



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 23, 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

November 23, 2025 Christ the King Sunday

Welcome to Worship! Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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.

We give thanks to Pastor Kathy Shuck for leading our worship today while Pastor Stacy is on vacation. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Bell Choir Prelude *"I Need Thee Every Hour"* Robert Lowery
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Welcome and Announcements

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

ELW 634

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6

Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844 Public Domain

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.

2 O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.

3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line,
whom David Lord did call--
the God incarnate, man divine
and crown him Lord of all.
The God Incarnate, man divine--
and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet
and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from Jeremiah.

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

Psalm: Psalm 46 (Read responsively)

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from Colossians.

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones

or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.
¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved

others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.”⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Pastor Kathy

Hymn of the Day

“Christ Is the King!”

ELW 662

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Christ is the king! O friends, rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
let the world know he is your choice.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! | 2 Oh, magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
| 3 O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the Way disciples followed then.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! | 4 Let Love's all reconciling might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the God of light.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |
| 5 So shall the church at last be one;
so shall God's will on earth be done, | New lamps be lit, new tasks begun.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! |

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, “who proceeds from the Father.” The phrase “and the Son” is a later addition to the creed.

Prayers of the people:

Response: Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

“Christ Is the King!”

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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.

The musical notation is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music concludes with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

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

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

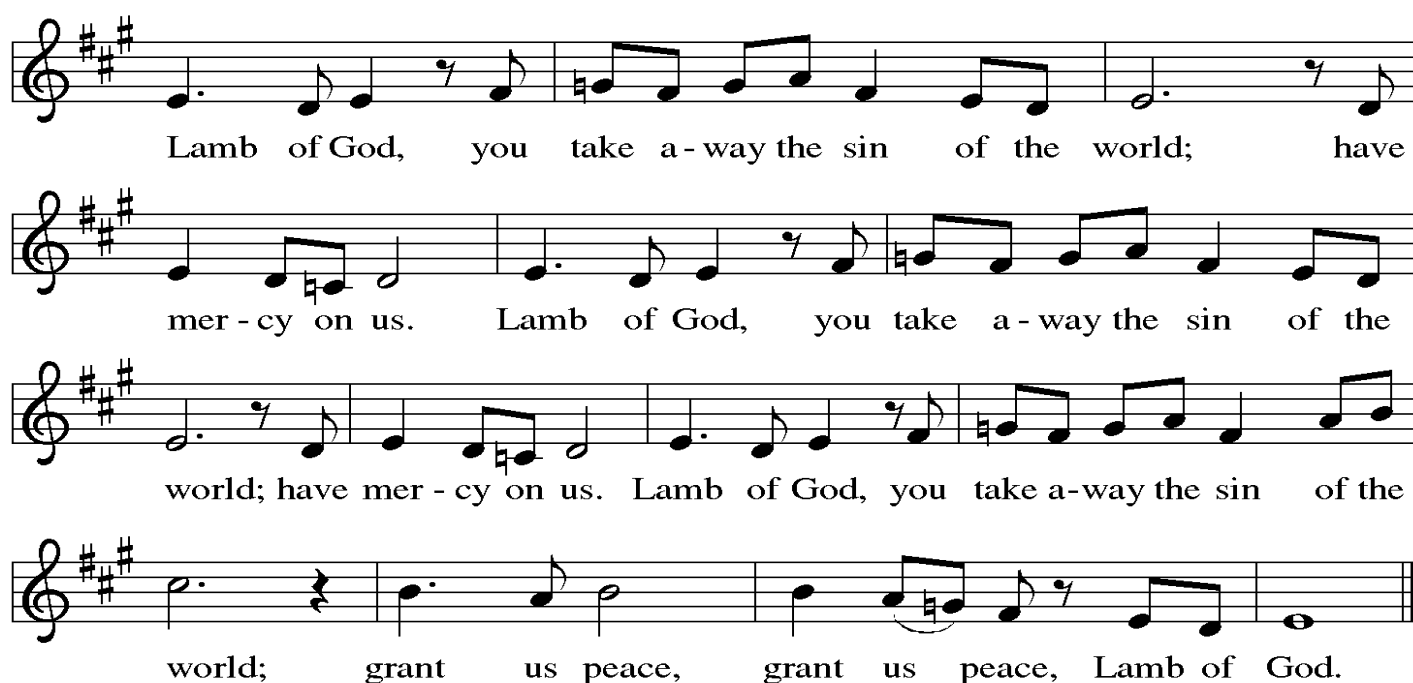
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymn:

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

ELW 855

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893 Public Domain

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Distribution Hymn:

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW 838

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent. Public Domain

1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

3 Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.

2 Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

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

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW 660

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who
died. Refrain

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Lift High the Cross"

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Join us for Hanging of the Greens and pizza fellowship!

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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, Secretary

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Usher: Ray Witt

Audio/Visual Tech: Brandon Alt

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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

Lay Reader: Melinda Zorn

Communion Assistant: Melinda Zorn

Attendance: Nov. 16 - 64

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 that people may be moved to consider serving on Council, that we all remain patient during the upheaval of the kitchen remodel, and that Pastor Stacy's continuing work to bring more youth into the life of the church bear fruit.

Pastor Stacy is taking time for vacation. If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church phone (419-625-2192) to leave a message and we will be in contact to answer your needs. Pastor Stacy returns on Sunday, November 30th.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Nov.30 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Cleanup - Sue & Lynn Schlessman

Dec. 7 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

14 – Set-up – Jim Kluding

Cleanup – Jim

21 – Set-up - Joleen Dillender

Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

24 – 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 Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

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.

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!

Joint Advent Worship: The members of Zion Lutheran Church Huron will join us for worship on **Sunday, November 30th**. Following worship, we will have an Advent Party which will take place **at Zion, Huron**. Lunch will include a pasta bar with all the toppings. Games and crafts for the kids as well as fellowship time for the adults. **If you plan to attend, please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.**

The Giving Tree is up! St. John's will help with the needs of families in Erie County! Please take a tag and have your gifts and supplies back by Sunday, Nov. 30th.

The kitchen and fellowship hall renovation is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 17th. We give thanks to Bob Stacy who has taken the lead on the project working with the contractors along with a team of members representing the congregation and making decisions on the future needs in the renovation areas. **Also, thanks to everyone who helped with cleaning out the areas and especially a tremendous thank you to Ron Zorn and Ray Witt for hours spent breaking up and removing items and several trips to the landfill. Many, many thanks.**

Community Events:

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing

Zion Huron and St. John's will be ringing the bell at Cornell's on Saturday, December 6 from 9:00am – 8:00pm for the Salvation Army. There are 1-hour slots, but you are welcome to sign up for 2 hours if you want. The schedule is available at the back of the sanctuary. Grab a pen, pick a time, bring a friend if you want, and join this worthy cause!

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 John Miller, Liam Young, and Lisa Fryer.

Weekly Listening Plan

November 2025

Weekly Listening

“How Great is Our God”

Week 4 – “How great is our God...”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNEKiVYi3Xs>

1. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Psalm 105:6**
2. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
3. As you celebrate Thanksgiving in your community or family, invite the gathered to share gratitude to God with the table.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 23RD THRU DECEMBER 7TH

Sunday, Nov. 23	9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn meet at Zion Huron Worship Hanging of the Greens/Pizza lunch
Thursday, Nov. 27		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Sunday, Nov. 30	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn, Zion Christian Center Youth Program Practice Jt. Advent Worship at St. John’s Advent Luncheon at Zion Huron
Tuesday, Dec. 2	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, Dec. 3	12:00 noon	Scripture and Prayer at Parkvue
Thursday, Dec. 4	5:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, Dec. 7	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn, Zion Christian Center Youth Program Practice Worship