



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
November 29, 2020

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192    [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)  
Parking Lot Worship 9:00 am                      Zoom Worship 10:30 a.m.

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**November 29, 2020    First Sunday in Advent**

**In the church parking lot, please turn your car  
radio to 101.7 FM to listen to our worship service at 9 AM.**

**This signal is only 1500 feet.**

**You can also join us on Zoom for worship at 10:30 AM.**

Welcome to Worship. Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

### **Gathering Hymn**

*"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

### **Greeting**

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

*2 Corinthians 13:13*

**And also with you.**

You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**a people holy to the LORD our God.**

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.  
**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,  
**But by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.** *Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8*

### **Lighting of Advent Wreath**

**Advent Hymn**                      “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

### **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9**

*This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.*

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## **Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

*As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.*

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

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

## **Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

<sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the

ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

<sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of the Lord     **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*“My Lord What a Morning”*

ELW 438

### Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

### Response to the Word

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**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**

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

*Jude 20*

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Jude 21*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God  
and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to  
the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
eternal life.

**Amen**

**Peace**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one  
another, live in peace.

*2 Corinthians 13:11*

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

### **Offering**

We give back to God what God first gives us. Offering can be mailed in to the church at 106 Scheid Road, Sandusky OH 44870, by texting give to 614-389-9681, or given on our church website.

### **Offertory**

**Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours the promise, the blessing, the birth.  
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

Let us pray.  
Merciful God,

**In the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **Praying this week's prayer requests**

Prayer requests can be emailed to [stacylauer@gmail.com](mailto:stacylauer@gmail.com), texted to 419-680-0358, or mailed to the church.

**Response:** Hear us O God      **your mercy is great.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

*“People, Look East”*

ELW 248

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:  
***“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”***  
**And a congregation of the**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

### **PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS**

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor  
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday  
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

Church: 419-625-2192  
Cell: 419-680-0358  
419-433-4530

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Morgan Noon, Organist  
Website: [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)

[www.flame-elca.com](http://www.flame-elca.com)

Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

**Council Prayer:** We ask the members of St. John's to pray this month for patience, strength and love of one another as we work on the different ways our St. John's family will be worshipping during the next two months

**Thank you all for your prayers!** My test came back negative, and we are very grateful. I am also praying for all of the many people in our congregation who are in some way impacted by covid and the pandemic currently. Although I can't share all of the names, please keep all impacted by covid in your prayers this week.

The filming for the Christmas Eve video has been moved to December 3rd. The plan for Christmas Eve currently remains with 4 PM at Strickfaden and 8 PM on Zoom. If this changes, there will be an announcement. If you need a DVD of the Christmas Eve service, please let me know!

Advent bags are being delivered this week. My children helped put these bags together--if you are missing an item or don't get a bag, please let me know. After a couple of hours of work, they may have gotten a bit careless :) Please also send me pictures of your Advent wreaths for the competition!

If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests, please let me know!

Walking with you in Christ,  
Pastor Stacy

**Here are a few educational opportunities coming up at the beginning of November.**

The week of November 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be sending out Advent care packages. **If you would like to help deliver these to porches, please let me know. If your address has changed, please let me know that as well! We will be having an Advent Wreath making competition. Use what you find around your home, and make a wreath. Care packages will include four small candles.**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> we will be professionally recording a Christmas Eve Service. This will be a full service, and will be sent out around Christmas Eve. If you will not be able to view a link sent to you, please let us know and we can order a DVD.**

November 29: Worship is at 9 AM in the parking lot and at 10:30 on Zoom. Advent wreath picture submissions are due.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon is a Bible study on the Gospel of the Kingdom. There is an optional video to view before the Bible study:

<https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/week3-gospel-of-the-kingdom/>

December 2 at 7 PM on Zoom will be a catechism class.

December 6 Worship: 10:30 on Zoom. Deacon Erin Bodenstab will lead worship

December 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 on Zoom is the Book Club. We are reading Just Mercy, chapters 3 and 4.

December 13 will be the youth Christmas program at 10:30 on Zoom. Parking lot worship will be at 9:00, and the video sermon will be sent out at a later time in email. There will not be a Sunday School class until the new year.

December 16<sup>th</sup> will be a Bible Study on Water of Life at Noon on Zoom. An optional video to view before the study:

<https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/week5-water-of-life/>

December 16 at 7 PM on Zoom will be a catechism class.

December 20 worship: 9 @, 10:30 on Zoom

December 24: Christmas Eve worship 4 pm at Strickfaden Park and at 8:00 pm on Zoom

December 27: Worship 9 @, 10:30 on Zoom

### **View Stein Hospice Light Up A Life Trees:**

**Sandusky Date:** Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> **Location:** Jackson and W. Washington Streets, Downtown Sandusky **Time: Please feel free to drive by at your leisure on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. Trees will turn on at 5:00 pm each day.**

**Norwalk Date:** Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> **Location:** St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Benedict and Executive, **Norwalk Time: Please feel free to drive by at your leisure on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. Tree will turn on at 4:30 pm each day.**

**No in-person LUAL worship service/reception until 2021**

**New address:** Nancy and Dale Osbun have moved to Medina. If you would like to keep in contact with the Osbun's or wish them well in their new home, their temporary address is 673 E Reagan Pkwy, Apt. 134, Medina, Ohio 44256.

## **December Happy Birthday and Anniversary wishes!**

Dec. 8—Wesley Justi 100<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Myrna Schlessman

10—Lori Stacy

14—Ray Vance

14—Rolland Schlessman

17—Andrew Baaske

29—Ray Young

30—August Hohman

30—Kristi Justi

Rita Zorn

31—Bobbie Deehr

Dec. 1 — David and Mary K. Schlessman

16 — Jon & Trudi Baaske

17 — Kevin and Allison Young

27 — August and Beverly Hohman

Rollie and Myrna Schlessman

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Wes Justi is turning 100 years old on Tuesday, December 8. Let's celebrate him with a parade. Jeff Justi is the birthday elf who will be sure that Wes knows what is happening. We will gather at St John's United Church of Christ at Mason and Thomas Rd Milan at 12:30-12:45 on December 8<sup>th</sup> and caravan past Wes's house at 1:00. Weather permitting decorate your car with pinwheels, brightly colored signs and balloons. Horns honking him into his next year and celebrating a life well lived is our plan. Questions? Call Paula Hoffman 419 515 5200.