



SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026
10:15 AM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

*The **Bold Print** indicates responses spoken by all.*

The ELW hymns are also found in the red hymnal located in the pew.

THE GATHERING

The Prelude *Prelude/Carol of the Bells* trad./Winston

The Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

THE THANKGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P Blessed are you, O God, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You are the One who makes all things new. To the thirsty you give water from the spring of the water of life. You make the waste-land glad, the desert rejoice and blossom, turning parched ground into a refreshing pool and arid terrain into an overflowing fountain. By the gift of water you nourish and renew all living things.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P In the beginning, when darkness covered the face of the deep, you breathed your Spirit over the waters, calling forth life in abundance. In the time of Noah, when the flood engulfed the earth, you rescued and made a covenant with your creation.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P At the Red Sea, you drove back the waters by the strong wind of your Spirit, opening a path to liberation. You released the children of Israel from the shackles of slavery to dance and sing on the shore of freedom and promise.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P In the fullness of time, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, repenting for the sin of the world and restoring to water its healing work in all creation.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P In the Jordan, you revealed Jesus as the one in whom your soul delights. You anointed him to open the hearts of all people, to rescue those imprisoned by hopelessness or despair, to set free those who sit in darkness, and to bring forth justice to the nations.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P Suffering the baptism of death and resurrection, Jesus set us free from our bondage to sin and death, and gave birth to the New Creation. The crucified and risen Christ stands among us, baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire, enlivening us to proclaim the gospel to all nations, serve you as a royal priesthood, and act as faithful stewards of all that you have made.

C Glory to you, O God, forever and ever.

P Send your Spirit upon us, O God. Unite us with your children of all times and places. Together, may we stand as a sign and foretaste of your Kingdom.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE GATHERING HYMN

Baptized in Water

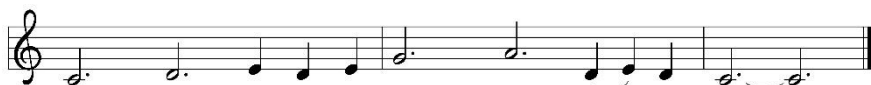
ELW 456



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON—ISAIAH 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND LESSON—ACTS 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

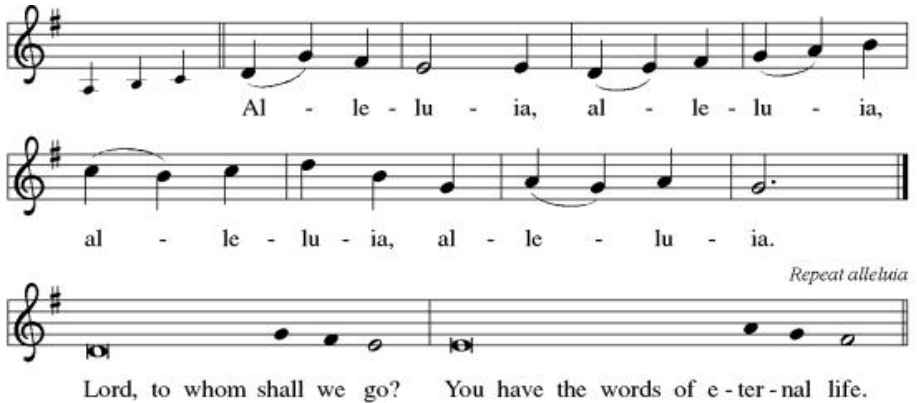
⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW, p. 102



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

THE HOLY GOSPEL—MATTHEW 3:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the third chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Ruthann Mantz



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C **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 again 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

After each petition, please respond:

P ...Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

THE THANKSGIVING

THE ORGAN OFFERTORY *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*
Atkinson arr. Sorenson

THE CHOIR ANTHEM *His Name with Blessed be the Name* arr. Fettke

Please stand as you are able.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Garnaas-Holmes



We give our gifts, O God, as branches of your vine. The
lives we live, the gifts we give spring from your grace di - vine.
So may we do your will, in all we say and do, the
fruits we bear the love we share, flow from our life in you.

Text: Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Music: TERRA BEATA, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

THE THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

C We thank you, O God.

P Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

C We worship you, O God.

P By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

C We praise you, O God.

P Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C (SUNG) Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
 joy like seed and, all our days, to
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
 share a dream and help the blind to see.
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, o.s.b., b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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THE DISMISSAL**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**C** **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Revive Us Again

Husband/arr. McDonald

SERVING OUR PARISH THIS MORNING

Presiding	Ruthann Mantz
Organist/Choir Director	Fawn Albert
Acolyte/Bell Ringer	Layla Truett
Ushers	Doug Keichel (DIC), Lynne Fedorcha, & Jodi Kocher
Lector	Lynne Fedorcha
Camera Operator	Bobbi Jo Kline
Altar Guild	Stephanie Beers

COMMEMORATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

The chancel flowers are presented in honor of Annalise McWilliams’
13th Birthday.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Burlene Balliet, Scott Barhight, Janice Beck, Dolly Cunfer, Kathleen Deibert, Janice Dormida, Linda Durback, Cheryl Hower, Dawson Kunz, Paul L., Carol MacCrimble, Gloria Martin, Maria Mitchell, Bartine Mummey, Preston Raber, Betsy Rauch, Veronica Redline, Ashley Remaly, Hope Roberts, Christine Sigley, Doris Snyder, Ed Stephen, Colson Tkach, Lydia Weaver, Kathy Williams, and Bill Yelland.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: 10:15 AM—67 S.S.—31.

OFFERING LAST WEEK: \$1,644.65

THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES:

Today	9:00 AM—Sunday School 10:15 AM—Service of the Word 8:00 PM—A.A.
Tuesday	11:00 AM—Second Chance Shoppe Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 AM—Chair Yoga 7:00 PM—Choir
Thursday	1:00 PM—Senior Singles 6:00 PM—IMPACT 8:00 PM—A.A.

FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO: Ella Brunner, Shelby Casey, Debbie Cunfer, Shayne Davis, Connor Farrell, Richard Fox, Hali Kuntz, Annalise McWilliams, Julianne Merring, Greyson Rehrig, Heather Rehrig, Cody Shellhammer, Hayden Winch, and Cynthia Young.

HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO: Larry Blose, Cassie Brennand, Allison Chruscial, Judy Muthard, Kyle Wasilkowski, Brandy Ziegler, Chloe Ziegler, Corbin Ziegler, Gabe Ziegler, Justin Ziegler, and Summer Ziegler.

THANK YOU to Ruthann Mantz for leading worship today.

CHRISTMAS BAG HELP NEEDED – The children of the Sunday School and Youth Fellowship class prepared Christmas gift bags for the shut-in/special concerns members of our congregation. We are looking for help delivering the bags. The bags can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall. The list of shut-in/special concerns members and the sign-up sheets are by the bags.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for the February/March newsletter are due in the church office by Thursday, January 15. Pink sheets for submitting the information are in the tract rack outside the church office. Any information received after the January 15 deadline cannot be included in the February/March newsletter.

2026 ENVELOPES are in the Fellowship Hall on a cabinet near the front steps for pick-up. The offering envelopes are expensive to mail so please go to the Fellowship Hall after church to pick up your envelopes or those of a friend, neighbor, or relative.

SPONSORS NEEDED – The 2026 sponsor charts are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Cost to sponsor flowers is \$35.00 per date. Bulletins are \$25.00 per date. Sign up for any open dates on the sponsor charts or call the church office at 610-767-6361. Sponsors are needed for most dates this winter.

ORGAN REPAIRS have started! The organ console was taken for rebuilding on Tuesday. Hopefully the organ will be back in service in about six weeks. Anyone wishing to donate towards the upgrade/repairs to our Moeller organ can do so. Mark "Organ Repairs" on your envelope.

ROCK-A-THON – The Youth Fellowship/Confirmation class will hold a Rock-a-Thon to raise money for The Northern Lehigh Food Bank *next* Sunday, January 18, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Snow date is January 25). We will have four rocking chairs we need to keep rocking continuously from 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The initial rocking will happen from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M. by the Sunday School children during their annual Birthday Social. We will stop the rocking during the 10:15 A.M. church service, restart at 11:30 A.M., and continue until 1:00 P.M. Everyone is invited! Donation containers, sign-up sheets, and sponsor sheets are at the Rock-a-Thon displays on the rear radiator cover in church, the Fellowship Hall, and the Parent Information Center in the Sunday School hallway. Ways you can help:

1. Sign up to rock in one of the four rocking chairs for a 15-minute shift.
2. Donate baked goods for the bake sale.
3. Place a monetary donation in any donation container at a Rock-a-thon display. Donations of canned vegetables, soup, ramen noodles, crackers, canned tuna & chicken, spaghetti sauce, and cereal for the food bank are also welcome.
4. Sponsor a rocking chair for \$25.
5. Volunteer to work at the bake sale, kitchen, or craft area.
6. Stop by, have lunch, buy some dessert, and cheer on the rockers.

Any questions or for more information, see Ruthann Mantz.

JANUARY FOOD SALE – The Catering Committee is sponsoring a soup, sandwich, and PA Dutch corn pie sale for January. The order forms are blue and due back by *next* Sunday, January 18. Pick-up is on Saturday, January 24, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. The sandwich choice is a cold Reuben sandwich. Soup choices are: chicken tortellini soup, chili con carne, and old-fashion chicken noodle soup. You can also order PA Dutch corn pies (ready-to-bake, frozen). Return order forms to either the church office or to Harrison Williams. You can call your order into the church office at 610-767-6361, Harrison at 610-216-4284, or e-mail Harrison at williamshj2514@msn.com.

YOUTH GATHERING COMMITTEE MEETING – There will be a meeting on Monday, January 19, at 6:30 P.M. in the church office for all youth who are planning to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June of 2027, along with a parent/guardian for each youth.

ANNUAL REPORTS for each organization of the church are due to the church office by Friday, January 30. Forms for submitting your annual report are in each organization's mail bin in the church office and in the tract rack outside the church office. Reports are needed by the end of January for the auditors to do the annual audit of the books in February.

A PORK & SAUERKRAUT SUPPER will be held on Saturday, February 7, from 3:30 to 6:00 P.M. You can eat in or take-out. Menu is: pork & sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, buttered lima beans, bread & butter, and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$14.00 per meal and can be purchased from any member of the Catering Committee, Sundays after the service, or from the church office during the week. You can also reserve tickets by calling the church office at 610-767-6361 or Harrison Williams at 610-216-4284. Donations of baked goods are needed and would be greatly appreciated.

SOUPER SUNDAY – Help wind up the NFL season in a really “souper” way. On Sunday, February 8, “Souper Bowl Sunday,” please bring boxes or cans of soup to church for the Northern Lehigh Food Bank. Monetary donations may also be made to the food bank. You can cheer on your team knowing you have provided some warm food for the needy during the cold weather.

LOOSE CHANGE PARTY TIME! Mark your calendars – Saturday, March 14, is the St. John's Lutheran Church Loose Change Party (formerly Penny Party). Doors open at 12:00 Noon; the fun begins at 1:00 P.M. The kitchen will be open. There may be a 50/50 drawing as well as a mini-basket social/Chinese auction. All items are needed by Sunday, March 8. This will allow us time to organize and mark all items.

Loose Change Party – We need auction items. This list may vary from food items, paper products, personal care items, household items, etc. The list is endless; any items would be greatly appreciated. **Please make sure items donated are not out of date.**

Baked Goods – Individually wrapped baked goods for a bake sale.

Mini-basket Social/Chinese Auction – Larger items will be needed such as afghans, home craft items, gift baskets, gift cards, etc.

Youth, we could use your assistance to help as runners. We also need help in the kitchen and to sell tickets. If you have any questions or want to help with the loose change party, please contact Myra Handwerk at 610-826-4945.

BUILDING HOURS – The church office is open daily Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (except for holidays/vacations). The church building is unlocked Monday through Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and in the evenings when there are meetings in the church building. The church also will be open Sunday mornings for the church service. Anyone needing to get into the church building other than the above times should call the church office at 610-767-6361. When Sharon is alone in the office, the front doors will be locked. Just ring the bell to gain access to the building.

CHURCH CALENDAR – A master calendar of all events held on the church premises is retained in the church office to avoid double booking the available rooms in the church and ensure the building is unlocked. Please call and talk to Sharon in the church office (610-767-6361) to make sure the building is available for use. Do NOT mark the event on the calendar posted on the bulletin board across from the church office; Sharon will mark dates on that calendar so there are no conflicts.

PLEASE CALL the church office (610-767-6361) whenever a family member, neighbor, or friend who is a member of St. John's is hospitalized or moves from one hospital to another. Please give our church code "290" to the local hospitals when being admitted. Hospitals do NOT notify the church; we will only get information if you call us. As the two hospital networks have grown, we do not get names even when calling with our church code. Please call the church to keep us informed of any hospitalizations so we can keep people in our prayers.

LIVESTREAM NOTICE — Our 10:15 AM service is streamed live online each week on Facebook. The front of the sanctuary, which includes the space for holy communion and children's messages are included in the video. By being in this space, you may be included in the livestream and/or the recorded video posted on our website.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 2nd Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Slatington, Pennsylvania and has served the Lehigh Valley since 1868.

CHURCH STAFF

Sharon Stehly, *Church Administrator*
Fawn Albert, *Organist and Choir Director*
Harrison Williams, *Sexton*

CONTACT

Phone (610)767-6361
Email stjohnslatington@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

BUILDING HOURS

Weekdays	9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 3 PM
Sunday	7 AM to 12 PM

Visit us online at stjohnslatington.org
and follow us on **Facebook**

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, St. John's Lutheran Church accepts online offerings through Vanco, an online payment processing service.

With Vanco, you can choose to give a one-time offering, or you can create an account to schedule weekly or monthly tithes.



To give today, scan the QR Code above by opening your cell phone's camera. This will direct you to the church's online giving website.

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