

St. John's Lutheran Church

Conover, NC

July 26, 2026

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude & Welcome and Announcements

***Opening Hymn** LSB # 915 *"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"*

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins and Absolution

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

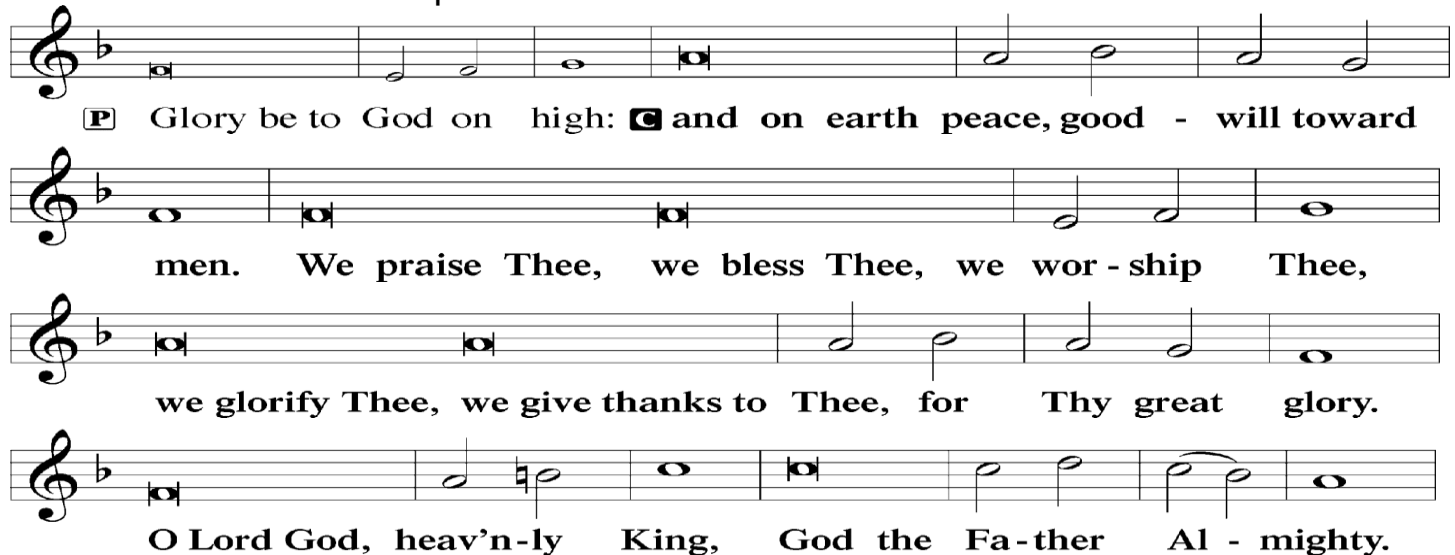
C: Amen.

Kyrie LSB p. 186



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB p. 187



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

*please rise on last verse



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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 # 592 "*Dearest Jesus, We are Here*" 10:30

The Holy Baptism LSB p. 268

Readings

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶"For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful

God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸ We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Matthew 13:44–52

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message 10:30 svc

Sermon Hymn LSB #719 "*I Leave All Things to God's Direction*"

Sermon "*If God is For Us, Who Can be Against Us?*" based on Romans 8:28–39

Nicene Creed 8:00 *creeds are found inside the back cover of the hymnal*

Apostles' Creed 10:30

Gathering of Our Offerings to God stjohnsconover.com/donate

Special Music

Response Hymn LSB #732 *“All Depends on Our Possessing”*

Prayer of the Church

Sacrament of Holy Communion 8:00 svc

Everyone is welcome to come to the Altar. Members of St. John’s 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.

Preface LSB 194

Sanctus LSB 195

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini LSB 197

Agnus Dei LSB 198

Distribution Hymns

LSB # 602 “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”

LSB # 620 “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB # 623 “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

Nunc Dimittis LSB 199

Post Communion Collect LSB 201

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 # 763 *“When Peace, like a River”*

Silent Prayer

Sharing of God’s Peace

Postlude

ST. JOHN'S EAGLE

July 26, 2026

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers are given to the Glory of God.

EAGLE – Deadline is Thursday by noon

September **NEWSLETTER** Deadline is August 24

BIRTHDAY WISHES: July 26 – Aug. 2

July 26 Chad Stephens

Brandon Canipe

Maggie Christenbury

Tammy Rhyne

July 27 Lisa Baker

Hadleigh Brown

Penelope Engle

Jace Weaver

July 28 Tim Canipe Sr.

Richard Elrod

Jereme Sigmon

Alvin Smith

Debbie Cline

Tonie Brittain

Bryan Newsome

July 29 Anita Gryder

Victoria Watson

July 31 Daniel Little

Shirley Moose

Lanny Jolly

Aug. 1 Tina Holler

Amy Yount

Luke Herring

Kyle Ohmann

Geena See

Clara Eudy

Stephen Zerbe

Aug. 2 Chuck Miller

Taylor Price

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

26th Stephanie Weber & Megan Baker

2nd Monica Baker

9th Todd & Amanda Goulds

USHERS 8:00 Clyde & Logan Whitener

10:30 Robert Trent, Scott & Michael Weber

August 8:00 Jerry Icenhour 10:30 Darrow, Jake, & Keith Mann, Charles Poovey Jason Sigmon,
Bryan Smith

ACOLYTES 8:00 Cadence Stephens 10:30 Ella Jones & Ashleigh Nichols

August 8:00 Allen O'Keefe 10:30 Jenna Sain & Kaylee Lagoutine

ELDERS FOR COMMUNION 8:00 Jerry Icenhour 10:30 Scott Weber

August 8:00 Michael Tripp 10:30 Scott Hollo

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.

BAPTIZED in the 10:30 service is *Madison Grant Beehler*, son of Benjamin & Makenna Beehler. Madison's sponsors are Joseph & Sierra Sessoms. May God keep Madison ever strong in his baptismal faith in our Savior Jesus and enable his parents and sponsors to keep the wonderful promise they make today.

2027 BUDGET

Budget considerations for 2027 need to be given to the Board of Finance no later than August 7th.

LISTENING TO THE STORYTELLER: SUMMER FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us the Joy Room at 9:30am on Sundays through August as we study together the parables of Jesus! Parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren all learning with each other! Smaller families and individuals can be paired at tables together. Come join us even if you've missed weeks for vacation! Adult Sunday School will still be going on in the Chapel.

The **CHOIR, HANDBELLS, and ANYONE** who is, was, or is interested in **helping with music** at church are invited to a summer get together on **TODAY** from 3:00-5:00 in the Joy Room. There will be information about upcoming music for the year and this year will also be a **SEND-OFF** for Keith and Karen as they prepare to move to SC. All we ask is to bring an appetizer or snack. If you have any questions please ask Kathy, Kelley, or Melinda.

The **MAMA BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will meet *Friday, August 14th, 8-10pm* (Place TBD). Join us for fellowship, prayer, and time in the Word. If you're able, bring an appetizer to share. Contact Dani Self ((contact church office) or Megan Baker ((contact church office) with questions

There will be a new **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** starting in July called the Sons of Solomon. No one hands you a manual on how to navigate life. Whether you are building a career, trying to figure out marriage, or trying to raise the next generation, you don't have to do it alone. King Solomon wrote Proverbs as a common sense survival guide for young men. We're getting together to study this book of wisdom, to share personal wisdom and see how we can apply it to our everyday life. We will be meeting the fourth Friday of every month at 8:00 pm, starting on *August 28th* at Pastor Self's house. If you have any questions or would like to join, contact Pastor Self at ((contact church office).

CALL TO MINISTRY

Born into a Lutheran farming family in Mooresville, NC, in 2004, *Ben Starnes* felt a steady call to ministry throughout his high school years. In 2024, he found his home in the LCMS at St. John's. This fall, Ben will begin his journey toward the pastorate at Concordia Theological Seminary. During his years at the Seminary, St. John's will be supporting Ben through prayer and with financial gifts. If you would like to know how you can help support Ben please talk to Pastor Self.

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

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

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

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL is currently enrolling students for the 2026-2027 school year. To enroll, contact Megan Baker at (contact church office) or email at sjlcprek@gmail.com.

SHARING CENTER is **IN NEED** of *children's clothing (all sizes), toys (new and in good condition), diapers (sizes 3, 4, & 5), teenagers clothing, hygiene items (especially deodorant)*. If you are able to help, please leave items in the shopping cart in the parish hall. Thank you in advance.

Mission Team is **NEEDING VOLUNTEERS** to help make biscuits. If you are able to help, please contact Rickelle Robertson (contact church office), Linda Travis 312-8277 or Dana Drum 244-0487.

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 **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 (contact church office) with questions.



NEWS from *Katelyn Houser*- click on the QR code to read what has been going on!! She 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.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - Now that the back-to-school sales on supplies have begun, please keep the Operation Christmas Child project in mind as you shop. We had great success with members sponsoring already-packed boxes last year and I hope to have the same or better success with that this year. In order to make that happen, I need crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, notebooks, notebook paper, colored pencils, and markers to fill the boxes. Could you help by purchasing an item or two and leaving it in the box in front of the nursery? If you are planning to pack a box yourself, this is a great time to buy your supplies. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry! Call Dana Drum at (contact church office) if you have 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)

Please keep the following members of **ST. JOHN'S MISSION TEAM** in your **prayers**
Deering (July): Dana Drum, Rebekah Drum, Kathy Harris, Abby Albert, Amy Yount, Emma Yount, Payten Mann

Teen Camp (July): Heather Bassett, Rebekah Drum, Amy Holchin, Ben Harris, Dara Brunner

2026 GOALS

- *We will "Equip, Engage, Encourage, and Endure."
- *We will support Pastor Lagoutine and Pastor Self by faithfully attending church services, praying for their ministries and seeking ways to offer assistance as needed.
- *We will encourage and support our DCE Matt Cochran, our Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, youth groups, and adult Bible study groups by attending regularly.
- *We will support our preschool leaders Megan Baker, Vanessa Travis, and volunteers and pray for its continued growth.
- *We will faithfully pray for our church staff and church officers and continue to be supportive of the efforts here to "Lift High the Cross."

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE, July 19		Attendance:	8:00 114	10:30 154	SS 76
Offerings:	Budget:	Missions/Ministry	10,181.25		
		Sunday School	20.00		
		Reimbursement	60.00		
		Thrivent Choice	41.00		
				\$10,302.25 **	(needed weekly 15,240)
Designated Funds:		Cemetery	40.00		
		Education Fund (starnes)	7,000.00		
		Food Pantry	70.00		
		LLL	40.00		
		Misc In/Out	53.00		
		Short Term	930.00	\$ 8,133.00	
Building Fund:		Offerings	297.23	\$ 297.23	

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

Rev. Anton Lagoutine (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Rev. Luke Self
Ryan Spleet– President (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Michael Tripp – Chairman of Elders
Matt Cochran—DCE (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Bruce Ingle– Organist
Derek Baker- Music Director (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Matthew Ingle – Deacon
Scott Hollo – Head Usher 8:00 svc (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Paula Canipe - Sunday School
Jason Sain – Head Usher 10:30 svc (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Jamie Sigmon – Acolyte
Chastity Arndt – Church Secretary (contact church office)	(contact church office)	Megan Baker – Preschool



St. John's Building: Immediate Major Needs

The last voters meeting it was discussed to send out a survey to the congregation assessing the desire to either: build a new building, expand the current gym, or simply remodel and update the gym (*surveys are due by the end of August*). The church has several big ticket items that will be in need of replacement now and in the coming years, as well as some general maintenance that needs to be done on the main building. The building committee would like to bring these items to everyone's attention.

Financial Status

- Current Building Fund Balance: \$183,807 Current Building Fund CDs: \$197,143.46

Immediate & Upcoming "Big-Ticket" Needs

- Main Building Chiller: Over 20 years old; estimated replacement cost of \$270,000.
- Gym AC Units: Replacement approved by voters; quoted at \$70,000.
- Roof (Sanctuary & Main Building): Future replacement estimated at \$100,000+. (Note: This is currently funded by a generous \$100,000 donation).

General Maintenance & Ongoing Projects

- Wall Repairs: Inspection and repair of cracks throughout the church.
- Interior Refresh: Painting and wall repairs needed for the entire main building.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support these efforts as we continue to steward the facilities God has blessed us with. If you feel called to contribute to the building fund please consider it supplemental to your tithe in order for us to continue the mission and ministry of the church.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, July 26

Early Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15am

Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, July 28

Daily Bible Study 7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 29

Men's Bible Study 8:30 am

Thursday, July 30

Quilters 10:00 am

Sunday, Aug. 2

Early Worship 8:00 am

Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15am

Worship 10:30 am

LLL 9:00 am