



How often have I desired to
gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood
under her wings

Luke 13:34 NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 16, 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

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Worship! Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.
We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.
In **✠** Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW 834

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876
Public Domain

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and
love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

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.

Lenten Wreath

"Lamb of God"

ELW 336

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music.
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During the singing of "Lamb of God" verse 2, a single candle on the Lenten wreath is extinguished. Our space becomes a little darker as we journey together toward the Passion of Christ.

Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 27 (Read responsively)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will
sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong.**
Take heart and wait for the LORD!

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from Philippians.

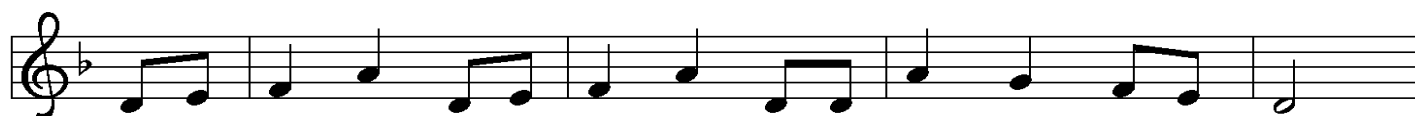
Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

“Jesus Loves Me”

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW 765

Text © Oxford University Press 1931

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane
and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts,
Lord, at the noon of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts,
Lord, at the end of the day.

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:

Response: God in your mercy, receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Text © Oxford University Press 1931

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "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

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

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Offering Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

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

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

ELW 596

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868Public Domain

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,

clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain

Distribution Hymn

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

ELW 468

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

1 Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us
with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
"Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!"

2 We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.

3 We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never--
in joy, in grief, in death--

depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.

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.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, 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

“Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me”

ELW 767

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

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages,
are always near.
Close by your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding,
in peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home,

then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me
unto the end.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me”

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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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Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws

Audio/Visual Tech: Jon Baaske

Attendance: Mar. 9 - 52

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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

2025 The Year of Listening 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 Bob and Jerrie Krawetzki.

In this season of Hope, Council asks the congregation to pray that people at St. John’s, and everywhere, follow the Holy Spirit and remain open to journeying on whatever spiritual adventures we may be led on.

Communion Clean-up today: Paula Hoffman Laws

Mar.23 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup - Elizabeth

Mar.30 - Set-up – Jim Kluding Cleanup – Jim Kluding

Apr. 6 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup - Elizabeth

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.

Noisy Offering today: Melissa Gundlach, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Erie County will join us next week to share what they do with our endowment money. Bring your change to fill out buckets in support of the HSEC.

The Season of Lent: Join us at St. John’s for special opportunities for fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent featuring soup suppers at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Holden Evening Prayer along with focus on the Psalms and that God can handle all of our emotions! **The soup supper sign-up sheet is on the back window for you to share your delicious soup recipes.** May God bless you in your Lenten journey.

Needed:

Lent Offerings: All offerings from our Wednesday evening Lenten services will be donated to Border Servant Corps. The BSC began in 1997 as a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church in Las Cruces, New Mexico through the ELCA. BSC seek to live out a vision of service, faith, and caring – imagining a world where peace and justice are pursued through non-violence, honoring each other and the earth we share. BSC promotes and demonstrates justice, kindness, and humility.... in the U.S.-Mexico border region. We serve together to “Create the change we want to see in the world”. St. John’s Council approved sending our Lenten offerings in support of Border Servant Corps. **If you are unable to attend Lenten worship and would like to contribute to this ministry, place your loose offering in an envelope marked for BSC or on the memo line of your check which is made payable to St. John’s Lutheran Church.**

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH 16TH THRU MARCH 30TH

Sunday, March 16	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Wednesday, March 19	5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Soup Supper Mid-week Lenten Worship Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, March 23	9:15 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Bell Choir Setup and Practice Choir Practice Worship
Wednesday, March 26	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Soup Supper Mid-week Lenten Worship
Sunday, March 30	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship

Weekly Listening Plan

For this Year of Listening, we have invited local musicians to select a song for collective reflection each month. We encourage you to explore the monthly scripture and weekly listening practices.

We invite you to join us in these four unique listening practices each month!

March 2025

God is Truly Present

Week 3 – “Hear the hymn ascending, songs of saints and angels blending...”

Enjoy the song selection video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su3kAJbuzu8&t=9s>

1. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Habakkuk 2:20**
2. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
3. Seek out old recordings or memories from your church's past and reflect on how the church's Song has moved from the Saints before us and continues. What part might you play in this choir of saints?



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

We will beautify our sanctuary with Easter flowers on Easter.
Please place your order in the offering plate by **Sunday, March 23**
deadline to order.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. John's Lutheran Church

DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
EASTER LILY 6"	\$14.00		
DAFFODIL 6"	\$12.00		
TULIP 6" (PINK)	\$12.00		
TULIP 6" (RED)	\$12.00		
TULIP 6" (YELLOW)	\$12.00		
6" is pot size			
	TOTAL		

NAME_____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased)_____

IN HONOR OF (Living)_____
