

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
November 27, 2022

# ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870  
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com  
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

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November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Worship! The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

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

*"Come Down, O Love Divine"*

Don McAfee/DOWN AMPNEY by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906) ©2014 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

*Please stand*

**Gathering**

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

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,  
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.  
We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,  
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.  
Amen.

People of God,  
a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.  
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away.  
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
Amen.

**Gathering Hymn**                      *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*                      ELW 242

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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## Advent Candle Lighting

### Advent Hymn

*“Christ Be Our Light”*

ELW 715

Congregation sings Verses 1

Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications.

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1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

## Responsive Litany

## Hope for Those Who Wait

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God’s eternal time.

### **How long, O Lord, how long?**

For those waiting for answered prayer:

**Grant your steadfast patience.**

For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

**Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.**

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

**Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.**

For all of us waiting for God’s kingdom to come:

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

## Candle Lighting

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God’s people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God’s eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God’s presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” (*Psalm 27:14*)

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

## First Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

## **Psalm 122 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

## **Second Lesson: Romans 13:11-14**

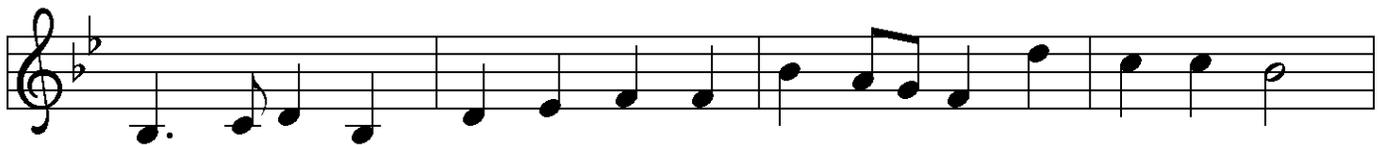
A reading from Romans.

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Please stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### **Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

*Please be seated*

## Sermon

*Please stand*

## Hymn of the Day

*“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*

ELW 244

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and sufferings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

**Prayers of the people:** God in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## Offering

*“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”* Tedd Smith/REST by Frederick C. Maker

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*Please stand*

## 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. 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: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:



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**

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

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*Please be seated*

### Distribution



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 Hymns:

*'Now We Join in Celebration*

ELW 462

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Now we join in celebration  
at our Savior's invitation,  
dressed no more in spirit somber,  
clothed instead in joy and wonder;  
for the Lord of all existence,  
putting off divine transcendence,  
stoops again in love to meet us,  
with his very life to feed us.

3 Lord, we share in this communion  
as one fam'ly of God's children,  
reconciled through you, our brother,  
one in you with God our Father.

2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,  
fill our hearts with holy rapture!  
For this bread and cup of blessing  
are for us the sure possessing  
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,  
of your living self, our vict'ry,  
pledge of your unfailing presence,  
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.

Give us grace to live for others,  
serving all, both friends and strangers,  
seeking justice, love, and mercy  
till you come in final glory.

*"Let Us Break Bread Together"*

ELW 471

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain

*Please stand*

**Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen**

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

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

**Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen**

## Sending Hymn

*"There's a Voice in the Wilderness"*

ELW 255

Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

2 O Jerusalem, herald good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their king.  
Like flow'rs of the field we perish,  
like grass our works decay;  
the pow'r and the pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.

3 But the word of our Savior is faithful,  
the arm of our God is strong,  
who stands in the midst of the nations  
and soon will right the wrong.

Lord, feed your flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
in pastures of peace now lead them,  
and bring them to your fold.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*"You Shall Go Out With Joy"*

Geoffrey Andrews

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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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Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

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Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson  
Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson  
Att.: Nov. 20 – 47

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2022: The Year of Scripture Memory Verse: : **"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:5a)**

**Council asks the congregation to pray** to hold hope and wonder in our hearts as we await the coming of the Christ child, and to pray for strength and comfort for those among us who need it most.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Intergenerational Sunday School** takes place next Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**November 30th** at 7 PM will be an elegant Advent evening! All women are invited. We will hear amazing music from Morgan Noon, followed by dessert time in the fellowship hall. Women are invited to join for dessert, or to host a table! Each table will have six guests, and the hostess will decorate with "fine" china and their favorite dessert. Coffee and tea and punch will be served. Please let Pastor Stacy know if you have any questions or if you would like to host a table!

**Christmas Worship Opportunities:**

**Youth Christmas Program:** Our youth will share the Christmas story “Come to the Manger” on Sunday, December 18th at 10:30 am. Don’t miss this special worship opportunity! Worship will be followed by our traditional sandwich and cookie potluck lunch. Please bring something to share.

**Christmas Eve:** Two opportunities to worship on Saturday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with special evening worship services at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The two services will be essentially the same, featuring both Holy Communion and candlelight. The 4:00 pm service will be live streamed to Zoom. Spread the word; invite family and friends to come for Christmas Eve worship!  
**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD!**

**Mark your calendars:** St. John's 2022 Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 after worship.

**Teams and Committees:** Team/committee reports for the 2022 annual congregational booklet will be due by January 15<sup>th</sup> to Sandy Thompson. Please send your report in a Word doc to [sandy8110@gmail.com](mailto:sandy8110@gmail.com) or mail to the church at 106 Scheid Rd Sandusky, OH 44870 attention Sandy Thompson

**Happy Anniversary** to Chuck and Peg Kingsley and David and Mary K. Schlessman.

**ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> THRU DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

Sunday, Nov. 27	9:00 am 10:30 am	Small Group Leaders meet Upper Room Sanctuary Worship live streamed to Zoom
Wed. Nov. 30	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Choir Practice An Elegant Advent Evening
Sunday, Dec. 4	9:30 am 10:30 am	Intergenerational Sunday School Sanctuary Worship live streamed to Zoom
Tuesday, Dec. 6	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, Dec. 7	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, Dec. 8	1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Small group Bible Study with Sandy Art with Allison
Sunday, Dec. 11	9:15 am 10:30 am	Small group with Lynn in Upper Room Sanctuary Worship live streamed to Zoom

\*\*\*\*\*

We will beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season with poinsettias. Please place your order by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Place orders and payment in the offering plate.

No. of plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased) \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF (Living) \_\_\_\_\_