

BECOMING Sanctuary

The story of Mary and Elizabeth, as they both face celebrations and challenges, shows us the importance of having relationships that can serve as sanctuaries for us – ones where we can bring our joys, fears, and full selves, no matter what we may be facing.

Make A Difference

As the year comes to a close, we are deeply grateful for your generosity. Gifts received by December 31 help us meet our commitments, sustain our ministries, and serve our neighbors with care and compassion. Thank you for making a difference.

Prayer Requests

Share prayer requests by scanning the QR code above, emailing prayers@stjohnsbr.org or visiting stjohnsbr.org/here.

All Are Welcome & Affirmed Here

Whoever you are, wherever your faith journey, you are welcome and affirmed. We are so glad you joined us and hope you feel at home here.

For Newcomers

Restrooms & Welcome **Brochures** are located in the narthex (lobby). Our **ushers** can help you in any way you may need. Text 'CONNECT' to 225-230-1017 join our updates.

For Families with Children

- The **St. John's Playground** is in the front of the sanctuary during services. Children are welcome to spend **the entire service** here.
- The **Nursery** serves infants – preschool in the Education & Administration building next door.
- Changing tables** are located in the restrooms and nursery.
- Holy Communion** elements of bread and grape juice are available to all including children weekly at the 8:30 a.m. service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 11:00 a.m. service. **Gluten free** elements are also available.
- We offer **Sunday School** for 18 months - 12th grade from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., along with a variety of adult classes as well.

The flowers are given by **Rev. Barb Duke** in celebration of Christmas memories, old and new. Thank you to those who made Poinsettia dedications. The list will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin, and poinsettias may be taken after the 6:00 p.m. service.

Todays ushers are **Darren & Chris Stubbs**.

CHECK-IN &
PRAYER REQUESTS
VIA QR CODE →



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shepherd's Market Holiday Closure

The Shepherd's Market will pause for the holidays. Shopping will resume on January 5 as we begin the new year together in care and community.

The Longest Night Service – December 21

You are invited to a quiet, reflective service tonight at 5:00 p.m. This service is especially for anyone carrying heaviness during the holidays—grief, illness, anxiety, stress, or weariness of any kind. Come as you are for a gentle time of worship, prayer, and hope, held within the peace of the Christmas story. You are not alone.

Christmas Eve Worship – December 24

4:00 p.m. Family-Friendly Service with a Children's nativity & Communion

6:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight & Communion Service

St. John's Office Holiday Closures

The church office will be closed December 24–26 and December 31, 2025–January 2, 2026, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. We look forward to resuming regular office hours when we reopen on January 3.

One Service & Extended Coffee Time, December 28

On Sunday, December 28, we will gather for one combined worship service at **10:00 a.m.** Natalie Cooper will preach, and we'll enjoy caroling and a hymn sing-a-long. Following worship, linger a little longer and enjoy extended coffee time and fellowship as we continue celebrating the season together. *All last name letters are invited to bring a treat to share!*

Epiphany Sunday & Star Words, January 4

Begin 2026 with encouragement and joy as Rev. Rosmery LaFontaine brings the message and receive a guiding "Star Word" for the year ahead. Worshipers will be invited to receive a simple, prayerful word offered as a spiritual companion for the year ahead. Many find their Star Word becomes a gentle guide through both ordinary days and sacred moments in the months to come.

EVERY WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

 FLC = Family Life Center

Holiday Schedule Update: As we observe the Christmas season, weekly activities from December 24–26 are on hold this week. Music Ministries rehearsals will resume January 4.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

COFFEE TIME

Sundays

9:30 a.m. FLC

All Last Names may bring snacks on Dec 28

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays

9:45 a.m. Campus Wide

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Sundays

6:00 p.m. The Alleluia Ringers, Bells Room

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Sundays

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Campus Wide

No Upstairs Cafe on Dec 28

4:30 p.m. Music Makers (K-8th grades)

SERVE

Fridays

10:30 a.m. Holy Helpers, Church Office

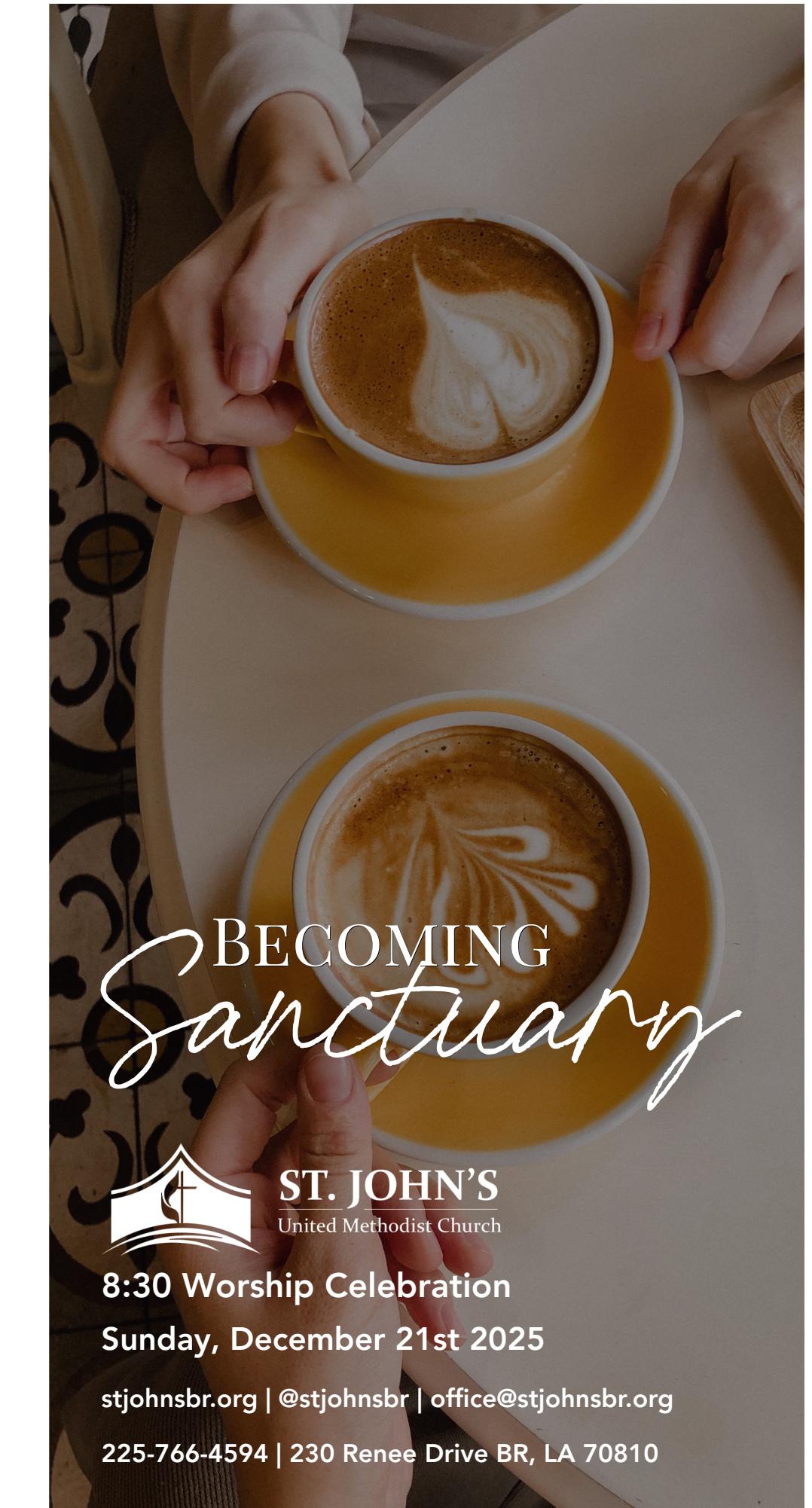
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Monday – Friday

CONTACT

stjohnsbr.org/contact-us



Welcome

8:30 AM Worship Celebration

Please stand as you are comfortable where marked by an asterisk (*) & join in speaking where text is in **bold**.



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

Gathering Music

Dr. Terry Byars

Words of Welcome

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

Welcome in the Light of Christ*

U.M. Hymnal #202 v 1, 3 & 4

People, Look East

Invitation to Worship*

Betty Schroeder

Come with your hope and your doubt,
your wonder and your weariness.

We come seeking God's presence and each other's blessing.

When God draws near, hidden promises begin to stir.

We come, ready for hearts to leap and for faith to awaken.

Where encouragement is spoken, courage grows.

**We come to rejoice together in the God who fulfills
what God has promised.**

This is a place for expectant spirits and mouths that bless.

Come, Emmanuel and fill us with your love.

We Sing Together*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

U.M. Hymnal #204

We Greet One Another with Joy and Peace*

We Light the Advent Candle

Stephanie Rockco

Today, we light the candle of Love. God makes room in impossible
places, filling the world with new possibilities.

In Christ, love takes flesh and dwells among us.

(We light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.)

As we light this candle, we celebrate the love that knows no bounds.

Come, Lord Jesus, Love Incarnate, into our hearts.

We Sing Together

Sanctuary

Our Faith We Sing # 2164



CHECK IN
& PRAYER
REQUESTS

We Encourage Our Children

Sarah Prevot

We Read the Word*

Luke 1:24-45

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Lane

We Reflect On The Word

Pastor Lane

Becoming Sanctuary

We Sing Together*

Our Faith We Sing #2223 v 1, 2 & 4

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

We Offer God's Tithes and Our Gifts

Bryan Adams &
Troy Prevot

*Thank you for your generosity. Your gift helps us be a
blessing in our community. Scan the QR code or visit
stjohnsbr.org/give to give online.*



GIVING

We Sing Together*

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise God all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We Prepare for Communion

Pastor Lane

*We give thanks for God's grace, hear Jesus' words spoken at the
table, and ask the Holy Spirit to bless the bread and cup. In this
holy meal, we are joined with Christ and with one another,
reminded that there is always room at God's table for all.*

We Pray the Lord's Prayer

U.M. Hymnal #895

We Partake in Communion*

A Special Musical Reflection: *Blessed Redeemer*
Lanier/Loes

Flautist: Denise Curwick

All are welcome to receive Communion.

We serve by intinction (bread dipped in juice); servers handle the
elements. Pre-packaged & gluten-free options are available.
You may remain at the chancel to pray. If you need communion
brought to you, please let an usher know.

We Pray Together

Betty Schroeder

**God of love and refuge,
we thank you for meeting us at this table with grace.**

**Having been fed by your grace,
may we become sanctuary for one another.**

**Teach us to make room -
room for stories that are unfinished,**

**room for grief that has no timeline,
room for joy that overflows,**

**room for people who long to belong.
Send us into this day bearing your light,**

until all know they are loved and held by you. Amen.

We Receive This Week's Call To Action

Pastor Lane

We Sing Together*

U.M. Hymnal #240 v 1 & 3

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

We Share in a Blessing*

Rev. Lane Cotton Winn

We Go Out into the World*

Terry Byars

*Music sends us out, but our worship continues as we go forth to
love and serve the Lord.*