



St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Confirmation Sunday
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026
8 a.m. Worship



Regarding Holy Communion, the scriptures teach that in this sacramental meal, our Lord gives His own true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. In the forgiveness of our sins we become partakers of the new covenant in His blood. For this reason, scripture also teaches that anyone who receives the sacrament ought to examine himself (see 1 Cor. 11:17-29). To that end, we encourage all who receive the sacrament regularly to make use of the literature provided for this purpose and to regularly visit with the pastor personally.

For guests and visitors: If you are a member of a Missouri Synod church or a church which shares fellowship with the Missouri Synod, you are welcome to commune with us. If not, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing while the sacrament is being given out (Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of you). If you would like a pastoral exception, please arrange for a meeting with the pastor.

Living into New Life

We rejoice that Christ's victory over death opens our hearts to new life in Him, guiding us to bear fruit that lasts. As we gather for Confirmation Sunday, we celebrate the Spirit's transforming presence in and through those affirming faith, inviting all of us to renewed commitment, joyous welcome, and shared mission in God's redeeming love. May we be strengthened to live as witnesses of hope, grace, and peace in the world God loves.

Preparation for Worship and Welcome

Hymn

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

LSB 687

- 1 Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!
- 2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend,
O defend us to the end!
- 3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.
- 4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.
- 5 Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Exhortation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

- 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.**

Confession and Absolution

- 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.**

Introit

Ps. 30:1-5; antiphon: Ps. 149:1

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

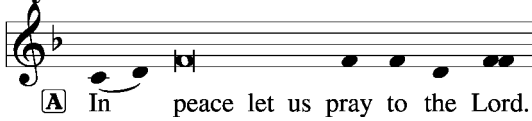
For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!

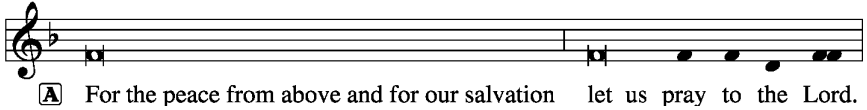
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



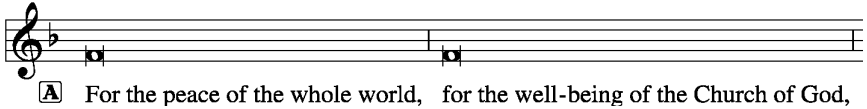
C Lord, have mer - cy.



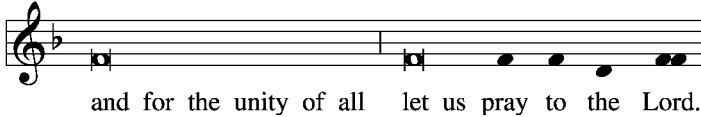
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



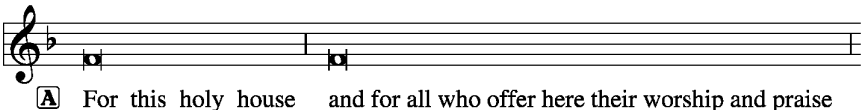
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



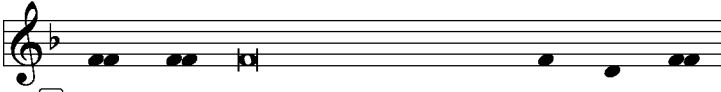
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast

Refrain



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has he -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen...And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran..." "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you

always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Common Alleluia and Verse

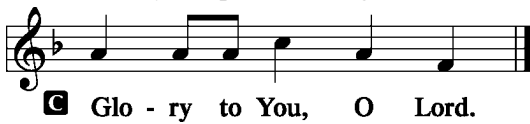


C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Anna Kruger

Hymn

“The Son of God Goes Forth to War”

LSB 661

1 The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar;
Who follows in His train?

Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below—
He follows in His train.

2 The martyr first, whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his master in the sky
And called on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue
In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for those who did the wrong—
Who follows in his train?

3 A glorious band, the chosen few,
On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints—their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel,
The lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks their death to feel—
Who follows in their train?

4 A noble army, men and boys,
The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice,
In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in their train!

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
 vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

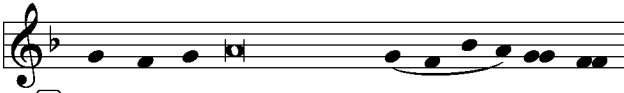
Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



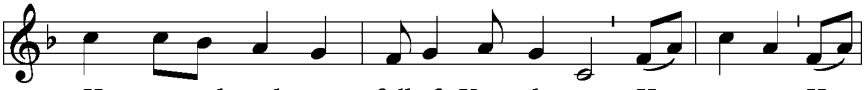
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus



C 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.

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Institution

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei



C 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.

Distribution Hymns

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

LSB 642

1 O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given

Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.

2 My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.

3 You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.

4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Public domain

“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand”

LSB 564

1 Christ sits at God’s right hand,
His saving work complete,
To reign till ev’ry foe will lie
Beneath His feet—
All that the Father planned,
The Son sought to fulfill,
When first He said, “Lord, here am I
To do Your will.”

- 2 Christ was that priest God swore,
Uniquely First and Last,
Who would in righteousness and love
Be unsurpassed:
“A priest forevermore,”
An oath God would not break,
“A priest within the order of
Melchizedek.”
- 3 Christ’s altar was the tree,
Where on the world’s behalf
He shed a blood, unlike the blood
Of goat or calf,
To seal God’s guarantee
Of grace that cannot fail;
With blood He entered for our good
Behind the veil.
- 4 What costly sacrifice
To cover human sin!
Who but Christ Jesus had the right
To enter in?
His blood, that sprinkled price,
So we might be assured
That our inheritance in light
Has been secured.
- 5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus’ blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,
And trust anew God’s faithful grace
That we confess.
- △ 6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,

Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

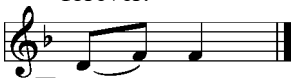


with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and ☩ give thee peace.



C A - men.

Hymn

“Built on the Rock”

LSB 645

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
“I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

Text: Public domain

Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the risen Christ meet you in every moment of your week, filling you with hope, courage, and peace. May the Holy Spirit seal God's promises on your heart and guide your steps in love.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Confirmation Class 2026

Adalena Kathleen Allen

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Baptized: November 23, 2011

Ashley Brown

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me." John 14:6

Baptized: October 2, 2011

Sophia Wasson

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

Baptized: June 9, 2012

Regan Martin

"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:12-13

Baptized: June 3rd, 2012

Hannah Lewis

"Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us.'" John 14:8

Baptized: April 15, 2012

Ian Quoss

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Acts 16:31

Baptized: February 24, 2013

Raiden Peacock

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Baptized: January 13, 2013

Charlie Abbate

"And it shall come to pass in that day, declares the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and I will burst your bonds, and foreigners shall no more make a servant of him. But they shall serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them."

Jeremiah 30:8-9

Baptized: March 10, 2013

Announcements

National Day of Prayer –Thursday, May 7th, 2026

“Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations”

1 Chronicles 16:24

Every year thousands of people gather across our country to pray for our Communities, our State and our Nation. This year our St. John’s prayer team invites you to join us as we pray with our community seeking our Lord’s guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us.

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

Our prayer team invites you to join us by praying with us for “30 Days of Prayer.” Also, we invite you to come with us on Thursday, May 7th to the local prayer event held at noon outside the Midland County Courthouse. Mark your calendars, more specific information will be shared as plans are finalized.

LifeClinic Baby Bottle Fundraiser will begin next week, Mother's Day, and run until Father's Day. Please pick up a baby bottle in the church lounge after Sunday worship (Saturday night worship - get one from the bin in the office). Fill with coins, bills or a check made out to LifeClinic Community Resources and return to the church office by Father's Day. Your money goes to supporting new moms through pregnancy testing, options counseling, parenting education and baby supplies.

Women of St. John's will be meeting on Monday, May 11 at 12:30pm in Room 2. This will be our last meeting until September. Please join us if you are able.

*Altar flowers are given in celebration of
Teacher Appreciation Week!*

Courtesy of the SJL Board of Education

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School
Website QRC:



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Church Secretary: Kate, Carissa,
Kathy
(ext. 1203)

Senior Pastor: Daniel Kempin
(ext. 1201)

Associate Pastor: Joshua Parsons
(ext. 1202)

Dir. of Family Life: Anna Kruger
(ext. 1204)

School Secretary: Sarah Graham
(ext. 1301)

School Principal: Brad Massey
(ext. 1300)

Business Manager: Kris Zastrow
(ext. 1206)

Dir. of Worship Music: Karen Kempin
(ext. 1205)

Our Mission Statement

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."