



# WHO IS YOUR NEIGHBOR?

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
July 13, 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 9:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

**Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor**

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**July 13, 2025**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Welcome to Worship! To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

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.

Bells

Welcome and announcements

## **Gathering**

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

*Please stand if you are able*

## **Gathering Hymn**

*"God Is Here"*

**ELW 526**

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1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.

3 Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

### **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.**

### **Hand Chimes**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care.  
Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with  
the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9:14**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup>when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

The word of the Lord.

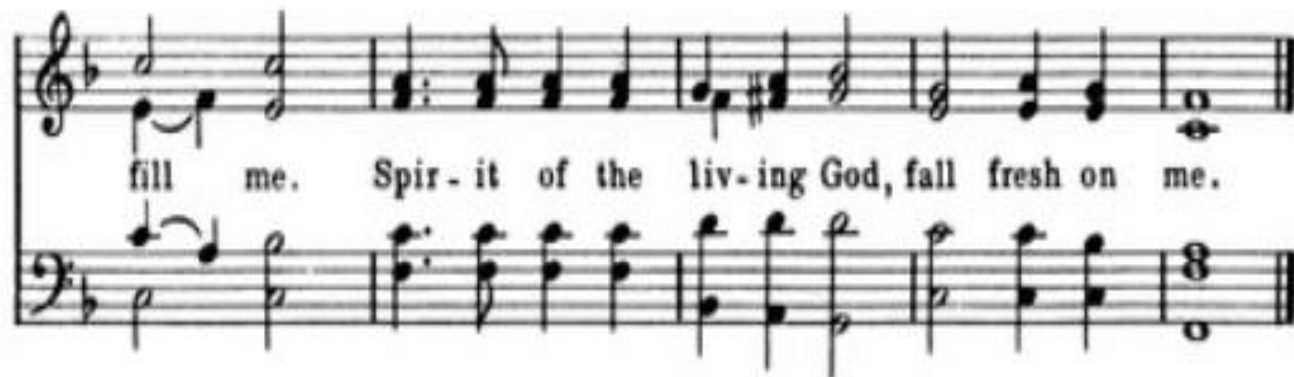
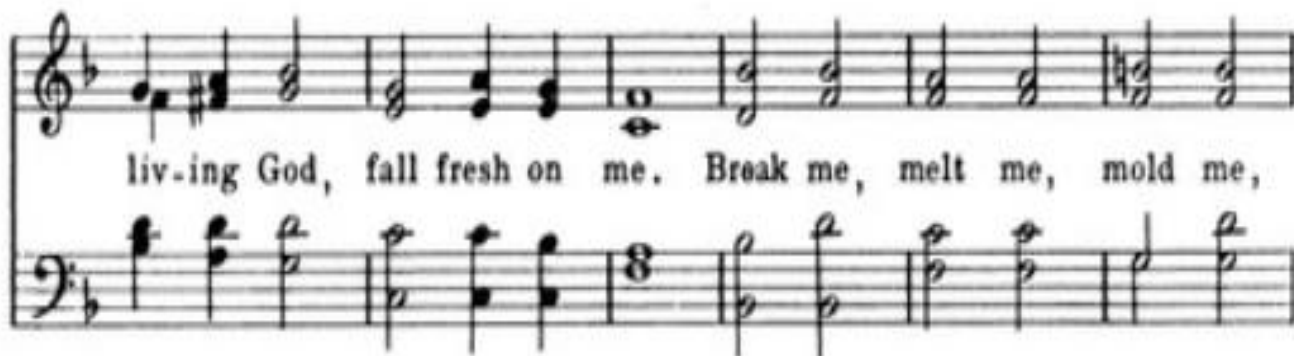
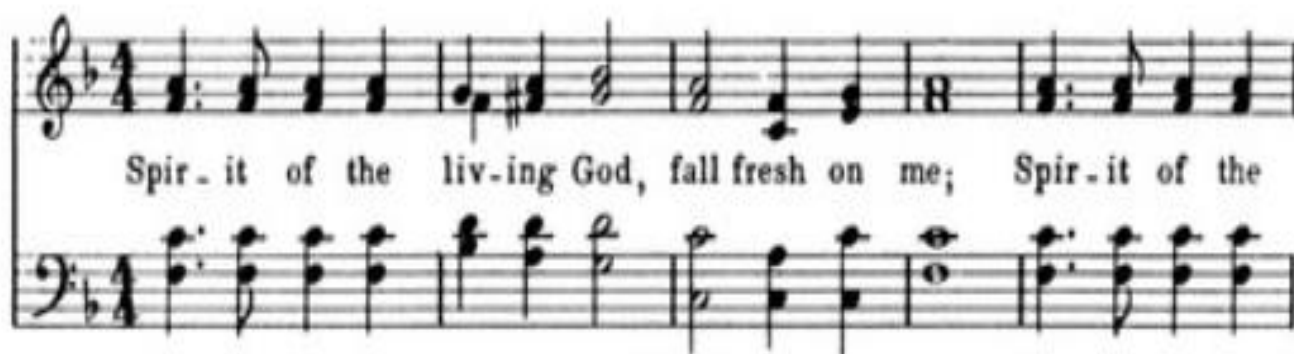
**Thanks be to God.**

**Kathy Shuck vocal offering**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*"Spirit of the Living God"*

© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing



## **Gospel: Luke 10:25-37**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?”

<sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”

<sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

*Please be seated.*

## **Youth Time: Kids’ Bells**

### **Explanation of Talent Show**

#### **Additional Talents:**

**Allison Young, Dawn Schlessman, Nicholas Samsa**

### **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

### *“Amazing Grace”*

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

*Please stand if you are able*

## Offertory

### 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**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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.

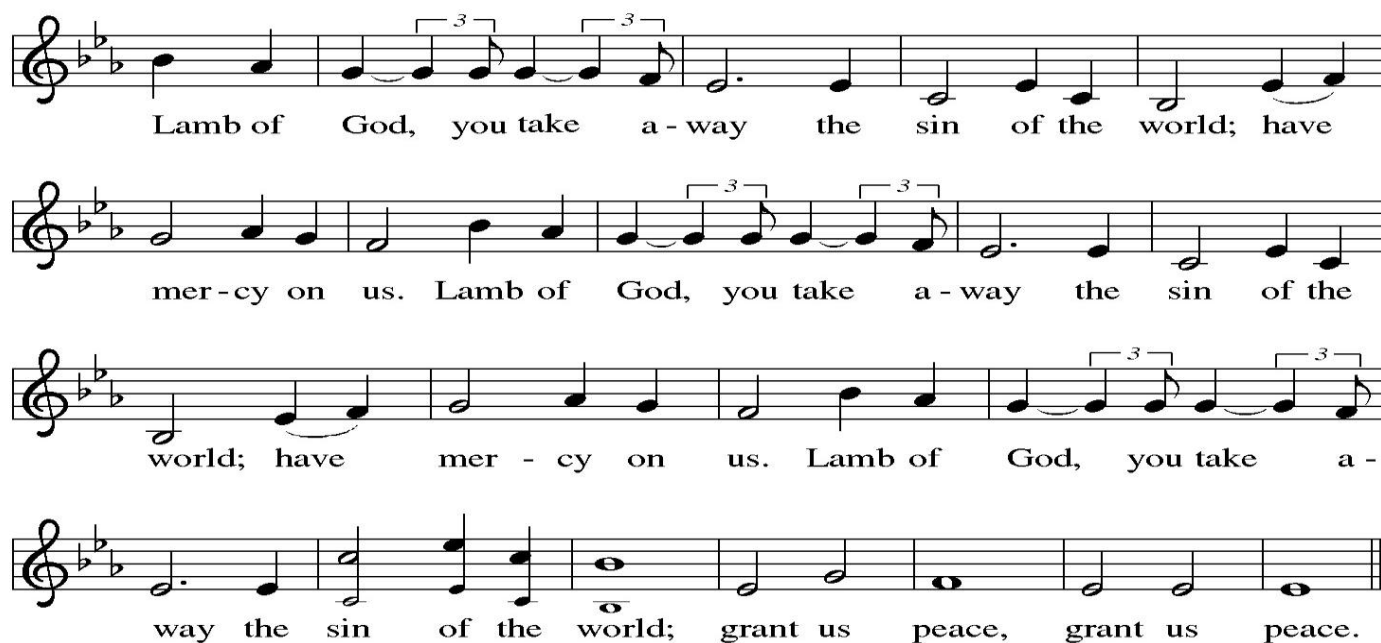
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine 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



## Music by Jean Bos

### Distribution Hymn

*"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"*

ELW 800

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860 Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897 Public Domain

1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,  
and make me love you as I ought to love.

2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,  
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,  
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;  
but take the dimness of my soul away.

3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
*Please stand if you are able*

4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,  
one holy passion filling all my frame:  
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,  
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

## 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.



We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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**

### **“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”**

**ELW 624**

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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**

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Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin.

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Organist: Nathan Samsa

Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws

Audio/Visual Tech: Brandon Alt

Attendance: July 6 - 48

Website: [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)

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).

**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**

20 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben – Jt. Worship at Nickel Plate with communion

27 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender    Cleanup -

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.

**On Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**, St. John's and Zion Lutheran Huron will have worship together at 9:30 AM at Nickel Plate Beach. We hope you will join us! The campers will lead the entire worship service, including doing a skit for the sermon. Please bring canned food donations for Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry. The food pantry will also take expired items that are no more than 1 year outdated. Clean out those pantries, pick up some items at the store, or bring a monetary donation! **Breakfast will be provided after worship.**

**Thank You:** Just want to send a Big Thank You to all the churches of Huron. Our community members participated in a Dine to Donate at Jim's Pizza Box in May. A \$450 check was delivered to the Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry this week.

**Bratwurst/Hot Dog Drive-Thru:** We'd like to invite anyone and everyone to our drive thru Brat Lunch today at Trinity Lutheran Church Sandusky from 11:30-1:00 pm(or til we are sold out). This event is sponsored by the Trinity Youth Group. Menu: Brat or Hot Dog, chips, fruit salad, cookie and drink at a cost of \$8.00 per meal. The proceeds are going toward our youth fundraising for the gathering in '27.

**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 Kathleen Shuck and Jim Semon II.

**Happy Anniversary** to Ted and Lynn Call.

## **Weekly Listening Plan**

**July 2025**

***“Reckless Love”* (Cory Asbury)**

**Week 2 – *“Oh the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God. Oh, it chases me down, fights ‘til I’m found, leaves the ninety-nine”***

Enjoy the song selection video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWaZQYbOoP4&t=266s>

1. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Psalm 145:9**
2. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
3. When in life have you felt like the one sheep pursued by the shepherd? How might you reflect on and share such stories?

# ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>

Sunday, July 13	9:30 am	Worship/Talent Offerings
July 14-18 Day Camp at Zion	Huron	
Tuesday, July 15	9:00 am	Giving Garden fellowship and weeding
Sunday, July 20	9:30 am 10:30 am	Jt. Worship at Nickel Plate Beach Shelter Breakfast following worship
Tuesday, July 22	9:00 am	Giving Garden fellowship and weeding
Sunday, July 27	9:30 am	Worship