



those who lose their
life for my sake

will find it.

Matthew 16:25, NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
August 30, 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 30, 2026 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering 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 soon.

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

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

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

ELW 533

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680 Public Domain

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace! | 2 Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now! |
| 3 Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me. | 4 Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife. |
| 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee | while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes. |

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.

Hymn of Praise



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, we thank you for your Son who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow his commands; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

A reading from Exodus.

Moses experienced the call of God when God appeared to him in a bush that burned but was not consumed. When Moses expressed his unworthiness, God promised to be with him. When Moses objected that people would demand to know God's name, God revealed his personal name, Yabweh (I AM WHO I AM), or the LORD. Israel discovered God's true identity when God took them out of Egypt.

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you, and this

shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

¹³ But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’:

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.”

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

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8 (Read responsively)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.

²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
Refrain

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
Refrain

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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

"Lift High the Cross"

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Please stand if you are able

Offering

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 dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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



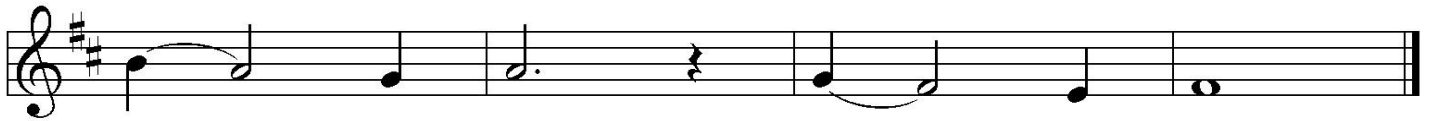
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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

“God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind”

ELW 400

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1 God of tempest, God of whirlwind,
as on Pentecost descend!
Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send!
Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross,
there with Christ to bear the cross!

3 God of earthquake, God of thunder,
shake us loose from lethargy!
Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free!
Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord,
make us one in Christ our Lord!

2 God of blazing, God of burning,
all that blocks your purpose, purge!
Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge!
Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth,
kindle us to speak your truth!

4 God of passion, God unsleeping,
stir in us love's restlessness!
Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress.
Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work,
claim us for your kingdom's work!

Distribution Hymn

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”

ELW 401

English and Swahili text and music © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin.
Augsburg Fortress

1 Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading that we're needing,
help us to follow you.

Refrain

Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty. 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

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW 574

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2 Come to teach us, come to nourish
those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful, may they flourish,
strengthened by grace unpriced. Refrain

3 Guide our thinking and our speaking
done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking,
freeing from guilt and shame. Refrain

5 Keep us fervent in our witness;
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure. Refrain

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

"Here I Am, Lord"

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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
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin.

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Usher: Ray Witt

Lay Reader: Lisa Fryer

Audio/Visual Tech.: Melinda Zorn

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Attendance: Aug. 23 - 52

Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

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 pray for all of our students, teachers, bus drivers and other school personnel as the new school year kicks off, and also that the new collaboration between St. John and Zion continue to enrich us all as the people of Christ.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Sept. 6 – Set-up – Jim Kluding

Clean-up – Jim Kluding

13 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Clean-up – Sandy Thompson

20 – Set-up – Joleene Dillender

Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

27 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws

Clean-up – Paula

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

Attention Members Special Congregational Meeting: Immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 20, 2026**, a special congregational meeting will be held to discuss the future of the parsonage.

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.

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 **TODAY** immediately following worship. Please contact Pastor Stacy, if you cannot attend the meeting.

Child Safety Policy: We are implementing a new child safety policy at St John's. If you will be working with our youth, please see Pastor Stacy for instructions on how to obtain a background check. Thank you!

Getting to Know Our Neighbors: This year, a focus at St John's is getting to know our neighbors. How can we love who we don't know? Our next field trip is scheduled for October 22, when we will go with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries for a public immersive experience in Cleveland. The experience is 9-12, plus drive time. Space is very limited and open to the entire public, so please let Pastor Stacy know if you can join **ASAP**. Thank you to Lynn and Sue for helping organize this!

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.

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.

**Gathering 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*

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 4, 2026. 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, Kathy Schlessman, 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 Kathy Schlessman and Kendra Snook.

Happy Anniversary to Carolyn & Curtis Boger and Stephanie & Joe Cepec.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will celebrate the congregation's Centennial on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 9:15 am at 502 Bardshar Rd. Sandusky, OH. They would be deeply honored to have you join them as they mark this milestone with a special Centennial Worship Service. Following the service, we invite you to stay and celebrate with us at a Reception Brunch. A free donation will be received. Please RSVP for the brunch by Sunday, August 31, 2026 by contacting the office, 419-626-0204 or email TrinityElcaSandusky@gmail.com.

Trip to the apple orchard: All kids and their families are invited to join us September 27th (rain date October 4th) with a trip to Burnham Apple Orchard from 4-6 PM. St John's will sponsor games for the group, and hopefully a hayride! Please text Pastor Stacy (419) 680-0358 if you are able to go.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 30TH THRU SEPTEMBER 13TH

Sunday, August 30	9:30 am 11:30 am	Worship Confirmation parents meeting
Tuesday, September 1	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, September 2	12:00 noon	Scripture & Prayer at Parkvue
Sunday, September 6	9:30 am	Worship
Wednesday, September 9	10:00 am	Book Discussion in the Upper Room
Sunday, Sept.13 Rally Day	10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Coffee Time at Edison Park Worship Potluck picnic and LWR Kit project

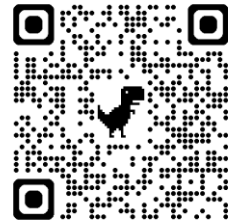
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St. John's Website



St. John's Facebook



tithe.ly offering