



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 27, 2024

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

October 27, 2024

Reformation Sunday

Welcome to Worship! Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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 thank Linda Stauffer and Jean Cramer for sharing their gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Welcome and announcements

Recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Carolyn Steinfeldt as a Deacon in the ELCA

Prelude *"In Excelsis Deo"* Lee Ellis

Based on an Old French Carol ©1952 Lorenz Publishing Company, The

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

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 Song

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

vs. 1 & 2

ELW 504

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

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

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.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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: Romans 3:19-28

A reading from Romans.

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

²⁰ For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*”

ELW 517

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;

support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

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 of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir/Congregation Offering *God of the Sparrow”*

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise | 4 God of the hungry God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life |
| 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature say Woe
How does the creature say Save | 5 God of the neighbor God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace |
| 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks | 6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home |

Please stand if you are able

Offertory *“We are an Offering”*

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F/G G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E
 We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G C² Dm⁷
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our

C²/E C/E F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G/F
 hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.

Em⁷ Em⁷/A A Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G Esus D/F# E/G# Am
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

Dm⁷ C²/E Bb/C Dm^{7sus2} Dm⁷ F/G
 give to you, we give to you.

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E
 We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G 3 C
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Offering Prayer

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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

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.

Distribution Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story"

ELW 661

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936 Public Domain

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. Refrain

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW 715

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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.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. Refrain

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain

Please stand if you are able

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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" vs. 3 & 4

ELW 504

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

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
through life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

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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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Today's Musician: Linda Stauffer	Lay Reader: Melinda Zorn
Usher: Ray Witt	Communion Assistant: Melinda Zorn
Audio/Visual Tech: Jon Baaske	Attendance: Oct. 20 - 54
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com	
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2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Toni Nossaman in honor of Reformation Sunday.

Council asks the congregation to continue to pray that during this upcoming election season, we all remember to listen with humble hearts to those with whom we disagree. We pray that our leaders do the same, in order that we all may concentrate less on getting our way and more on loving our neighbors.

Communion Clean-up today: Jim Kluding

Oct. 27 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman Cleanup - Jim Kluding

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.

Healing of the nations: Every month when we ask the council how to pray, we find that there are so many people hurting locally and around the world. The election season makes this even more evident. On **November 10th**, we will include a healing of the nations to our Sunday morning service. We will light candles and pray for people nearby and around the world. We hope you will join us for this special service. If you would like to be one of the four readers, please let Pastor Stacy know. Thanks!

November 10th at 9:30 will be Sunday School for **ALL youth**. We will learn about Holy Communion, taste the bread, tell stories, and go a little deeper into our understanding of this sacrament.

November 17th will be the first play practice for the Christmas program, which will be on December 15th in the barn. Please let Pastor Stacy know if your child/neighbor/grandchild/family member of any kind would like a role!

Zion Lutheran Advent-Christmas Trivia Contest: Would you like to be part of a team to compete in a trivia contest and help support Hopewood Lutheran Outdoor Ministries this summer? Zion Lutheran invites us to their Advent-Christmas Trivia contest on Wednesday, November 20th (light dinner at 5:30 with contest to begin at 6 p.m.) It will be held at Zion Lutheran, Huron. There will be 9 rounds of Christmas Trivia. Subjects will be Christmas carols, traditional and contemporary Christmas music, worldwide Christmas traditions, Holiday foods, Christmas folklore, colors and decorations of Advent, Christmas movies and Holiday TV specials. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Teams can be made up of 4-8 people. If you are interested in being part of a St. John's team or 2 teams, see the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Happy Birthday to Peg Kingsley, Jason Thompson, John Wilson and Cole Ruggles.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 27TH THRU NOVEMBER 10TH

Sunday, October 27	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Tuesday, October 29	11:00 am	Making Sense of Martin Luther Study
Sunday, November 3	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn All Saints Sunday
Tuesday, November 5	11:00 am 1:00 am	Making Sense of Martin Luther Study Faith Life Team
Wednesday, November 6	12:00 noon	Scripture and Prayer at Parkview Place
Sunday, November 10	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Youth Sunday School Healing of Nations Service

Weekly Verse: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. – Psalm 136:1

Oct. 27 – Recount what you are thankful for this month.

28 – Get your hands dirty doing something good.

29 – Breathe deeply for 3 minutes.

30 – Close your eyes. Be mindful of what you notice.

31 – Sing a song you love loudly and joyfully.

Nov. 1 – Do something playful.

2 – Offer a prayer of gratitude today.

Faith in Action: Our Call to Civic Engagement During the 2024 Election

God calls us to care for our neighbors and actively shape a just and compassionate society. Civic engagement, including voting and public service, is a meaningful way we live out our faith in the public sphere. The ELCA encourages everyone to engage in the political process with integrity, advocating for justice, peace and the common good. Browse resources, watch videos and learn how to get involved at [ELCA.org/CivicEngagement](https://www.elca.org/CivicEngagement).