

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church March 9, 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, PastorMarch 9, 2025First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Worship! These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

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.

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

Amen.

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

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine:" Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 774

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Lenten Wreath

"Lamb of God"

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

During the singing of "Lamb of God" verse 1, a single candle on the Lenten wreath is extinguished. Our space becomes a little darker as we journey together toward the Passion of Christ.

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod and to become 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.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a

great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 (Read responsively)

- ¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
 - ² you will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."
 - ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
 - ¹⁰ no evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
 - ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.
 - ¹² Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
 - ¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
 - ¹⁴ I will deliver those who cling to me;I will uphold them, because they know my name.
 - ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
 - ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} "The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 The holy gospel according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the

world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.""

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,

to protect you,'

 $^{\rm 11}\,{\rm and}$

'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.""

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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	"My Life Flows On In Endless Love"	ELW 763
Text:	Robert Lowry, 1826-1899 Music: Robert Lowry, alt.	

1 My life flows on in endless song;	2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
above earth's lamentation,	I hear that music ringing.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn	It finds an echo in my soul.
that hails a new creation.	How can I keep from singing? Refrain
Refrain	
No storm can shake my inmost calm	3 What though my joys and comforts die?
while to that Rock I'm clinging.	The Lord my Savior liveth.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,	What though the darkness gather round?
how can I keep from singing?	Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!	All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? <i>Refrain</i>

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

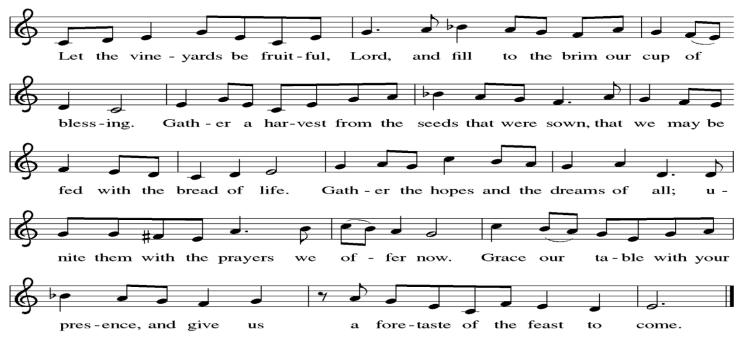
Choir Offering

"Lonesome Valley" Colin Curtis ©2005 Lorenz Publishing Co. a division of The Lorenz Corp. All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

"Let the Vineyard Be Fruitful"



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and 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.

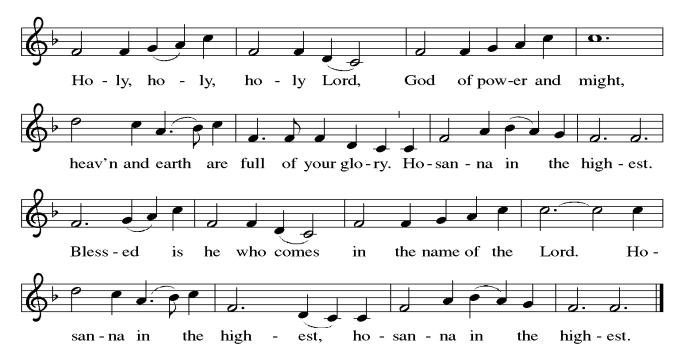
Preface

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



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

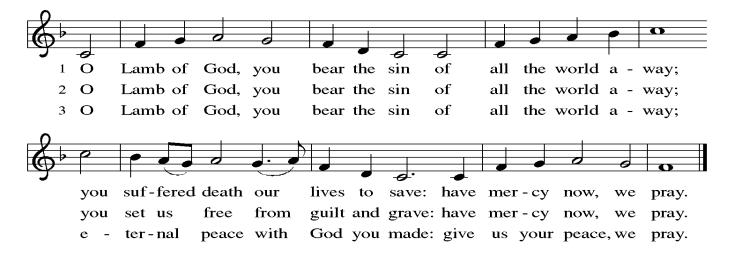
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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



Distribution Hymn"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889Music: Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585Public Domain

CHRIST AS PROPHET

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

272



Horatius Bonar, 1846 Alt, 1990; mod. VOX DILECTI C.M.D. John Bacchus Dykes, 1868 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;	2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;	in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,	when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.	Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;	when my head is bowed in sorrow,
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;	Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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.

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

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

"On Our Way Rejoicing" ELW **537** Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Public Domain

1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring; unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. Refrain

Refrain On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God. Postlude

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Public Domain

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> St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is: "A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known" And a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor Pastor Stacy's Day Off - Friday Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin.

Nathan Samsa, Organist

Usher: Ray Witt

Church: 419-625-2192 Cell: 419-680-0358 419-625-2192 E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson Audio/Visual Tech: Rich & Kathy Schlessman Attendance: Mar. 2 - 53

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).

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: Sandy Thompson

Mar.16 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup – Paula Hoffman Laws Mar.23 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup – Sue and Lynn Schlessman Mar.30 - Set-up - Jim Kluding Cleanup - Jim Kluding Apr. 6 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben 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.

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th with two opportunities for the Imposition of Ashes. Ashes to Go from 7:45-9 am at Zion Lutheran Huron and joint worship with Zion Huron at Huron at 7:00 pm.

Join us at St. John's for special opportunities for fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent beginning March 12th, 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: 1 soup, 2 people for sandwiches, and cookies

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.

March Birthdays

Mar. 5 – Sophia Young

- 8 Keith Schlessman
- 16 Marcia Giordano
- 19 Bonny Ambos
- 23 Carolyn Steinfeldt
- 24 Todd Ross, Lauryn Tommas
- 24 Jim Stauffer 26– Christine Samsa 31 – Heather Rugles

March Anniversaries

3 – Ann and Ray Witt

11 – Jean Cramer and Jon Bos

Sunday, March 9	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship
Monday, March 10	9:00 am	Bible Study on Listening
Wednesday, March 12	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Soup Supper Mid-week Lenten Worship
Thursday, March 13	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, March 16	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Tuesday, March 18	7:00 pm	Church Council meets in Upper Room
Wednesday, March 19	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Soup Supper Mid-week Lenten Worship
Thursday, March 20	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Choir Practice Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, March 23	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH 9TH THRU MARCH 26TH

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 2 – "Make our hearts your dwelling, ev'ry carnal thought dispelling."

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

- 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. Reflect on the confession found on ELW pg. 240. What role does the practice of confession play in your faith life?

Thank You: Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,

We are thrilled to receive your recent gift of \$1,000.00 to further our ministry of Gospel proclamation, discipleship and healing among Native people. Thank you!

Please know your gift is being applied with great care to effectively reach men, women and children who long for the peace and hope our loving God provides when we put our trust in Him.

I welcome your continuing prayers for members of our ministry team as we share God's unfailing love with Native people of many different tribes. We work diligently to break through perceived cultural barriers, and your partnership in prayer and in giving so generously is deeply appreciated.

Your gift is a blessing to children and families you may never meet this side of heaven, but on their behalf, I thank you.

St. John Lutheran, Thank you for your support to Lutheran Indian Ministries where we work to heal the wounds of Native American trauma. Robert Heffle, Eecutive Directors and Jill Holthaus.

Eastern Conference – WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING Saturday, April 26, 2025 9a.m.-1p.m.

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 902 E. State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

RSVP by April 19th Annette Moore at 419-680-4381 or j88a62m60@aol.com

8:30am – 9:00am Registration with coffee in basement

9:00am – 1pm Worship, devotion, fellowship, fun, growing in God's word, and lunch

- In-Kind Gifts bed pillowsfor *Let's Build Beds* project. (FYI check Big Lots which is having closing sales.)
- Love Offering ¹/₂ to Liberty Center (homeless shelter in Fremont) and ¹/₂ to N.W.O. Synod Women of the ELCA; can be mailed to Annette Moore, treasurer, 1625 King St., Fremont, OH 43420.
- Women & Children in Trouble Grant: to be determined at the assembly
- **Registration Fee:** \$10.00 payable at door.

DIRECTIONS to St. Mark, 902 E. State Street, Fremont:

Coming in on State Route 20 from east or west, it turns into State Street. St. Mark is located on the north side of State Street east of the Sandusky River bridge.



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		φ3.
DAFFODIL 6"	\$12.00		(2)
TULIP 6" (PINK)	\$12.00		¢2
TULIP 6" (RED)	\$12.00		2
TULIP 6" (YELLOW	\$12.00		8
6" is pot size			
	TOTAL		

NAME_

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased______

IN HONOR OF (Living______