



A LITTLE CHILD
WILL LEAD THEM.

Isaiah 11:6, NIV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 7, 2025

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

December 7, 2025 Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome to Worship! At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

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.

Baptism initiates us into a lifetime of faithful action and faithful rest. Today, in the moment of baptism we welcome Juliette Burnham, child of God into that life of faith.

We thank Linda Stauffer for sharing her musical gifts today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again soon.

Prelude "Old French Carol" Ellen Jane Lorenz

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Bell

Welcome and announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand if you are able

Gathering Hymn

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820 Public Domain

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

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.

Responsive Litany

Hope for Those Who Are Weary

Kathy Shuck

The Light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not overcome it.

During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ
as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

Advent Hymn

"Christ Be Our Light"

Cranberry Hymnal 715

Congregation sings Verses 2

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*

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

Candle Lighting

Kluding Family

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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. | 4 Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy. |

Rite of Holy Baptism for Juliette Burnham Presentation

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 Juliette for baptism.

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parent: I do.

Pastor: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that your child may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Pastor: Do you promise to help Juliette grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parent: I do.

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

Sponsors: I do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Juliette and pray for her in her 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: Juliette, 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 Juliette 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: Juliette, child 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 light 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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming
nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through 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

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse).
Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to
harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Read responsively)

- ¹ **Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;**
- ² that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
- ³ **that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.**
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ **May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.**
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ **In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**
- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ **And blessed be your glorious name forever,**

and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his

threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

ELW 774

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Refrain
Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
(leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

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

Choir Offering

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Public Domain

Please stand if you are able

Offering

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offering Prayer

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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

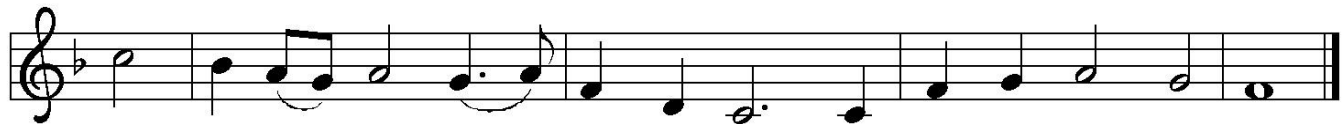
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



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*“Blessed Assurance”*

ELW 638

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908 Public Domain

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Refrain

Distribution Hymn*“What Feast of Love”*

ELW 487

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1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!

3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?

2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!

This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Distribution Hymn*“Light Dawns on a Weary World”*

ELW 726

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1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Please stand if you are able

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.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry
will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim
the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

Sending Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

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

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: Refrain

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

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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

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Audio/Visual Tech.: Jon Baaske

Assisting Minister: Mary Snook

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Attendance: Nov. 30 - 92

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

2025: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

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

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Connie Deehr.

Council asks the congregation to pray that people may be moved to consider serving on Council, particularly in the positions of treasurer and secretary.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Dec.14 – Set-up – Jim Kluding

Cleanup – Jim

21 – Set-up - Joleen Dillender

Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

24 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Cleanup – Elizabeth

28 – Joint Worship at Zion Huron, 9:00 am

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

Baptism and fellowship: It is with great joy that we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Juliette Burnham this morning! Please plan to support this child and her family in their new lives of faith. We celebrate Juliette's baptism with a donut fellowship following worship in the sanctuary.

Assisting Ministers! Our order of worship leaves space for people to assist in leading worship. Our teenagers are brave and are willing to help us try out this new role over the next few weeks. The assisting minister leads the prayers, among other things. If you would like to be an assisting minister, please let Pastor Stacy or Sandy know.

New ministry lists are posted and waiting for you to sign-up. There are many ways that you can help serve during worship!! Give prayerful thought to helping out with these ministries!!!

One Call Now: We are working on a program that will automatically call and text you to let you know when something is happening at St John's. The texts won't be too often, but will alert us to prayer requests, upcoming events, and worship cancellations due to weather. To begin the process, please **text the word ALERT to 22300**. This will allow us to text you when there is something to share. Thank you!

Christmas Worship Opportunities:

Youth Christmas Program: Our youth will share the Christmas story on Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 am. This year's program and worship will be held in St. John's sanctuary. Don't miss this special worship opportunity!

Christmas Eve: Christmas Eve worship will be held on Wednesday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with worship service at **5:00 pm**. The service will feature both Holy Communion and candlelight. Spread the word; invite family and friends to come for Christmas Eve worship!

Sunday, December 28: Lessons and Carols will be a Joint Worship at Zion Lutheran Church, Huron at **9:00 am**. No worship at St. John's.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD!

Community Events:

Jolly Jingle Jam: The Firelands Chorus, Inc presents their 66th annual Christmas program on Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church, Sandusky. Doors open at 7:00 pm and concert begins at 7:30 pm. Come dressed for a Christmas party. Ugly sweaters are encouraged for an ugly sweater contest. The concert is free with a free will offering being collected.

A Free Community Concert performed by the North Coast Concert Band. The performance will take place TODAY at 3:00 pm at Port Clinton High School 821 S. Jefferson St. in the Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.

2026 Calendars: Have you received a 2026 calendar or an abundance of calendars that you don't need? Please bring in your 2026 calendar and place in the basket in the back of the sanctuary and they will be taken to nursing homes. Thank you.

Happy Birthday to Myrna Schlessman, Mike Babiuch and Lori Stacy.

Weekly Listening Plan

December 2025

Weekly Listening

“LasPosadas”

Week 2 – “This isn’t an inn, go on ahead. I can’t open, lest some scoundrels be here.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCCTS92JMsI>

1. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Luke 2:1-7**
2. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
3. It’s very common for us to tend to classify or stigmatize people. We hear the narrative that “migrants are _ _ _.” Write down the narrative you have about migrants. Jesus invites us to offer help, to offer our arms, our words. What can you do? How can you build peace?

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 7TH THRU DECEMBER 21ST

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Dec. 7 | 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am | Study with Lynn, Zion Christian Center Youth Program Practice Worship/Baptism of Juliette Burhnam |
| Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 10:30 am | Christianity and World Religions Study |
| Thursday, Dec. 11 | 5:30 pm | Choir Practice |
| Sunday, Dec. 14 | 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am | Study with Lynn, Zion Christian Center Youth Program Practice Worship/Youth Tell the Christmas Story |
| Tuesday, Dec. 16 | 10:00 am 7:00 pm | Book Discussion “Somehow” Council Meeting |
| Sunday, Dec. 21 | 9:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am | Study with Lynn, Zion Christian Center Youth Christmas Party in Upper Room Worship/Youth Tell the Christmas Story |