

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 14, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

April 14, 2024 Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Worship! The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

We thank Nathan Samsa for sharing his gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Baptism initiates us into a lifetime of faithful action and faithful rest. Today, in the moment of baptism we welcome Harper and Eloise Bell children of God into that life of faith.

Bells

Prelude

Praeludium from the Holberg Suite Op. 40 by Edvard Grieg
arranged Nathan Samsa

Welcome New Members Laurie Kropf, Nathan, Christine, Nicholas, and Noel Samsa,
Pastor Kathy Schuk and James Kluding, William and Carolyn
Steinfeldt and Kathy Schlessman

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

ELW 377

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Refrain

5 City of God, Easter forever,
golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
river of life, saints and archangels,
sing with creation to God the I AM!
Refrain

Greeting

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.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, 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

Baptism Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Cranberry Hymnal **781**

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
in his mighty arms he bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Rite of Holy Baptism for Harper Quinn and Eloise Ann Bell

Presentation

Pastor Stacy and Pastor Kathy Shuck

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Harper and Eloise for baptism.

Pastor: Harper and Eloise, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Candidates: I do.

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture these children in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Harper and Eloise, pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Cong: We do.

Please stand

Profession of Faith

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Cong: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Cong: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Cong: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Cong: 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**Cong: 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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Thanksgiving at the font

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Cong: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Cong: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Please be seated

Baptism

Pastor: Harper Quinn/Eloise Ann, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Harper/Eloise with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom

and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Pastor: Harper and Eloise, children of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Cong: Amen.

Welcome

Council Representative: Let your lights so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Please stand

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Cong: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Please be seated

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

A reading from Acts.

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 4 (Read responsively)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from 1 John.

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

“As the deer”

Text and Music: Rich Mullins ©1988 BMG Songs, Inc.

D A/C# Bm Bm/A G Asus A D

As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter you.

A/C# Bm D/A D/F# Em⁷ A⁷sus A⁷ D

You a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.

Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm/F# Em F#sus F#

You a - lone are my strength, my shield, to you a - lone may my spir - it yield;

D A/C# Bm D/A D/F# Em⁷ A⁷sus A⁷ D

you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he

said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.”

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

“Easter Upside Down”

Youth of St. John’s

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Morning Has Broken”

ELW 556

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Prayers of the people:

Response: God of Grace,

Hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

Andante Cantible from 18th Variation on a Theme by Paganini

by Sergei Rachmaninov, arranged Rick Parks. ©1986 Lillenas Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

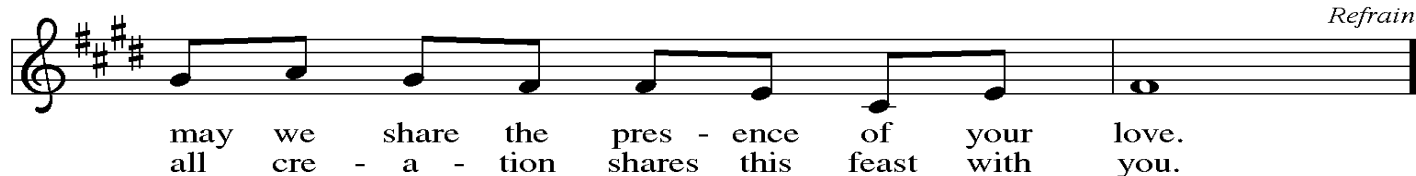
Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



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, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW 856

Text and music © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust. USA print rights administered by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of
acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"
Refrain

Distribution Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

ELW 855

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4
Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His care.

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

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.

Amen

2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Sending Hymn

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW 674

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1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

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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
419-625-2192

Morgan Noon, Organist
Today's Musician: Nathan Samsa

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com
Lay Reader: Youth of St. John's

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Youth of St. John's

Audio/Visual Tech: Jeff Justi

Attendance: April 7 - 58

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

We thank the youth of St. John's for leading our worship today.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by the Kingsley family in loving memory of Chuck Kingsley.

Sponsors for Harper and Eloise Bell are Pastor Stacy and Dan Taylor.

New Member Sunday: TODAY the St. John's church family is blessed to receive two youth by baptism and 10 new brothers and sisters in faith into our fellowship. We welcome Harper and Eloise Bell by baptism, Laurie Kropf, Kathy Schlessman, Pastor Kathy Shuck and Jim Kluding, Bill and Carolyn Steinfeldt and the Samsa family, Nathan, Christine, Nicholas and Noel. Please plan to stay after worship for a time of fellowship to welcome and get to know them better.

Council asks the congregation to pray for our current and newly-elected officials, that they may serve with discernment and integrity.

We grieve the loss of our brother in Christ, Chuck Kingsley. Chuck passed away peacefully on Friday, April 5th surrounded by family. His funeral took place at St. John's on Wednesday, April 10th. Please keep Peg and family in your prayers.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

April 21 – Set up – Toni Nossaman Clean up –

April 28 - Set up – Elizabeth Libben Clean up – Elizabeth Libben

May 5 – NO COMMUNION

May 12 – Set up - Toni Nossaman Clean up – Elizabeth Libben

May 19 - Set up – Joleen Dillender Clean up –

May 26 - Set up – Toni Nossaman Clean up -

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help out, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Pastor Stacy’s Sabbatical: Sunday, April 21st will be Pastor Stacy’s last Sunday before she begins her 3-month sabbatical. We will do a Sabbatical Sending for Pastor Stacy and family which will be followed by a time of fellowship for any questions and well wishes.

Sabbatical Pastoral EMERGENCIES: Melinda Zorn volunteered to receive **EMERGENCY** calls from the members of St. John’s during Pastor Stacy’s sabbatical. Three pastors have agreed to be on-call to cover a visit/pray with, or call back to the person. Please call 412-639-5477, Melinda Zorn will then contact a pastor to help with your emergency.

Eastern Conference Women’s Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 20th from 9:30 am to 1 pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 212 Clover St., Fremont, OH. The theme is “A Time to Rest”. Registration fee is \$10.00 payable at the door. All women are welcome – they do not need to be a member of a church group to attend. Come join your sisters in Christ for prayer, devotion, fellowship, fun, and growing in God’s word. Please RSVP by April 14th to Karen at St. John’s, 419-332-7341 or Debbie Schiets, 419-680-8491/dschiets@yahoo.com.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR APRIL 14TH THRU APRIL 28TH

Sunday, April 14	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship Baptism/New member fellowship
Tuesday, April 16	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday, April 21	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Youth Final Sunday School Worship Sabbatical Blessing and Fellowship
Sunday, April 28	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship

Weekly Verse:

“The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.” Psalm 23:1-2

- Apr. 14 – Spend 5 minutes de-cluttering your home
15 – Find a flower and smell it
16 – Check in: How are you really feeling today?
17 – Take 1 thing off your calendar
18 – Schedule “self-care time” for this upcoming week
19 – Spend 1 minute looking at the clouds or the stars
20 – Unclench your jaw, release your shoulders, take a deep breath

Sabbatical Opportunities

Hopewood Pines: Travel to Morrow County to experience one of our Lutheran camps. We will look at how camps form communities in the short time kids are gathered, how they share the Good News in new and old ways, learn about our local camp, and see where we send some of our youth. May 6, leaving the church at 9:30 AM. Lunch is provided.

Bellwether Farm: Venture to Wakeman to see an Episcopalian camp. They have an enormous community garden and provide farm to table cooking opportunities and meals to people who attend their camp. See how they care for the earth and share their faith through nature. May 30th in the morning, Lunch is provided.

Faith Lutheran Church in Swanton: This congregation has one of the largest community gardens in the synod. Worship with them outside, and see their garden. Hear how they provide food for local churches, and experience their pollinator garden. June 16, leaving the church at 8:30. Lunch is provided.

Islamic Center of Greater Toledo: We will learn about the Muslim faith and see where they worship. We will learn about forms of prayer, service, and giving. Date to be determined, likely in late June. Lunch is provided.

Spirituality Retreat: Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill will join St John's to talk about spirituality, meditation, and nature. No church experience necessary even though those are churchy words! There will be time for prayer, journaling, and walking the labyrinth. This will be at Zion, Huron's outbuilding, from May 31-June 1. Dinner, snacks, and lunch will be included. There are only 15 spots available and cost is \$20. Reserve your spot soon!

Helping Out: Want to help council cover some needs? We need someone each Sunday to **welcome** the pastors who will lead our worship. Welcoming includes greeting them, showing them the microphone and the bathroom, and introducing them during the announcements. During the entire sabbatical, will have one cell phone so there is one number to call for pastoral needs. This will be passed around each week so someone different can answer. Would you be willing to **answer the phone** and call a local pastor on call so they know where to go? Three pastors are on call to respond to needs.

Name: _____

Interest: _____

How you can help (circle 1 or 2): welcome pastors answer phone

Phone: _____

Email: _____