



Do not be
AFRAID

Matthew 14:27

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
August 9, 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 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

Refrain

Kwa - ke
Here on

Ye - su na - si - ma - ma,
Je - sus Christ I will stand.

ndi - ye
He's the

mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
sol - id rock of my life.

Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
He's the sol - id rock of my

ma, life.
life.

ndi - ye
He's the

mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
sol - id rock of my life.

1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I

storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y

Refrain
flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

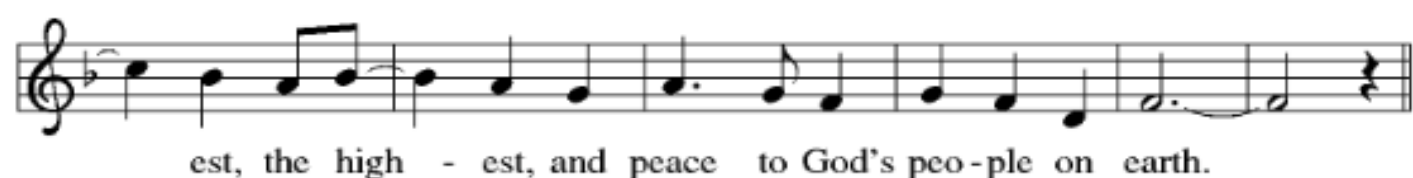
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 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. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:9-18

A reading from 1 Kings.

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in “sheer silence.” God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

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

Psalm 85:8-13 (Read responsively)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Lesson: Romans 10:5-15

A reading from Romans.

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Change My Heart O God”

ELW 801

Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.
You are the potter;
I am the clay.

Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

"Here I Am Lord"

ELW 574

Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Prayers of the people: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

Offertory

"All Are Welcome" Verse 3

ELW 641

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

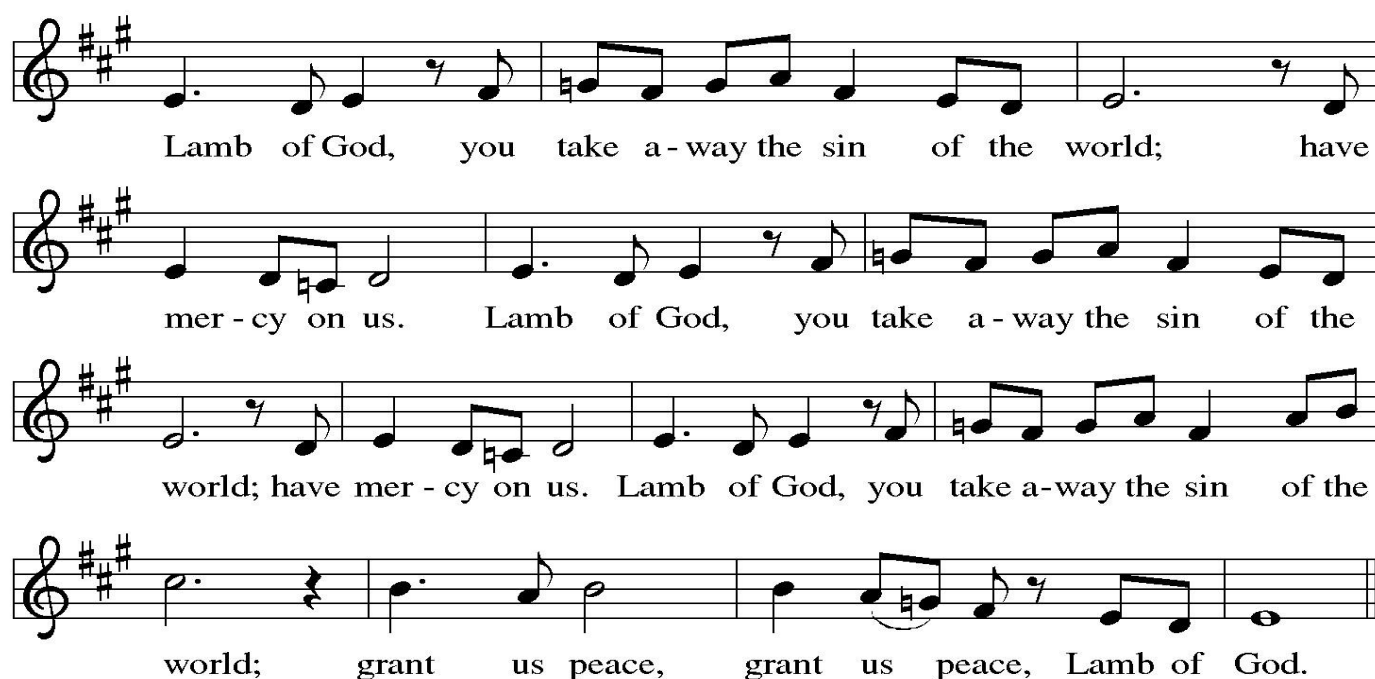
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

Distribution



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:

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ELW 773

Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Refrain

Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall: Refrain

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand: Refrain

Distribution Hymn:

“When Peace Like a River”

ELW 785

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888 Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876 Public Domain

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be
sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain

Please stand

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should
come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Refrain

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His grace.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your
table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your
people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, 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

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 774

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
(leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

From Sunday and season.com. License #SAS103330

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the

National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-720241 All rights reserved.

Copyright License A 11364729 / Streaming License A 20657245 with permission under CCLI All rights reserved.

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, Secretary

419-625-2192

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Nathan Samsa, Organist

Lay Reader: Melinda Zorn

Ushers: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Melinda Zorn

Audio/Visual Tech.: Jon Baaske

Att.: Aug. 2 - 40

www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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 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: Sandy Thompson

Aug.16 – Set-up – Jim Kluding

Clean-up – Jim Kluding

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.

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.

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*

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 9TH THRU AUGUST 23RD

Sunday, August 9	9:30 am	Worship
Wednesday, August 12	10:00 am	Book Discussion final chapters group meets in the Upper Room
Thursday, August 13	4:30 am	Worship Team
Sunday, August 16	9:30 am	Worship/Backpack Blessing
Tuesday, August 18	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday, August 23	9:30 am	Worship

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.

Thank you: Dear members of St. John’s, Your generous gift of \$202.00 is deeply appreciated by everyone at Cancer Services. Your kindness empowers us to continue providing vital care and support to cancer patients and their families throughout Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Counties. With deepest gratitude, Cecily Schaefer-Brown, Exe.Dir.

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 make arrangements.

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.