



First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church
Salisbury, NC

Annual Meeting | December 8, 10:30 in the Faith Center

Members are encouraged to join us for a vote on the 2025 Budget and elect **five** new Council Members

Council Nominees: Larry Cartner, Matthew Losh, Russell Michalec, Stephanie Payonk, Dennis Rogers, Phil Rollins

Youth Nominees: Aiden Moss and Gabriel Young

Benevolent Fund Trustee Nominee: Michael Connor

“Good News, Great Joy”—Advent Devotionals

Available in our literature racks and at the church office.



Worship Navigation

The Congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.

* = Please stand as you are able + = Face the Cross

✝ = You are invited to make the sign of the Cross.

Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.



Welcome to St. John's

We're so glad God has brought you here!

The Advent Wreath. *One of the most recognizable customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life. Its circular shape, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's unending love for us. The wreath itself is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life, even during the dormant time of winter. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, despite the wintry darkness that surrounds us.*

Buck-A-Meal—On the first Sunday of the month, every one dollar bill placed in the offering boxes goes to purchase a meal at Rowan Helping Ministries.

Christmas Traditions—Join us today, **5-7 pm, at the Vista at Walnut Hill** for our Christmas Traditions event. You'll enjoy Advent wreath making, a hot chocolate bar, soup, chili, and more! Sign up by scanning the QR code or online at <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stjsalisbury/forms/73>



Advent Music and Meditation—**Tomorrow, Dec. 2 at 12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel**, featuring Rosemary C. Kinard, Flute and Janie Rollins, Piano. And on Dec. 9 at 12:15 pm in the St. John's Chapel, featuring Helen Rifas, Harp.

Angel Tree Sponsors—All of the Angel Tree tags have been taken. Thank you to all who participated in this wonderful program. Please bring your **unwrapped items to Peeler Hall no later than the Dec. 6 deadline.**

Men's Chorus Christmas Concert—*"How Great Our Joy!"* **Dec. 8 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary**, with Guest Soloist, Ricky Howsare, Instrumentalists, Hand Bells, and Narration. Directed by Robert J. Durocher, and Guest Directors, Rosemary C. Kinard and Jason Harwood, Accompanied by Janie Rollins, Joshua Starnes and Thom Hinson.

Women's Ministry Annual Christmas Party—**Dec. 10 at 6 pm.** Join us for a festive and fun night of food, laughter and fellowship. Bring your favorite snack and wine to share, along with a \$10 Christmas gift for a fun Gift Exchange. Location is at Ann Hatchett's house: 206 Brook Valley Dr. in Salisbury.

Poinsettias and Wreaths—Order **deadline is Friday, Dec. 13.** Be a part of a beautiful tradition at St. John's as we decorate our worship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Purchasing a poinsettia or a hanging wreath is a way to remember and honor those you love, appreciate, or admire. Donations may also be made to the general decorating fund in honor or memory of a loved one. Order and pay online at <https://app.onechurchsoftware.com/stjsalisbury/forms/76>, or complete a paper form located in our literature racks.

Live Simulcast Presentation—Bethlehem Lessons and Carols—Dec. 14 from 9-11:30 am in the Faith Center. Join us for a community simulcast presentation of a joint Advent service with Christmas Lutheran, Bethlehem, West Bank and Episcopal Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA.

Altar Flowers— Given to the glory of God and in memory of John Stanley Ryser by Jim Ryser.

Baptismal Font Flowers—Given to the glory of God and in memory of Fran Hoke by her son Jerry Benson and family. A service of remembrance will follow immediately after worship in the Sanctuary.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God.

Prelude

Once He Came In Blessing

Setting by Michael Burkhardt

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,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✚ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Come, our hearts are waiting for you, Come, Redeemer, come and bring
peace and hope and joy forever, love is here! Our hearts will sing!
Help us as we work together, your great kingdom to proclaim.
Where we'll live in light and splendor—praising always your great Name.

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.**

Prayer of the Day*

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

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Welcome and Announcements**Lighting of the Advent Candle—Ken and Kat Clifton**

♩ = 82

Peace, rest - less soul. Hope, wear - y heart. Light in - to a

6

trou - bled world, come, Je - sus, come.

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Word

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

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

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

Invitation to Children’s Worship—All elementary-aged children are invited to Children’s Worship. Please gather at the Baptismal Font.

Congregational Response*

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a congregational response. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system has a melody in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' are written below the treble staff. The second system follows the same format with the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. Both systems end with a double bar line and a common time signature 'C'.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke*

Luke 21:25-36

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The image shows a single line of musical notation in the key of D major (one sharp). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics 'Glo - ry to you, O Lord.' are written below the staff. The notation includes a common time signature 'C' at the beginning and ends with a double bar line.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly

I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Dan Joyner Miller

Hymn 242*

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

Apostles' Creed* *Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us 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. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession * Each petition ends: "Lord in Your mercy, receive our prayer."

Peace

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

Please be seated

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Could This Be the Day

by Joseph M. Martin

Could this be the day? Could this be the moment?
Could this be the night all our darkness turns to light?
Could this be the day? Could this be the promise?
Could this be our miracle, our music in the night?

Long we have waited, long we have pleaded.
Long we have wandered in darkness and sin.
Long we have waited for your song to begin.

O Come, O come, Emmanuel.
God who holds the sands of time, give us a sign,
Could this be the day? Come!



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Preparation of the Lord's Table. *After the table is prepared, the Congregation stands and sings: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord".*

Offertory Hymn 182*

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord

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

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. ... And join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer with Words of Institution*

The Lord's 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.

Invitation to Communion*

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Please be seated

Distribution of Holy Communion. *All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to receive God's gift of grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion at the altar. Follow the usher's instructions. Wine is served in individual cups. Grape juice and non-gluten wafers are available upon request. Please indicate your preference to the pastor. Those not receiving the sacrament, are invited forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor. **If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.***

Communion Hymn

Lamb of God

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Lamb of God' in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

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.

Hymn 247	<i>Come Now, O Prince of Peace</i>	
Piano Meditation	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	Setting by John Carter
	Janie Rollins, Piano	
Hymn 753	<i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i> (Grant Us Peace)	

Post Communion Blessing*

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

Prayer after Communion*

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**



Sending

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

Benediction*

Sending Hymn 239*+

Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

Dismissal*

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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Worship Participants

Order of St John's:

Acolytes—Bell Brady and Noah Trick

Reader: Linda Bryant

Crucifer—Katie Ann Dangerfield

Banner Bearer—Lilly Dangerfield

Order Deadline is Friday, December 13

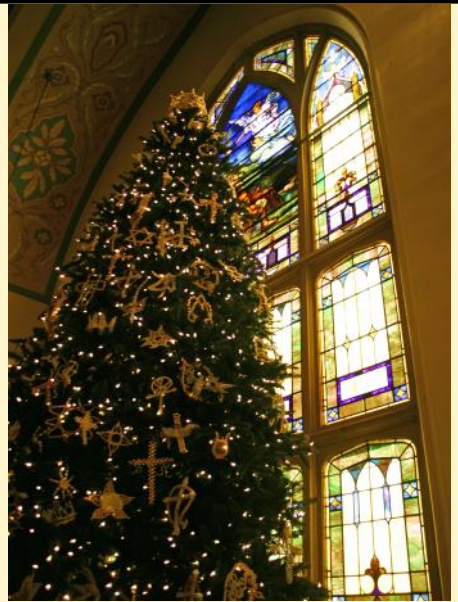
2024 Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths

Given by _____

	Price	In Memory of....	In Honor of....
Poinsettia	\$15.00 each		
Hanging a Wreath	\$25.00 each		
Donation to the Decorations Fund <i>(Helps with purchase of additional flowers and decorations.)</i>	Amount \$ _____		

Christmas at St. John's

CHRISTMAS EVE Tuesday, December 24



4 pm Christmas Eve Family Service—in the Sanctuary. A worship service intentionally designed for children and families. Our children will be leading us in music and youth will help tell the Christmas story! Annual Chrismons will be distributed to all children and youth at this worship. Worship also features Holy Communion. If your family has children or youth, we strongly encourage you to join us for this service!

8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—in Sanctuary. A traditional Lutheran worship service celebrating the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord. Service features a sermon, Holy Communion, and candle lighting. Worship will be led by the St. John's Chancel Choir and brass.

*(4 pm and 8 pm Christmas Eve services will be broadcast via live video stream.
Visit our website at stjohns-salisbury.org and click "Watch Live.")*

11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—in the Chapel.

St. John's Lutheran Church

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 | 704.636.3431
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

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon.....ext. 2080
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Assistant Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Bell Choirs.....Kimberly Lentz
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins.....ext. 2190
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard, Jr., deacon

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer.....ext. 2020
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds), DirectorGina Phifer.....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
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg.....ext. 2070
Custodian.....Brandt Cozad



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