

Covenant

between Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem
and St. John's Lutheran Church, Salisbury North Carolina

*"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.
And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ...
by encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the Day of the Lord approaching."
Hebrews 10:23-25*

Based on:

- ◇ Our common faith in Christ Jesus who sets us free,
A just and merciful God who welcomes all to the table, and
The Holy Spirit who dwells within and among us
- ◇ Our commitment to a world where all know of God's peace, mercy, and justice
- ◇ Our common desire to see the Gospel impact our communities
- ◇ Our common Lutheran heritage

We, the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church and St. John's Lutheran Church, commit:

- ◇ To **accompany** one another in our journey of faith, rejoicing and weeping with one another.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15
- ◇ To **pray** with one another and for one another.
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- ◇ To **empower** one another as we do kingdom's work in our own contexts.
Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33
- ◇ To **walk in solidarity** with one another in our struggle for mercy and justice.
As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came and walked along with them. Luke 24:15
- ◇ To **learn** from the other's experience and wisdom.
That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. Romans 1:12
- ◇ To **remind** one another of the hope we have in Christ.
And Mary replied, "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

As members of one body in Christ, we will seek to actively pursue this covenant in various ways, including:

- ◇ Mutual prayer for one another
- ◇ Pulpit exchange
- ◇ People-to-people connections
- ◇ Gracious hospitality to one another
- ◇ Ministry updates
- ◇ Sharing theological and biblical insights
- ◇ Amplifying one another's voices
- ◇ Resource mobilization

With joy and thanksgiving, we affix our signatures on this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord 2019.

The Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, pastor
Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church

The Rev. Rhodes Woolly, pastor
St. John's Lutheran Church
