

Be doers of
the **WORD**

JAMES 1:22



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 1, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 9:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

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 Nathan Samsa for sharing his gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bells

Welcome and announcements

Prelude

"Glorious Is Thy Name" BB McKinney Arr, Cindy Berry

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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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

ELW 879

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872 Public Domain

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: Refrain

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: Refrain

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

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

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15 (Read responsively)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ^l overthrown.

Second Reading James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

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O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see
 Je - sus, to reach out and touch
 him, and say that we love him.
 O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to
 lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,
 Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text and music: Bob Cull
 Text and music © 1976 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW 512

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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: Merciful God, **Receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

"All That Thrills My Soul" Thoro Harris

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Please stand if you are able

Offertory

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

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We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours:
we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

Offering Prayer

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and

forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us

not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the

power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



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

“Restore in Us, O God”

ELW 328

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

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1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.

3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.

4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

Distribution Hymn

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

ELW 818

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898 Public Domain

1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

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.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, 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

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

ELW 583

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Refrain

Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain

1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. Refrain

4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

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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

Church: 419-625-2192

Pastor Stacy’s Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin. Assistant

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Today’s Musician: Nathan Samsa

Lay Reader: Jeff Justi

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech: Ann Voight

Attendance: Aug. 25 - 47

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

Council asks the congregation to pray for students, parents, professional and auxiliary staff in all areas. We pray that each one has a year filled with achievement, growth and safety, and that they find joy and friendship in learning.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Rally Day - 8 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender

15 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup –

22 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup –

29 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman Cleanup -

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help out, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Due to Rally Day at the park, worship will not be live streamed on Sunday, September 8th. Live streaming of worship will be at 10:30 am on Sunday, September 15th.

Rally Day: September 8th is Rally Day! Please join us for a festive worship service, a delicious St. John's potluck and God's Work Our Hands service project. This is a great start for our fall and winter programs, but it's even better when you are part of it. We gather at Edison Park Shelter, 6 East St. Milan, OH. **Coffee time will start at 10:00 am with worship at 10:30** followed by a potluck lunch. After lunch we will assemble the personal care kit items that we have been gathering during the month of August for LW Relief. Drinks and table service are provided. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

Adult Study with Lynn resumes on Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 am in the Upper Room. We will be looking at the life of Abraham. All are welcome to join the upcoming study.

Book Club Selection: *"Jesus and John Wayne"* written by Kristin Du Mez.

The book club book "Jesus and John Wayne" appears more political than intended. However, it is still a topic that has been requested by quite a few in the congregation, that seems quite relevant, and that has already been purchased by a bunch of you in book club. Whether you agree or disagree with the book, I hope you will still join us.

Please feel free to SKIP the intro and preface as those seem the most political. In September we will discuss chapters 1 and 2. Please also be thinking about a fluffier piece that we could read after this book--I'm guessing we will all need a brain break!

Blessings Pastor Stacy

The book is available at Amazon or your favorite book place. If you would like a book, see the sign-up sheet in the back of the church or contact Sandy Thompson.

Kitchen and Fellowship Hall renovation! The council is asking for your help. It is time to put together a renovation plan. If you would like to be part of a committee to develop plans for a new kitchen and fellowship area, if you have skills in design or kitchen design, please contact Pastor Stacy or any member of council.

Reformation is approaching on October 31st. So why do we celebrate the Reformation? What is it that sets us Lutherans apart? Join us as we Make Sense of Martin Luther! It's a seven week series, beginning October 15th at 11 AM at St John's (we will not meet the week of Thanksgiving). There is a book that goes with the series, so please let Pastor Stacy or Sandy know by September 21st if you would like a copy. Anyone is welcome in this group.

Ladies you are invited: The Eastern Conference Women's Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024 at St. John Lutheran Church, 209 Southwest St. Bellevue OH. Registration and coffee hour starts at 9:00 am. Program begins at 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Take a few hours out of your busy schedule for a time of prayer, devotion, fellowship, craft, and growing in God's word. Cost: \$10.00 paid at the door which includes coffee hour and lunch. RSVP by September 29th to St. Jon, Bellevue, 419-483-5422 or St.johnsofficesec@gmail.com

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, 2024. 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, Ted Call, 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.

Happy Birthday to Brynn Baaske and Kathy Schlessman.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 1ST THRU SEPTEMBER 15TH

Sunday, September 1	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, September 3	9:00 am 1:00 pm	Giving Garden Harvest/Cleanup Faith Life
Wednesday, September 4	10:30 am	Scripture and Prayer meets this month at Patina Creekside Coffee Shop 2434 W Monroe St. Sandusky
Sunday, September 8	10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:30 am	Rally Day Coffee Time – Edison Park Rally Day Worship Rally Day Picnic Potluck God's Work Our Hands Hygiene Kit Assembly
Tuesday, September 10	10:00 am	Book Club meets in Upper Room
Sunday, September 15	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship

**Weekly Verse: And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?”
Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm.
Matt 8:26**

- Sept. 1 – Take a media break & quiet yourself.
- 2 – Close your eyes. Be mindful of what you notice.
- 3 – Breathe deeply for 3 minutes.
- 4 – Take 1 thing off your calendar.
- 5 – Visit a park or beach.
- 6 – Reflect on where you saw God today.
- 7 – Sit in stillness. Review your week.