

St. John's Lutheran Church
Conover, NC
October 26, 2025
Reformation Sunday

The Opening Prayer

Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! Walk about Zion, go around her, number her towers, consider well her ramparts, go through her citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. Amen.

The Prelude & Welcome and Announcements

***The Opening Hymn** LSB # 656 "*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*"

The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sins

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Kyrie LSB page 152

The Gloria in Excelsis LSB page 154

The Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Baptismal Hymn LSB # 588 "*Jesus Loves Me*"

Sacrament of Holy Baptism 10:30 svc

*please rise for last verse

The Readings

Revelation 14:6–7

⁶Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Alleluia and Verse LSB page 156

The Holy Gospel LSB page 157

John 8:31–36

³¹So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Children’s Message 8:00 svc

The Sermon Hymn LSB # 578 “*Thy Strong Word*”

The Sermon “*Who Are You A Slave To?*” Based on John 8:31-36

The Nicene Creed 8:00 svc creeds found on inside back cover of hymnal

The Apostles’ Creed 10:30 svc

The Gathering of Our Offerings to God stjohnsconover.com/donate

Special Music 8:00 “*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*” 10:30 “*God With Us*” Handbells

The Offertory LSB page 159

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

The Sacrament of Holy Communion 8:00 svc

Everyone is welcome to come to the Altar. Members and sister LCMS congregations may receive the Lord's body and blood. Visitors may receive a blessing indicated by crossing their arms. Please refer to the Communion Statement found in bulletin.

The Preface LSB page 160

The Sanctus LSB page 161

The Prayer of Thanksgiving LSB page 161

The Words Of Our Lord LSB page 162

The Pax Domini LSB page 163

The Agnus Dei LSB page 163

The Distribution Hymns LSB # 611, LSB # 563 , LSB # 573

The Nunc Dimittis LSB page 165

The Post-Communion Collect LSB page 166

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn LSB # 941 "*We Praise You and Acknowledge You O, God*"

10:30 svc. congregation will join Choir in middle of verse 3

The Silent Prayer

The Sharing of God's Peace

The Postlude

ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

October 26, 2025

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the Glory of God.

EAGLE – Deadline is Thursday by noon

December NEWSLETTER Deadline is Nov. 17

BIRTHDAY WISHES: Oct. 26 – Nov. 2

Oct. 26 Teresa Synan

Jessica Schouweiler

Oct. 27 Shelby Fulbright

Oct. 28 Paula Bolliger

Thad Crawford

Jennifer Robinson

Jim Bostian

Oct. 29 Matt Pitts

Oct. 30 Dylan Baker

Dana Eudy

Oct. 31 Nancy Hilderbran

Buddy Kirkland

Marty Baumgarner

Nov. 1 Sandra Bixby

Sarah Ohmann

Nov. 2 Michael Tripp

Hunter McCartney

COMMUNION STATEMENT

The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His Table those who trust His words, repent of all sins, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a public witness of our oneness in the faith and teaching, which is confessed at this Altar, we respectfully request that only Communicant members of congregations of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or of congregations in Altar and Pulpit Fellowship participate in the Sacrament. Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or visitors desiring to commune for the first time are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to the service. If you will be partaking of Holy Communion today, you may wish to read Luther's "Questions with their Answers" on pages 329-330 of the LSB to help you prepare for the Sacrament. There are also prayers for before and after communion in the inside cover of the LSB. *Adults and children who are not confirmed, may come to the altar for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest at the altar to indicate your desire for a blessing.*

We **WELCOME ALL GUESTS AND VISITORS** to our worship service today! We are glad to have you join us and pray that you will be blessed during our time together. Please sign our guest book in the narthex before leaving. Please come and join us again!

NURSERY HELPERS

Oct. 26 Tammy Yount

Nov. 2 Ashley Bolch

Nov. 9 Juanita Propst

ELDER FOR MONTH Ken Hilderbran

November Myron Yount

ELDERS FOR COMMUNION 8:00 Jason Sain

10:30 Jordan Sample

November 8:00 Ken Hilderbran 10:30 Rex Sigmon

USHERS 8:00 Jamie Sigmon, Ryan & Lowell Spleet, Scott Powell

10:30 Kirk & Dawson Cater, Jim Witherspoon

November 8:00 Todd Sigmon, Mike Sigmon, Jeff Houser

10:30 Myron Yount, Fred Crump, Dwight Gryder, Chris Newsome, Jordan Sample

ACOLYTES 8:00 Kailani Sigmon 10:30 Max Hoffman & Sam Hoffman

November 8:00 Cadence Stephens 10:30 Evie Gobe & Ella Jones Nov. 26th Ryan Johnson

The **NURSERY IS AVAILABLE** for the 10:30 service. Please feel free to bring your small children to it so that you can return to and enjoy the service.

SHARING CENTER – Tuesdays - 2:30-4:00 (disabled & 65 and older) & 5:30-7:00 for everyone

BLAST – Preschool through 5th Grade children's program on Wednesday nights (dinner 5:45 pm).

BAPTIZED in the 10:30 service today is *Lance Thomas Spleet*, newborn son of Ryan & Jennifer Spleet. May God keep Lance ever strong in his baptismal faith in our Savior Jesus and enable his parents to keep the wonderful promise they make today.

2026 OFFICERS

President Ryan Spleet

Vice President Douglas Travis Jr.

Secretary Amanda O'Keefe

Treasurer Mary Jennings

Financial Secretary Kim Tripp

Sunday School Superintendent Paula Canipe

Assistant S.S. Ciara Carriker

Elders Josh Sigmon, Jerry Icenhour, Jamie Sigmon, Josh Robertson

Deacons Hal Johnson, Jacob Moose, Jake Bandy

SAFE HARBOR FUNDRAISER (TODAY 12PM TO 5PM) At the Hickory Fairgrounds, St. John's will have the food truck at a trunk or treat event hosted by the Defiant Brotherhood MC International Chapter. The event is free and the kids get to have fun. All sales from our food truck will be going to Safe Harbor (a women's shelter). Please consider coming out to support this wonderful organization and have some good food.

QUILTER'S GROUP - Thursdays 10am - 1pm in the Good Shepherd Room.

CLOSET CLEANOUT AND REALOTMENT Any organization that has anything stored in the old LOGOS closet near the parlor or in the handbell closet in the upstairs assembly room is asked to remove any extra supplies by November 1st. Anything left after that date will be subject to be thrown away. Anyone that needs to store anything in these closets after this date should contact Randy Baker at 215-4214.

NEW MEMBER CONFIRMATION CLASS will be offered on Sunday mornings for those who would like to officially join St. John's. You are welcome to attend this class if you are already a member. Please REGISTER at stjohnsconover.com/join or pastorlagoutine@stjohnsconover.com so that study material might be prepared for you.

TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS THANK YOU DINNER - Come join us **TODAY at 5pm** as our youth and adult leaders **thank the members of St. John's** for all your support to help us attend the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer! We will be having a New Orleans inspired meal as we share our experiences from the trip! There is **no cost** for the meal.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH - Please show your appreciation for the leaders of our flock. Not only are your cards, calls, gifts and messages greatly appreciated, but greatly needed as well. What a blessing they are to us here! Thank you pastors for your dedication to us and our Lord!

I have received a Thrivent Action Grant to send **CARE PACKAGES** to our **COLLEGE STUDENTS**. I am hosting a collection drive for supplies and will be accepting donations in the Parish Hall *Today*. The theme is "Hug in a Mug." To help you can do any of the following:

- A. Pray for our college students especially during the stressful time of midterms and finals
- B. Donate money to help with supplies or shipping expenses
- C. Donate items for the boxes: new mugs, packs of hot chocolate, teas or coffees, and related items like marshmallows or stir sticks.
- D. Send a card or box yourself to any of our college students. Contact *Kathy Harris* for details.

BE A PRAYER PARTNER FOR A PRESCHOOLER! - We'd love your help surrounding our preschoolers with prayer! Each child will be paired with a special prayer partner who will commit to praying for them regularly. It's a sweet and simple way to bless our littlest learners and their families. If you'd like to be a prayer partner, please stop by the parish hall to sign up or contact Megan Baker at (see paper bulletin). If all students get taken, I will double up and give students multiple prayer partners. The more the merrier! Let's show our preschoolers how loved and prayed for they are!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are located to the left of the usher's table. Please return bags so each Sunday bags will be available.

COLLEGE STUDENTS ADDRESSES NEEDED: Are you a current college student? Or do you have a college student in your family? If so, please email secreterary@stjohnsconover.com with the address for this school year (even if you have provided it in the past).

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY will meet in the library at 11am and would love to have you join us for Bible study and fellowship. Please call Dana Drum at (see paper bulletin) if you have questions.

If you would like to serve as a **SUNSHINE LADY**, please contact *Leigh Ann Trent*.

THE PSALMS – A MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY – *Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm – 7:30pm*. The emphasis of this study will be on developing a familiarity with reading the Psalms as poetry and using them in our daily devotional life of prayer and meditation on God's Word.

HELP NEEDED in Sharing Center! - There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for those who could help. We need 2 hours of your time once a month. Financial donations are also appreciated.

The **MAMA BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will meet *Saturday, Nov. 8th 9-11am* in the conference room upstairs. Please join us for fellowship, prayer, and time in the Word. If you're able, bring a brunch dish to share. Contact Dani Self (see paper bulletin) or Megan Baker (see paper bulletin) with questions.

CPR CLASS – There is a signup in the Parish Hall for a CPR class on November 2nd from 2-4 in the Joy Room. If you are just wanting a hands on learning this is a free class; if you need to get certified let us know and you would have to pay for a card but the class would be free. You never know when you may need to us this living saving technique.

The **DAILY WALK BIBLE STUDY** will be led by Jeff and Diane Holchin on *Tuesday nights at 7 pm* in the library. We will focus on the New Testament in 2025. Daily Walk Bibles are available for \$15 and you can contact Jeff at (see paper bulletin) with questions.

MISSION AND VISION THEME

Equip: We will equip all for the Christian life. (Ephesians 4:10-16)

Engage: We will engage with all people to be all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

Encourage: We will continuously encourage one another in our faith. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Endure: Everything changes, but the Word of God will endure forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

Mission Team is **NEEDING VOLUNTEERS** to help make biscuits that are served on Sunday mornings. If you are able to help, please contact Rickelle Robertson (see paper bulletin), Linda Travis (see paper bulletin) or Dana Drum (see paper bulletin).

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

Laura Yount

Morgan Moose

Abby Moose

Shiasia Jefferi

Ian Smith 13

Jack Hoffman

Adam Brunner

Hailie Moto 3

Kylie Clevelan

Payton Mann

Corey Canipe

Ben Harris 24

St John's is **re-establishing** it's LLL, **LUTHERAN LAYMAN'S LEAGUE**. Our aim is for men to engage in church activities beyond Sunday services by encouraging them to share their faith in their communities. Men interested in joining, please talk with Chris Slaughter (see paper bulletin).



NEWS from *Katelyn Houser*- click on the QR code to read what has been going on!! Katelyn is serving in San Juan de la Maguana, Dominican Republic with Solid Rock International. Please keep her in your prayers and if you **FEEL LED TO SPONSOR HER** visit <https://bit.ly/KHouserSRI>. All gifts made through the link are tax deductible.

We will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas.

If you would like to reserve a flower(s) in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out form and place it in the offering plate. Plants will be \$9.00 each.

***The deadline for ordering flowers will be Nov. 9th.**

Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of Flowers ordered: _____

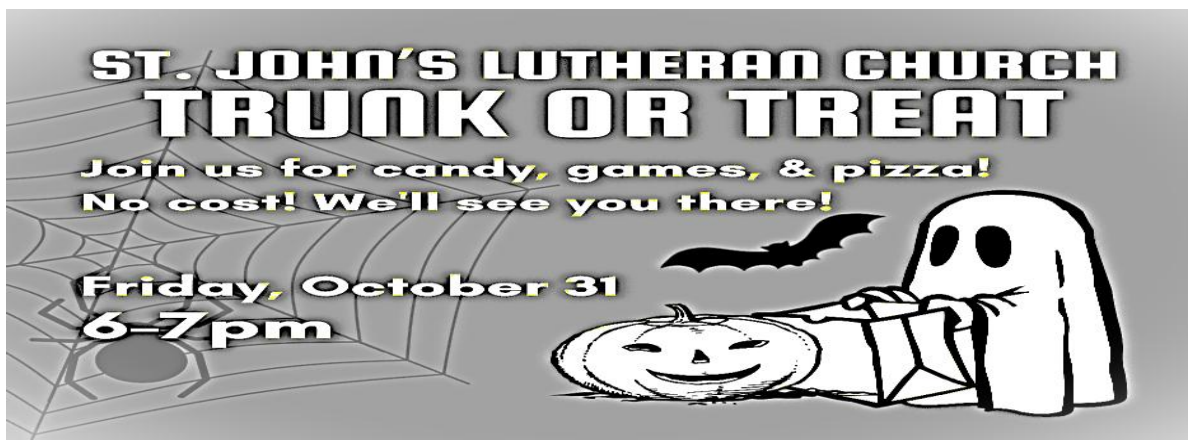
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Boxes and Basic Supplies Available October 19th

We will once again be collecting shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child program. Preprinted boxes will be available in the Parish Hall. Thanks to generous donors and a Thrivent grant, we also have basic school supply and hygiene items for you to take to help fill the boxes. You will only need to add the fun stuff – toys, flashlights, jewelry, calculators, etc. and the shipping costs (\$10). There are many ways you can help –

- Take an empty box and fill it and add the shipping costs.
- Donate some of the basic supplies. Our biggest needs are toothbrushes, hairbrushes, hair accessories, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, note pads, coloring books.
- Donate cash or checks to help purchase supplies or for shipping. We have been able to pack some complete boxes using Thrivent cards. We need people to "adopt" these boxes by paying at least \$10 per box for shipping. Checks should be made payable to Samaritan's Purse with Operation Christmas Child on the memo line if you want them to go towards shipping or they can be made payable to St. John's with Operation Christmas Child on the memo line if you want us to use them to purchase supplies.
- Pray for the children receiving the boxes.

New this year - *Soap is no longer allowed* in the boxes due to customs regulations in some of the recipient countries.

Boxes will be **due back no later than November 23rd immediately following the 10:30 service**. If you have any questions, please call Dana Drum. Last year we collected 83 boxes. Let's try to bring our collection #'s up so that we can share the love and joy of Jesus with more children this year.



CANDY for Trunk-or-Treat Games - We are collecting candy donations to be given out as prizes for games at the Trunk-or-Treat! Please drop off donations in the box in the Parish Hall.

Goals 2025

1. We will strive to create a Mission Statement to define all our efforts at St. John's, allowing us to sharpen our focus on youth, missions, building needs, community and God's overall Kingdom.
2. We will strive to support Pastor Lagoutine and Pastor Self by faithfully attending church services, praying for their ministry and seeking ways to offer assistance as needed.
3. We will strive to faithfully pray for our church staff and our church officers and continue to be supportive of the efforts to "Lift High the Cross".
4. We will strive to better serve the youth in our church, knowing that our children are the future.
 - a. We will encourage and support our DCE Matt Cochran, our Sunday School, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders and youth groups.
 - b. We will share our talents and gifts God has given to us to ensure that our youth see God working through us.
5. We will strive to continue to invite our friends and neighbors to church and continue to welcome all visitors

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE, Oct. 19 Attendance: 8:00 96 10:30 142 SS 70

Offerings:	Budget:	Missions/Ministry	9,536.57		
		Sunday School	40.00		
					\$ 9,576.57**
Designated Funds:		Building Bridges	120.83		
		Handbells	500.00		
		Helping Hands	50.00		
		LYF	140.00		
		LYF – NYG	20.00		
		Parochial School	75.00		
		Poinsettia	9.00		
		Short Term	10.00		
					\$ 924.83
Building Fund:		Offerings	86.38		
					\$ 86.38
Total Receipts for Oct. 19					\$ 10,587.78

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 464-4071 Website - www.stjohnsconover.com
Pastor Lagoutine@stjohnsconover.com **Matt** Matt@stjohnsconover.com
Secretary Self@stjohnsconover.com **RevSelf** RevSelf@stjohnsconover.com

Rev. Anton Lagoutine (see paper bulletin)	Rev. Luke Self (see paper bulletin)
Ryan Spleet– President (see paper bulletin)	Chuck Miller – Chairman of Elders (see paper bulletin)
Matt Cochran—DCE (see paper bulletin)	Bruce Ingle– Organist (see paper bulletin)
Derek Baker- Music Director (see paper bulletin)	Mark Hefner – Deacon (see paper bulletin)

paper bulletin)

Scott Hollo – Head Usher 8:00 svc (see paper bulletin) Jennifer Cater - Sunday School (see paper bulletin)

Jason Sain – Head Usher 10:30 svc (see paper bulletin) Chris Slaughter – Acolyte (see paper bulletin)

Chastity Arndt – Church Secretary (see paper bulletin) Megan Baker – Preschool (see paper bulletin)



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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Oct. 26

Early Worship 8:00 am
Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15am
Worship 10:30 am
NYG Thank You Dinner 5 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Women's Bible Study 11:00 am
Daily Bible Study 7:00pm

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Men's Bible Study 8:30 am
Women's Bible Study 9:30 am
Blast 5:45 pm
Psalms Bible Study 6:30 pm

Thursday, Oct. 30

Quilters 10:00 – 1:00

Friday, Oct. 31

Trunk or Treat 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sunday, Nov. 2

Early Worship 8:00 am
Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15am
Worship 10:30 am
CPR Class 2:00 pm