' The third is 'O - pen my ears. O - pen my heart.' The fourth is 'Lord, o - pen my life.' The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes with stems, and some are beamed together. There are fermatas over the final notes of each line.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ Then [Jesus] said to them all, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit them if they gain the whole world but lose or forfeit themselves?

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

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Spence Robertson

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

'Christ is the Life'

KINGFOLD



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark - ness of the womb.
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin - dling for the pyre.
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Be seated.

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
& AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**



PRESENTATION AND PRAYER

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so, say, *I renounce them.*

We rise.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Be seated.

AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY

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? If so, say, *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

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

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

Let us pray: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people 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.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

We rise.

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Be seated.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'

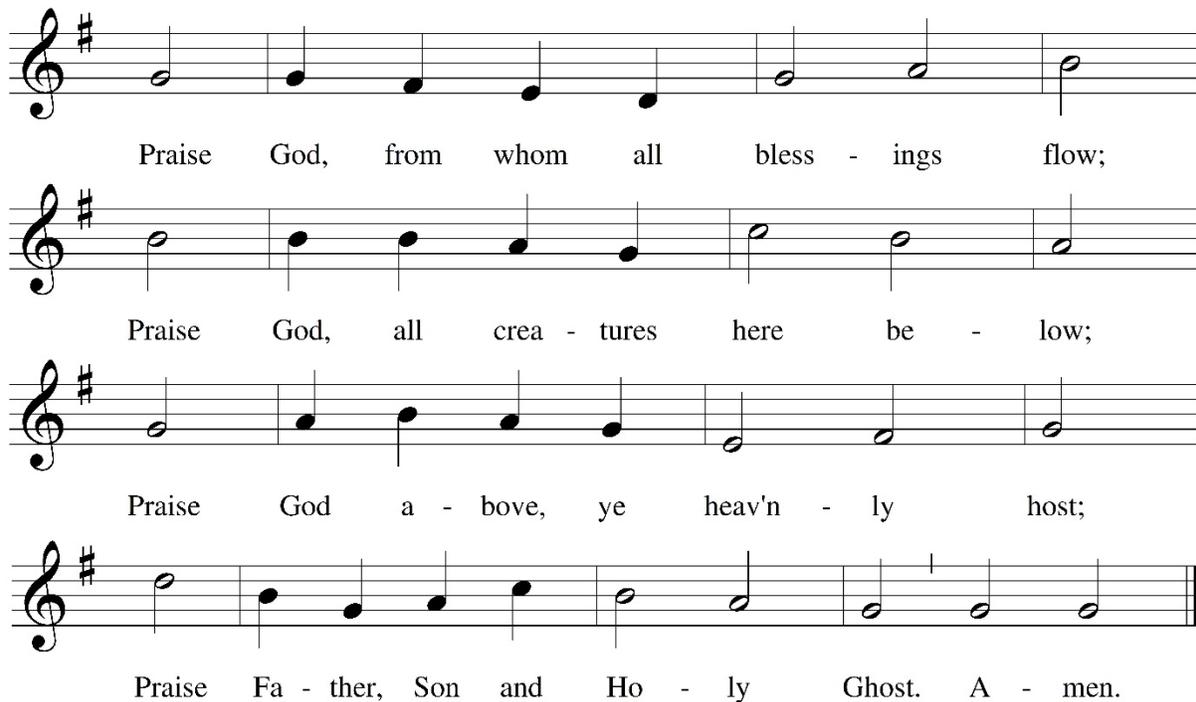
arr. Gilbert Martin

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

We rise.

RESPONSE AND PRAYER



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise God, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Let us pray: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

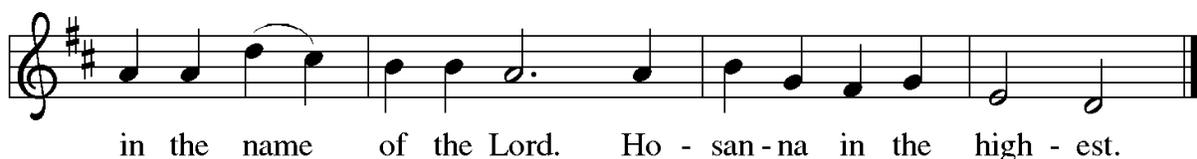
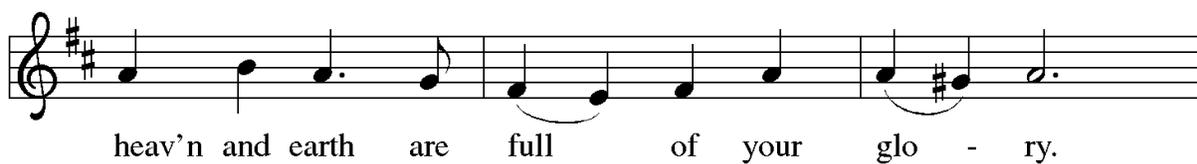
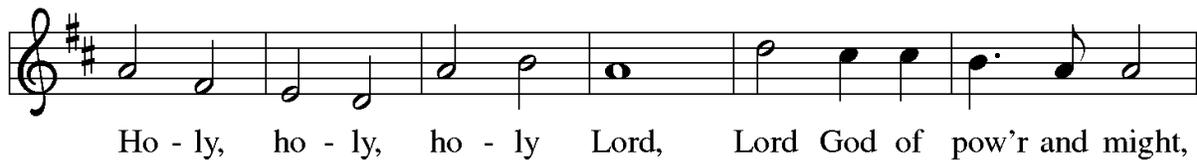
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we 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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the nave, following the usher's guidance. In the nave, communion is by intinction, dipping bread (gluten free by request) into wine (or grape juice). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.

COMMUNION HYMN



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

‘Contemplation on Beautiful Savior’
arr. Matthew Compton

Luther Ringers

COMMUNION HYMN

‘Take My Life and Let it Be’
See page 14.

GTG 697

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens our life for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as

cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

SENDING

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



BLESSING

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

'Lift High the Cross'

ELW 660

DISMISSAL AND POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Cantor.....	Bob Tannehill
Reader.....	Wayne Nelson
Preacher.....	Pastor Spence Robertson
Presider.....	Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Liturgist.....	Pastor James Demmel

ORDER OF ST. JOHN'S

Acolytes.....	Katie Ann Dangerfield and Caleb Rathbun
Crucifer.....	Ashton Williams
Banner Bearer.....	Benny Rathbun

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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stjohns-salisbury.org | To contact a staff member: *first-name*@stjohns-salisbury.org

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Dan Joyner Miller...ext. 2060
Pastor for Congregational CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames Demmel...ext. 2040

Worship and Music Ministry

Pastor for Worship and the Arts.....Spence Robertson...ext. 2080
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins...ext. 2190
Associate Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard, Jr., *deacon*

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer...ext. 2020
St. John's Kindergarten (4 & 5 year olds), Director.....Bonita Rowland...ext. 2120
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas...ext. 3212

Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross...ext. 2030
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor...ext. 2000
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias...ext. 2170
Communication Specialist.....Stephanie Mesimer...ext. 2220
Ministry Program Coordinator.....Mary Wymbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



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