



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023

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

September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

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 to our new member Susan Zorn who is with us on our live stream.

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

ELW 452

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.

3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.

4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.

5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.

Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

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.

Kyrie


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.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (Read responsively)

[¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
] ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he

would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

“*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*”

ELW 708

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Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away.

Refrain

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them.

3 These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

Refrain

Refrain

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

Prayers of the people:

Response: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people

and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Distribution Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

ELW 841

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

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.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through 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

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

ELW 864

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005 Music: John Gross, 1800-1880

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven;
joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praises everlasting ring!

2 God be praised for grace and favor
to our forebears in distress.
God be praised, the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious is God's faithfulness!

3 Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, as mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the great Eternal One!

4 Angels sing in adoration,
in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation,
all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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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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Usher: Jeff Justi

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Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn

Attendance: Sept. 10 - 40

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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2023 the Year of Story Memory Verse. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”.* **Acts 1:8**

Council asks the congregation to pray that we find discernment and guidance in determining a path forward regarding our new opportunities.

Coffee Hour and Conversation: With Pastor Stacy and Ryan buying their own home, this means that our church gets to make decisions on the parsonage. The council wants to hear **YOUR** input. Please join us for coffee on **October 1st at 9:30** in the upper room to share your ideas.

Care Packages for College Students: St. John's Faith Life Team would like to keep in contact with our college students by sending a care package. Please let Dawn Schlessman know, if you have a student currently attending college.

This fall there are so many wonderful opportunities to worship, study, pray, and serve with your St John's family. We hope you will join us.

Book Club October 10th: We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am in the Upper Room. We are reading "The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation" by Barbara R. Rossing. Read Chapters 3 for our next discussion.

1st Wednesdays of the month (except September, which will be Sept 20): We gather for lunch and **reflect on scripture** for the upcoming week. We read the scripture together, talk about what is happening in the world, and Pastor Stacy helps craft prayers from the conversation. No previous experience necessary.

October 15th is the **pet blessing**. Please turn in pictures of your pets by October 1st so we can bless them during worship. If possible, please send a picture of your pet to Jenna Stacy (jenstacy4408@gmail.com) who will put together a power point of all pets to be blessed. Please send your photo by October 1st to be included in the power point presentation.

Intergenerational Sunday School will be the first Sunday of the month beginning in October at 9:30 AM. All ages are invited to talk about our God together! Jenna Stacy will also be leading Sunday School once a month for our youth!

Beginning October 25th, we will gather at 10:30 for a weekly **Bible study** on renewal and will continue this through Advent. This is a study prepared by our bishop and will help us look toward the future and see what God is up to. You are invited to this study,

no experience necessary! Pick up a study in the back of the sanctuary or at the handicap entrance.

December 3rd will be the **Christmas program**, and practice will begin in late October. Please save the date for another fun program!

As you can see, there are many opportunities. We hope you will join us! Blessings,
Pastor Stacy

Meals On Wheels Drivers: Serving Our Seniors is in desperate need of drivers for meals on wheels. Volunteers deliver hot meals to homebound residents aged 60+ in Erie County, five days a week. This would be a commitment of 1-2 hours one day a week. Please call the Erie County Senior Center for more information at 419-626-2560.

Endowment Grant Applications are being accepted: please contact a member of the endowment team and they will be glad to mail you an application. The requests need to be presented to the Endowment committee no later than October 7, 2023. You can mail the application back to the church, put your request in the endowment mailbox in the basement or present it to any member of the committee. The committee members are John Miller, Jeff Justi, Bob Stacy, Colleen Girard, Ron Zorn, Pastor Stacy . If you have any questions, please see a member of the endowment committee.

The Endowment Team will hold its quarterly meeting in mid to late October , at which time all grant applications that have been presented will be reviewed and voted on. Those that are approved will be sent to the Finance Team for additional review and approval.

Fresh Expressions 101: Mark your calendars! Everyone's invited! Zion Congregation is pleased to invite you to an introduction to Fresh Expressions on Saturday, September 23, 2023 from 9:00 am to noon at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 503 Columbus Ave., Sandusky. Fresh Expressions acknowledges the reality that few people today will venture behind the walls and stained glass of our buildings, and the effort seeks to create church for folks where they are, people who don't go to church and won't likely go to worship in a traditional setting.

A mission strategist and trainer for Fresh Expressions will give you a "101" on the whys and wherefores of the outreach movement, and maybe a few of the how's. A continental breakfast will welcome you at 8:30 and the program will run from 9:00 am until noon.

Happy Birthday to Kyle Young, Bud Schenk, Kelley & Faith Tommas, and Hunter Cantu.

Happy Anniversary to Jim and Bonnie Semon.

Thank You: We would like to thank you for the sweet corn your brought to the Viewpoint Apt. We all appreciated it and enjoyed it. Thanks again, The Resident Council

Thank you: Thank you for supporting OH-go's mission! Your donation of \$895.27 on April 2, 2023 will help keep us moving!. We are honored to count you as a partner in our effort to serve and feed neighbors and lead the community to end hunger. Your donation helps ensure that we are able to be a constant support. You are truly making a difference! Thanks so much! Christine and Kendra

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 17th THRU OCTOBER 1ST

Sunday, September 17	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
Tuesday, September 19	7:00 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 20	12:00 noon	Scripture & Prayer Berardi's Huron
Sunday, September 24	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
Sunday, October 1	9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Coffee and Conversation