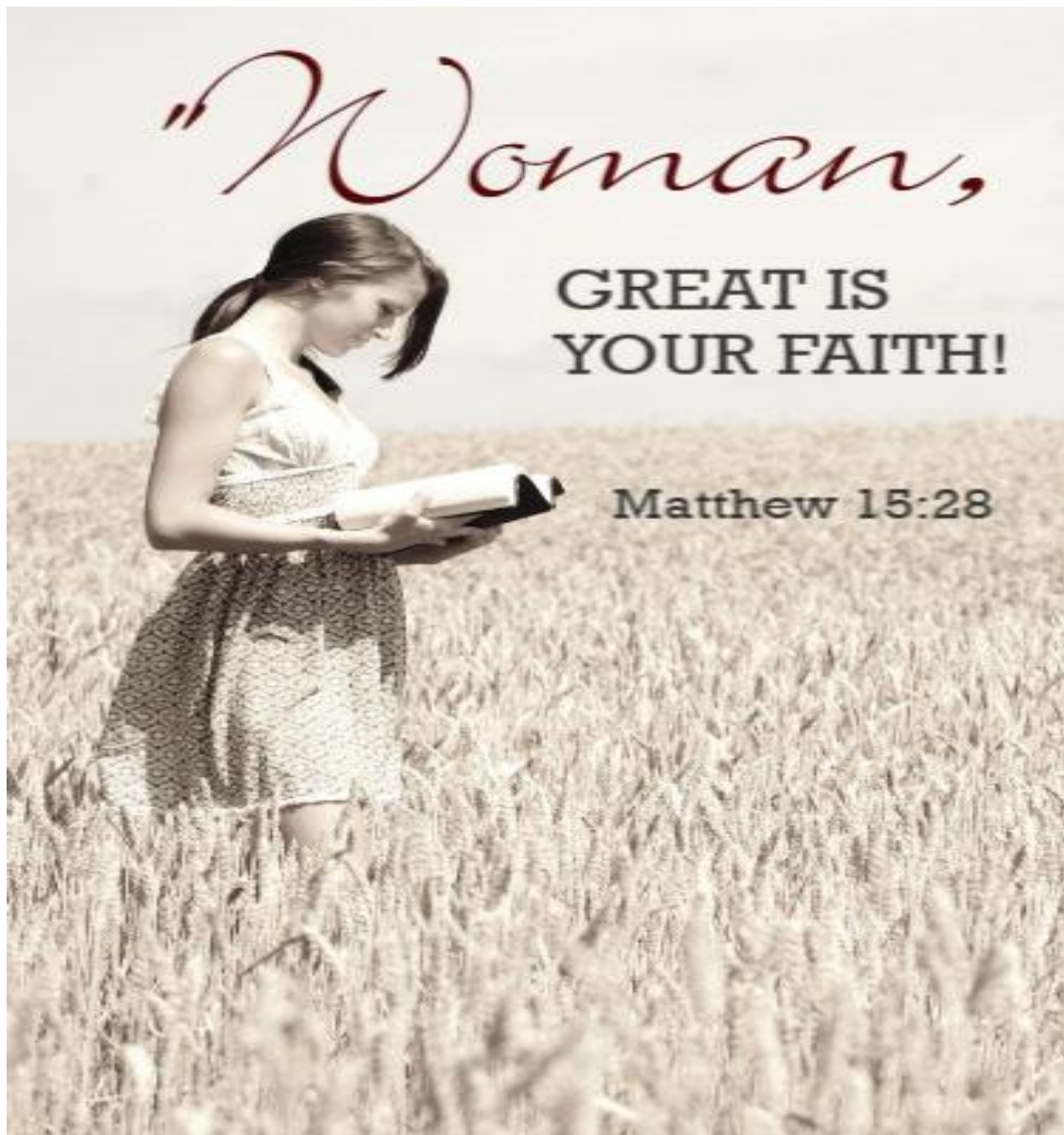




St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
August 16, 2026

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

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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.

Bell

Welcome and announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand if you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641

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1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: 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

"Glorify Thy Name"

© Capitol CMG Publishing

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, we love you, we wor - ship and a - dore you,
3 Spir - it,

glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth;

glo - ri - fy thy name, glo - ri - fy thy name,

glo - ri - fy thy name in all the earth.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a treble clef. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The second staff has notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The third staff has notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The fourth staff has notes: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it

and hold fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 67 (Read responsively)

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth. R**
⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

A reading from Romans.

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:[10-20] 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are

blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.”¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent - hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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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

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

"God, We Gather As Your People" Vs 1

God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Refrain

Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

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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.

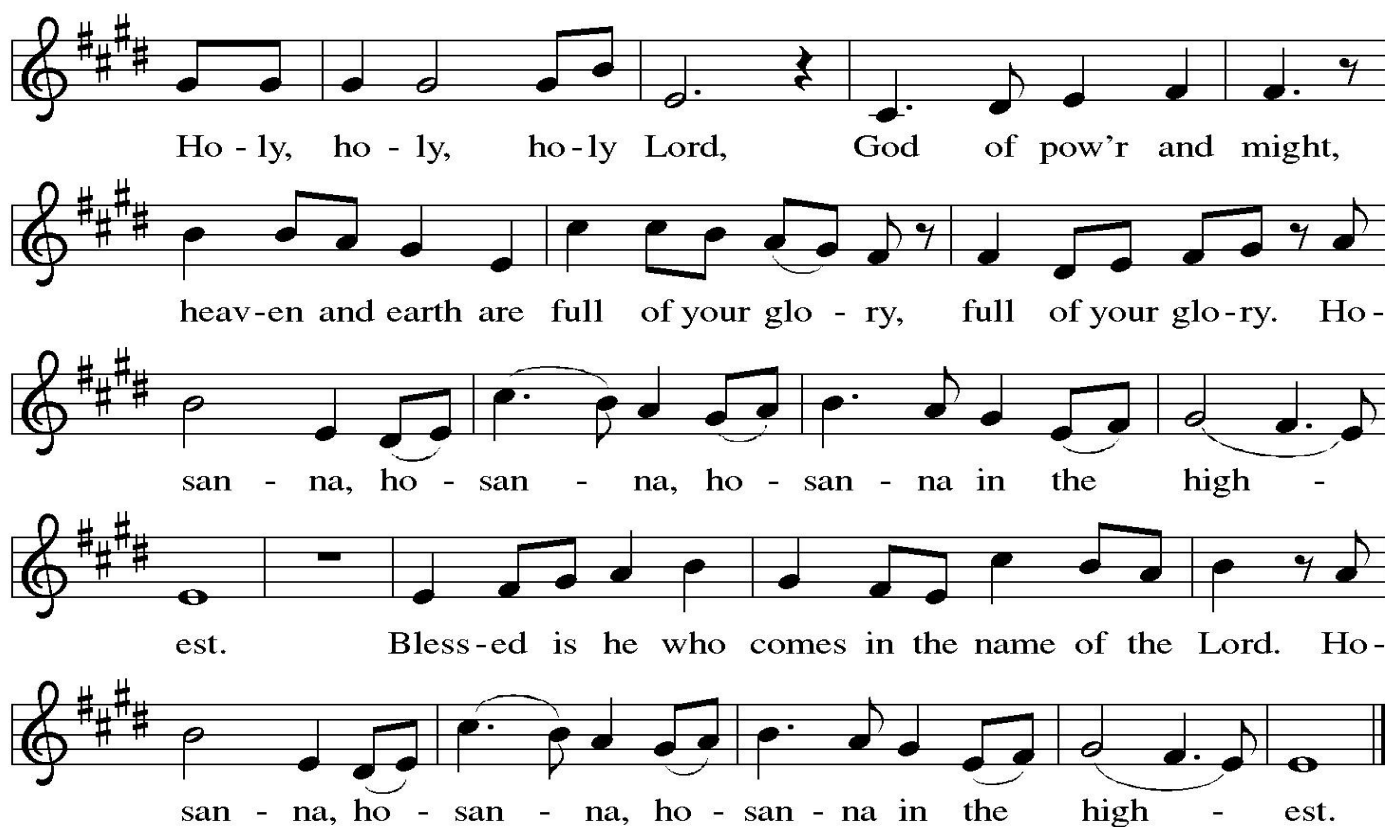
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

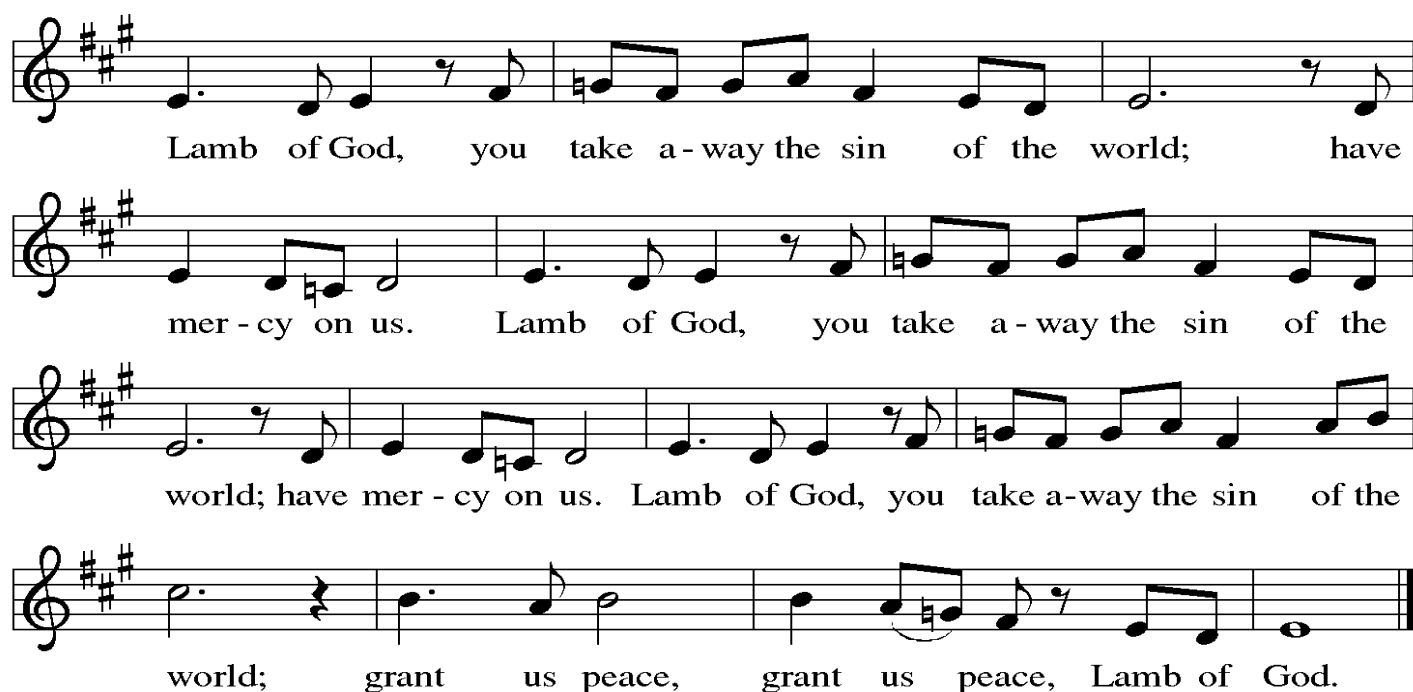
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
 forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us
 not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

Distribution Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW 496

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Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.

2 Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. Refrain

3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. Refrain

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

ELW 712

Text © 1961 Oxford University Press

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

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

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

2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

Sending Hymn

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

ELW 537

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Public Domain

1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy? Refrain

2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Postlude

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879 Public Domain

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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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Organist: Nathan Samsa

Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson

Usher: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn

Attendance: Aug. 9 - 40

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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2026 The Year of the Way of Love. “We love because he first loved us.”

Bible Verse for August: *1 John 3:23–24*

“And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us”.

Council asks the congregation to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation, that God unites us as one people in our love for Christ, our nation and one another.

Communion Clean-up today: Jim Kluding

Aug. 23 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

30 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender

Clean-up – Sandy Thompson

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Elizabeth Libben or Sandy Thompson.

Back to School: Teachers and students, it's hard to hear but the start of a new school year is just around the corner! St. John will mark the occasion with the “Blessing of Book Bags.” on **Sunday, August 16th** during our 9:30 service. Students, teachers, bus drivers, school staff are all invited to come forward during worship with whatever it is you carry with you to school...book bag, backpack, briefcase.

Attention parents of Confirmation age children: If you have a child or children in the 5th, 6th and 7th grades they are eligible for St. John's Confirmation instruction. A parents meeting will be held on Sunday, August 30th immediately following worship. Please contact Pastor Stacy, if you cannot attend the meeting.

Rally Day: September 13th is Rally Day! We worship together with Zion Huron. 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. Water and table service are provided. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

New Book Discussion Selection: “Bad Girls of the Bible” by Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs. Ten of the Bible's best-known femmes fatales parade across the pages of this popular and unforgettable study with situations that sound oh-so-familiar. Book discussion meets on Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00 am. Please read chapters 1 & 2 for discussion.

Americans and the Holocaust

Upper Sandusky Community Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries selected to host Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association (ALA) that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. Americans and the Holocaust will be at USCL Aug. 19-Sept. 30, 2026.

Members of St. John’s you are invited to attend a group outing to visit the traveling exhibition in Upper Sandusky. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, this is an opportunity to experience a piece of it without having to travel a great distance. **We will meet at the church at 11:00 am Wednesday, August 26th** travel to Upper Sandusky, have lunch at a local restaurant and then visit the exhibition at 2:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary. Please sign-up as soon as possible so we can plan the arrangements.

August Ingathering of supplies for Lutheran World Relief!

The Faith Life Team asks the members from St. John’s and Zion Huron to gather supplies for the LWR Personal Care Kits. For under \$10.00 you can help supply the needs of individuals who are living in refugee camps or experiencing any type of disaster. LW Relief is very specific in what items we can gather for this project. Tubs are available in the rear of the sanctuary and in the handicap entrance for your supplies. We gather these supplies during August and up to Rally Day Sunday, September 13th when we will assemble the kits for our 2026 “God’s Work, Our Hands” project. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



Ingathering items:

light-weight bath-size towel (between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”), dark color recommended

bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*

sturdy comb, remove packaging

metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

**Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 16TH THRU AUGUST 30TH

Sunday, August 16	9:30 am	Worship/Backpack Blessing
Tuesday, August 18	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday, August 23	9:30 am	Worship
Wednesday, August 26	11:00 am	Holocaust Museum Outing
Sunday, August 30	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship Catechism Parents Meeting

Attention Ladies of St. John's: The ladies of Zion extend an invitation to you to join in one of their ladies' book studies. The Zion Lutheran Church Women offer two different but similar monthly Bible Studies!

The Zion Lutheran Church Women are starting up their fall Bible study beginning Thursday, August 13 at 10:30 am in the Christian Center. We enjoyed last year's study of "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Liz Curtis Higgs so much that we are following up this year with "Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible"

SPIRIT Women's Bible Study group will resume meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 6:30 pm in the Upper Room at Zion. We will begin reading and discussing the book "Bad Girls of the Bible." Please contact Mary Ann Hahn or Carol Hubner this month so you can get the book in time for the first meeting.

Halupki Festival: The Holy Assumption Orthodox Church, Marblehead, OH holds its 69th Annual Halupki Festival on Sunday, August 16th, 110 E Main St. Food, activities and admission is FREE! Free shuttle service from parking location.