

*"A God of Second Chances"*

## **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 5, 2010 ♦ 11:00 service



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
Salisbury, North Carolina

# Welcome to St. John's!

*Please note that today's service is printed entirely in this worship booklet.  
Occasionally you will be invited to turn to a hymn  
in the cranberry-colored book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!** We hope that you will feel a warm sense of welcome today. If you are without a church home, we invite you to become a part of the ministry of St. John's. Please complete the Friendship Pad found on the pew so that we might get to know one another better. For more information, visit our website at [www.stjohns-salisbury.org](http://www.stjohns-salisbury.org).

**HOLY COMMUNION** is offered on the first and third Sundays at the 11:00 service, and on the second and fourth Sundays at the 8:30 service. All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to the Table to receive God's gift of grace through his body and blood. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing. Following the ushers' instructions, proceed down the aisle to the front of the church.

For those with special needs, please note the availability of grape juice (in the center of the communion tray) and non-gluten wafers (by indicating your preference to the pastor). Persons with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew. Welcome to the Lord's Table!

**SMALL CHILDREN** are always welcome at worship, although a nursery for infants through age 5 is provided in the educational building for your convenience. Please ask an usher to direct you to the building. Pagers are available for your peace of mind.

**ST. JOHN'S IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE** to those with physical restrictions. An elevator to the sanctuary is located along the side entrance of the church. Hearing aids and audio loops are available at the 11:00 service. Large print bulletins are available at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Our ushers will be glad to assist you.

**RALLY DAY IS NEXT WEEK!** A new year of Sunday School for all ages begins September 12 at 10:00. We will meet in the fellowship hall (below the main sanctuary), introduce teachers, and divide into our various classes. Join us!



**SESG begins with SEEK God's purpose**

# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The congregation's responses are in **bold**. All hymns are found in the cranberry worship book, unless otherwise noted.

**Prelude**

*Rondel*

Charles Callahan

**Welcome** *Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to your neighbor in the pew.*

*Please stand.*

**Call to Worship.** *Ringing of the St John's bell*

## Prayers of Confession

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

We depend on the goodness of God with every breath we take. The world depends upon the mercy of God with each new day. Unfortunately, there are many things that pull us and the world away from God's goodness. It is appropriate, then, to begin worship giving thanks for God and confessing that which keeps us separated from him and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God

**we confess before you our own sinfulness:**

**we have hungered after that which does not satisfy;**

**we have struggled with temptation;**

**we have doubted your power to protect us.**

**Forgive our sins; have mercy on our weakness.**

**Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways**

**and delight in doing your will.**

**Song of Confession:** "Lamb of God".

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.

## God's Promise of Forgiveness

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ.** *Having been reconciled with Jesus through Confession and Forgiveness, let us now reconcile ourselves with one another by sharing the peace. "The peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you."*

## Hymn #870

*We Praise You, O God*

KREMSER

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. In our worship this day, open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Praise God In His Holiness*  
(From Psalm 150)

Geoffrey Shaw

Praise God in His holiness: Praise Him in the firmament of His pow'r.  
Praise Him in His noble acts: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.  
Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet:  
Praise Him upon the lute and the harp.  
Praise Him in the cymbals and dances.  
Praise Him upon the strings and pipe.  
Praise God in His holiness: Praise Him in the firmament of His pow'r.  
Praise Him upon the well tuned cymbals: Praise Him with the loud cymbals.  
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

*Please be seated.*

# Word

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

**Reading** Philemon 1-21 (*page 1090 in your pew Bible*)

*In today's reading, Paul is writing to Philemon, the owner of a slave, Onesimus. Note Paul's appeal to Philemon for Christian love and compassion.*

*P*aul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother: To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker.

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self.

<sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

<sup>22</sup>One thing more — prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

<sup>23</sup>Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, <sup>24</sup>and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

<sup>25</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

### Gospel Acclamation

### Celtic Alleluia

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

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

al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel** Luke 14:27-32 (*page 954 in your pew Bible*)

**W**hoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Response**      (*repeat Alleluia verse on page 5*)

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Rhodes Woolly

*Please stand.*

**Hymn**

*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

*(found on page 10 of this bulletin)*

**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. **Hear our prayer.**"*

*Please be seated.*

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Collection of our Tithes and Offerings and the Preparation of the Lord's Table.

Musical Offertory

*My Life Flows On In Endless Song*  
(Rosemary Kinard-flute, Rob Durocher-piano)

Arr. Ellingboe

Offertory Hymn

*As the gifts are presented at the altar, the congregation stands and sings the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

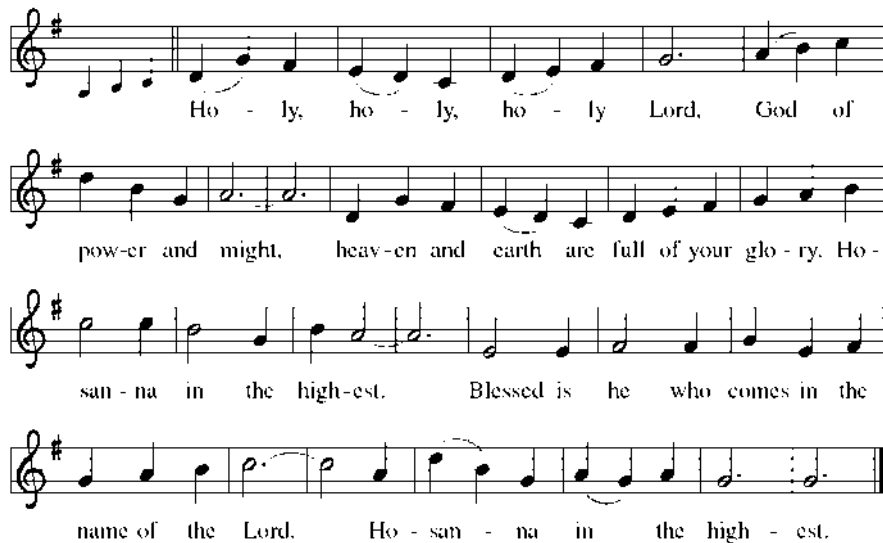
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### **Eucharistic Prayer, followed by 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Distribution of Holy Communion.** *All baptized and communing Christians are welcome to the Table to receive God's gift of grace through his body and blood. Those not communing are invited forward for a spoken blessing. Following the ushers' instructions, proceed down the aisle to the front of the church.*



*For those with special needs, please note the availability of grape juice (in the center of the communion tray) and non-gluten wafers (by indicating your preference to the pastor). Persons with walking difficulties may receive the bread and wine by sitting in the reserved front pew.*

*Welcome to the Lord's Table!*

Hymn #336                      *Lamb of God*

**Communion Hymns:**

#472                      *Eat This Bread*

#466                      *In the Singing*

#763                      *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (verses 1 and 4)

*Following the distribution of communion, please stand for the blessing:*

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

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

### **Benediction**

**Sending Hymn #880**

*O God Beyond All Praising*

THAXTED

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
*Connecting Faith and Life*

# Seek Ye First

1. seek ye - first the -  
2. Ask and its shall be \_\_\_  
3. We do not live by \_\_\_

3  
king - dom of God and its \_\_\_  
giv - en un - to you; seek and \_\_\_  
6 bread a - lone. but by \_\_\_

9  
righ - teous - ness. \_\_\_  
you shall \_\_\_ find; \_\_\_

11  
ev - ery \_\_\_ word \_\_\_  
and all these things shall be  
knock and the door shall be  
that pro - - ceeds from the

add - ded un - to you. Al - le -  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le -  
mouth - of - God. Al - le \_\_\_

14  
lu, al - le - lu - - - ia.  
lu, al - le - lu - - - ia.  
lu, al - le - lu - - - ia.

Music by Karen Lafferty, born 1948,  
copyright 1972 Maranatha! Music, CCLI #942521.

# Church Notes

**SESG BEGINS TODAY!** Be sure to pick up your September Devotional in the narthex.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harold Hoke, by Fran Hoke.

**TODAY IS “BUCK-A-MEAL” SUNDAY.** Please place your \$1 bills in the offering plates for Rowan Helping Ministries. Thanks!

**TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND SHEPHERDS** of the new Spark online curriculum will be held this Thursday, September 9, at 7:00 pm. Parents of children from preschool (beginning age 2 by September 1) to 5th grade are also invited to attend and discover the principles and lessons your children will be learning at St. John's. Other adults who have a heart for God's little ones are also invited to attend this meeting. Those attending will experience firsthand the SPARK online curriculum and see what our children will be learning this year in the new Rotational Workshop Sunday School.

**CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORMS** are available in the tract racks around the church campus. Please consider taking part this important leadership ministry of St John's. All nomination forms are due in the church office by September 15. Please contact Elaine Gerst with any questions or for more information.

**SIGN UPS ARE UNDER WAY** for several upcoming programs at St John's. *Alpha*, Disciple Bible Study, Life Keys and Inquirers classes all will begin in mid-September. Also, please consider signing up as a volunteer to serve as a mentor at Knox Middle School during the upcoming school year. Sign up sheets for all of these are located in the church lobby.

**ONE CHURCH, ONE WEEKEND, ONE PURPOSE, ONE BODY** - We are thrilled that so many of our St. John's members have registered to come together as one during St. John's church-wide retreat, October 15-17. There are a limited number of spaces still available. We would be delighted to have you join us, but need for you to quickly turn in your registration form and non-refundable deposit. The Fellowship Board will soon be finalizing details with Lutheridge and need to be accurate with our information.

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH** are invited to go to the Lenoir-Rhyne vs. Davidson football game this Saturday, September 11. The church bus will leave St John's at 2:00pm for a pre-game cookout at L-R and will return late Saturday night. Contact the church office if you can attend.



## JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**HEALTH & HEALING** — Charlotte Eller, Walter Smith, Mack Wood, Joyce Brady, Katherine Nalle, Cathy Ryerson, Harriet Bolstad, Patsy Medlin, Madison Briggs, Marie Fork, Fran Lawson, Newton Cohen, Frank Andrews, Sam Foy

**GUIDANCE & PROTECTION** — Sarah Bolick, serving with ELCA Global Missions in Israel; those in the military; and our mission partners in Guatemala, Sudan and The Philippines

# Today's Worship Leaders

*\*Indicated 8:30 service*

**PREACHING MINISTER:** Pastor Rhodes Woolly

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** Pastor Jan Huntley

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER:** Tony Lippard

**CANTOR:** Gretchen Witt

**LECTORS:** Clarence Bostian\*, Eleanor Sifford

**ELEMENT BEARERS:** Laura Agner and family

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** Karen Rogers, Dennis Rogers

**ACOLYTES:** Isabella Rusher, Rebecca Agner

**CRUCIFER:** Greg Tonnessen

**WELCOME PLACE GREETER:** Lois Carter

**GREETERS:** Franco & Brenda Goodman, Harold & Stamie Overcash

**AFTER SERVICE GREETERS:** Steve Butner, Bryan Wymbs, Eva White, Paul McNeely

**USHERS: Head Ushers -** Stan Ferguson, Ernie Kirchin

**Team 1E\*:** Tom Childress, Jim Boger

**Team 6:** Gary Epperley—Captain, Darryl Corriher, James Hardin, Larry Phillips,

Horace Rhyne, Jody Sedberry, Luther Sowers, Glenn Terry, Franco Goodman,

Nick Goodman

**COMMUNION PREPARERS:** Fran & Jerry Lawson

**ALTAR GUILD:** Judy Trexler—Captain, Donna Cesario, Cheryl Sjoblom, Angie Greene

**NURSERY CAPTAIN:** Emily Brinskelle

**NURSERY:** Ashlee & James Dangerfield\*, Paula Bohland-Keryluk, Samantha Dagenhart

**P. A. OPERATOR:** Darrell Blackwelder, Mike Agee

Today's service is setting one of the liturgy, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and is reproduced by permission of Augsburg Fortress Liturgies annual license #26999.

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## St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastor for Discipleship and Outreach.....	The Rev. Jan Huntley
Director of Music Ministries .....	Rob Durocher
Associate Parish Musician .....	Rosemary Kinard
Director of Music Emeritus.....	Karl W. Kinard, Jr.
Business Manager .....	Ruth Ann Diehl
Facilities Manager .....	Oscho Ruffy
Office Assistant .....	.Karen Goodman
Office Assistant.....	Margaret Meek
Custodian .....	Sandra Knox