

Luke 12:15, NRSV



August 3, 2025

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192 [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)  
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

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August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

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.

If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

## Gathering

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

*Please stand*

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.


**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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

*"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"*

ELW 393

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ, by a road before untrod,  
ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 To whom the shining angels cry,  
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"This is the Savior!" thus they say,  
"this is his glorious triumph day!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,  
all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run,

2 The holy apostolic band  
upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
and with his faithful foll'wers see  
their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

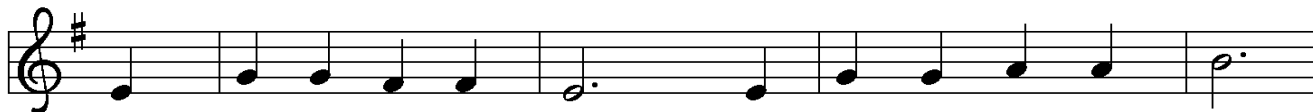
4 "You see him now, ascending high  
up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see  
returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## Greeting

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

## Kyrie



of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup> So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup> because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup> What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup> For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

### **Psalms 49:1-12 (Read responsively)**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear this, all you peoples;  
    give ear, all you who dwell in the world,  
<sup>2</sup> **you of high degree and low,  
    rich and poor together.**  
<sup>3</sup> My mouth shall speak of wisdom,  
    and my heart shall meditate on understanding.  
<sup>4</sup> **I will incline my ear to a proverb  
    and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**  
<sup>5</sup> Why should I be afraid in evil days,  
    when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,  
<sup>6</sup> **the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess,  
    and boast of their great riches?**  
<sup>7</sup> One can never redeem another,  
    or give to God the ransom for an other's life;  
<sup>8</sup> **for the ransom of a life is so great  
    that there would never be enough to pay it,**  
<sup>9</sup> in order to live forever and ever  
    and never see the grave.  
<sup>10</sup> **For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish  
    and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**  
<sup>11</sup> Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation,  
    though they had named lands after themselves.  
<sup>12</sup> **Even though honored, they cannot live forever;  
    they are like the beasts that perish.**

### **Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11**

A reading from Colossians.

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

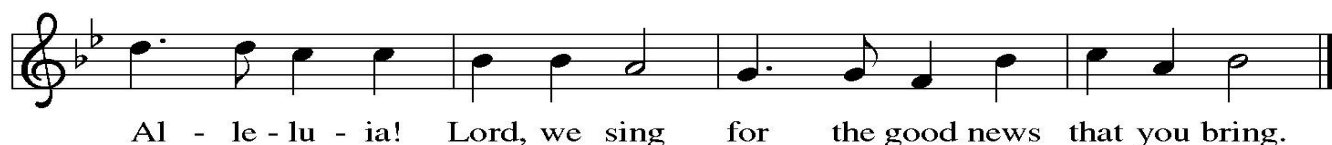
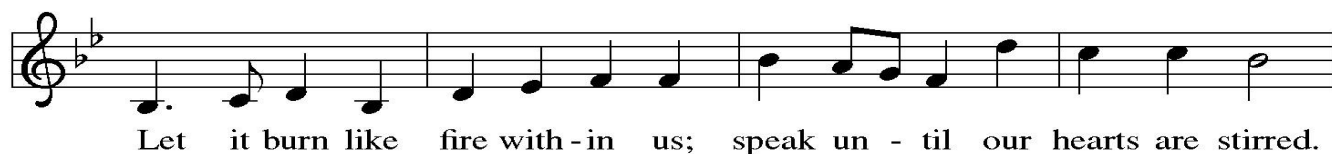
<sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

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

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.



*In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.*

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

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

*Please be seated*

**Youth Time**

**Sermon**

*Please stand*

**Hymn of the Day**

*"Christ Be Our Light"*

**ELW 715**

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1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

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

**Prayers of the people: God of grace, hear our prayer.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## **Offering**

*"Christ Be Our Light"*

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*Please stand*

## **Offertory**



## Create in Me a Clean Heart

### *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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 for 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Please be seated*

## Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Distribution Hymn:** "Break Now the Bread of Life"

**ELW 515**

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt. Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888 Public Domain

1 Break now the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page  
I seek you, Lord;  
my spirit waits for you,  
O living Word.

3 You are the bread of life,  
dear Lord, to me,  
your holy word the truth that rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live

2 Bless your own word of truth,  
dear Lord, to me,  
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease,  
all fetters fall;  
and I shall find my peace,  
my All-in-All!

with you above;  
teach me to love your truth,  
for you are love.

### **Distribution Hymn:**

*“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

**ELW 768**

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#### *Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, o Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow’r  
To help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all....my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord, Just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

#### *Please stand*

### **Post Communion Blessing**

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

**Amen**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the  
body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world,  
that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Sending Of Communion**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Blessing of the Garden Harvest**

### **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**

## **Sending Hymn**

*"We Know That Christ Is Raised"*

ELW 449

Text © John B. Geyer

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!

2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.  
Hallelujah!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*"We Know That Christ Is Raised"*

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***“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”***  
And a congregation of the  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

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**2025 The Year of Listening Memory Verse.**

**“Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live...” (Isaiah 55:3a).**

**Council asks the congregation to pray** for all those who work to keep our Giving Garden healthy and growing in order to provide food assistance to those in need. And we continue to pray for peace throughout the world.

**Communion Clean-up today: Paula**

Aug.10 – Set-up – Jim Kluding

Cleanup - Jim

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

**Blessing of the Giving Garden Harvest.** Today we give thanks for all God has provided and bless what goes to help those in need in our communities. We thank Jeff Justi his leadership and coordination from early Spring tilling to the time of harvest and cleanup. Thank you volunteers! Harvest has begun with lots more to harvest.

**Sister in Christ:** Please keep the family of Jean Dircks (mother of Laurie Kropf) in your prayers as Jean passed away Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Back to School:** Teachers and students, it's hard to hear but the start of a new school year is just around the corner! St. John will mark the occasion with the "Blessing of Book Bags." on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> during our 9:30 service. Students, teachers, bus drivers, school staff are all invited to come forward during worship with whatever it is you carry with you to school...book bag, backpack, briefcase.

### **August Ingathering of supplies for Lutheran World Relief!**

St. John's Faith Life Team and Worship Team have joined forces to gather supplies for LWR Personal Care Kits. For under \$10.00 you can help supply the needs of individuals who are living in refugee camps or experiencing any type of disaster. LW Relief is very specific in what items we can gather for this project. An instruction flyer is available in the rear of the church and handicap entrance to make sure you purchase the correct items. Tubs will be available in the rear of the sanctuary and in the handicap entrance for your supplies. We gather these supplies during August and up to Rally Day Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> when we will assemble the kits for our 2025 "God's Work, Our Hands" project. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



#### **Ingathering items:**

light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*

sturdy comb, remove packaging

metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

*\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

**We celebrate 80 years – and continue – the Lutheran legacy of love in 2025.** Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world through your support of Lutheran World Relief!

**A timeline of the Quilt & Kit Ministry!** 1945 – Lutheran World Relief is founded following World War II. Within the first three months of 1946, 2,260 bales of clothing and bedding, plus 245 bags of shoes, were shipped to five countries in Europe. By mid-March there were an estimated 20,000 bales of clothing, or 2 million pounds, available in the warehouse.

**Thank You members of St. John's:** Thank you from the Huron Softball 8 U girls and parents for this year's sponsorship! Thank you for the opportunity for these girls!

**Rally Day:** September 7th is Rally Day! Please join us for a festive worship service, a delicious St. John's potluck and God's Work Our Hands service project. This is a great start for our fall and winter programs, but it's even better when you are part of it. We gather at Edison Park Shelter, 6 East St. Milan, OH. **Coffee time will start at 10:00 am with worship at 10:30** followed by a potluck lunch. After lunch we will assemble the personal care kit items that we have been gathering during the month of August for LW Relief. Drinks and table service are provided. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

**Endowment Grant Applications** are being accepted: please contact a member of the endowment team and they will be glad to mail you an application. The requests need to be presented to the Endowment committee no later than October 5, 2025. You can mail the application back to the church, put your request in the endowment mailbox in the basement or present it to any member of the committee. The committee members are John Miller, Ted Call, Jeff Justi, Bob Stacy, Kathy Schlessman, Ron Zorn, Pastor Stacy. If you have any questions, please see a member of the endowment committee.

The Endowment Team will hold its quarterly meeting in mid to late October, at which time all grant applications that have been presented will be reviewed and voted on. Those that are approved will be sent to the Finance Team for additional review and approval.

**Happy Birthday** to Bonnie Semon, Bob Krawetzki, Dale Schlessman, Cassidy Lane, and Chuck Thompson.

**Happy Anniversary** to Bob & Lori Stacy, Jim & Linda Stauffer, and Dale & Cindy Schlessman.

## **Weekly Listening Plan**

**August 2025**

**“Mungu wa Agano” (God of the Covenant)**

**Week 1 – “*You are the God of the covenant who fulfills the covenant forever. When you say it is, there is no one to stop you.*”**

Enjoy the song selection video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lenVqRHnlGE>

1. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Hebrews 10:23**
2. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.



3. The stories of God's goodness fill the pages of scripture. Stories of God's goodness also fill the lives of our communities. Whose stories of God's faithfulness might you ask about and listen to this week?

**ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> THRU AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday, August 3	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, August 5	9:00 am 1:00 pm 6:30 am	Giving Garden Weeding/picking Faith Life Team Jt. Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 6	12:00 noon	Scripture & Prayer at Parkvue
Sunday, August 10	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, August 12	9:00 am	Giving Garden picking
Wednesday, August 13	5:30 pm	Erie County Public Hearing concerning Scheid Rd. sewer project
Thursday, August 14	5:30 pm	Worship Team
Sunday, August 17	9:30 am	Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks