

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church February 23, 2025

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870 (419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship! Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

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

Prelude

"Allegretto" William Boyce

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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

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW **656**

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt. Public Domain

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.

3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. 2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

Greeting

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

Canticle of Praise

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



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (Read responsively)

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

⁶ The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

- ⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
- ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven.

- ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"



Text: Michael O'Shields

and

Music: O'SHIELDS, Michael O'Shields

let

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Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

"We Are Called"

ELW **720**

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We Are Called



Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas
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Prayers of the people: God of grace, Hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

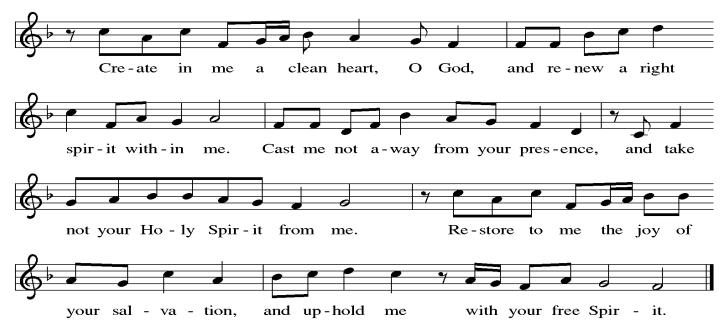
Choir Offering

"Near to the Heart of God" Ron Loree

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Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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

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.

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

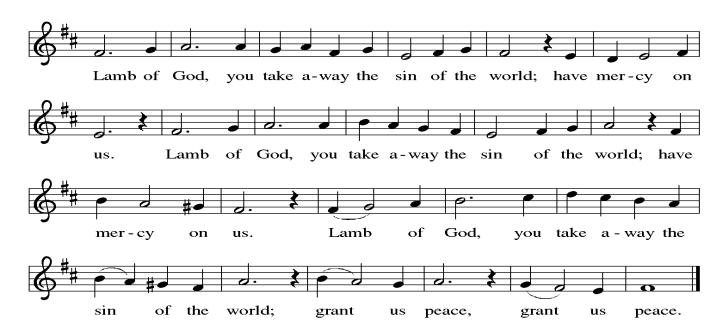
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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



Distribution Hymn: "Eat This Bread: Jesus Christ, Bread of Life" 3 times ELW **472** Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

Distribution Hymn:

"Bread of Life from Heaven!"

ELW **474**

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Refrain
Bread of life from heaven,
your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup
until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. Refrain
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. Refrain

- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away; set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. Refrain
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. Refrain
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. Refrain

Please stand

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

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

ELW **608**

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909 Music: Will L. Thompson Public Domain

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909 Music: Will L. Thompson 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

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

Pastor Stacy's Day Off - Friday

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

Church: 419-625-2192

Lay Reader: Lisa Fryer

Att.: Feb. 16 – 30 on Zoom

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E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Nathan Samsa, Organist

Ushers: Chuck Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech.: Jon Baaske

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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2025 The Year of Listening Memory Verse.

"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live..." (Isaiah 55:3a).

In this season of Hope, Council asks the congregation to pray that all people remain united in sharing with those suffering from unimaginable loss due to wildfires and severe weather, that we patiently help those struggling with day-to-day issues, and that we refocus and recommit to God's word and work at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Communion Explanation

Today's Communion bread is sourdough bread. Mixing water into flour and letting it set in a warm place for several days will develop the "wild yeast" in the flour, causing it to ferment into a wonderful tasting base for bread. Sourdough is one of the most ancient forms of bread, dating back to 3,000 BC. where it was discovered in Egypt. In 1849, California gold miners carried and used sourdough starters to make bread during the California Gold Rush. Bread is mentioned 250 times in the Bible.

Matthew 13:33 says, He (Jesus) told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Communion Clean-up today: Elizabeth

Mar. 2 – Set-up – Jim Kluding Cleanup – Jim Kluding

Mar. 9 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

Mar.16 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender — Cleanup – Paula Hoffman Laws

Mar.23 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup –

Mar.30 - Set-up – Jim Kluding Cleanup – Jim Kluding

Apr. 6 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup -

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

Sister in Christ: We grieve the death of Beverly Hohman who passed from this life on Tuesday, February 18th. Visitation will take place on Monday, February 24th from 10:00 to 11:30 am followed by her funeral at 11:30 am with the Committal at Riverside Cemetery Berlin Heights. Please keep Augie and the rest of the Hohman family in your prayers.

Thank you for your generosity! We have had two fund-raising projects taking place these past weeks and you met the need for those in need! You raised \$220.00 for Care and Share in the Souper Bowl and \$179.50 along with socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap for Love at the Laundromat. Thank you!

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th with two opportunities for the Imposition of Ashes. Ashes to Go from **7:45-9** am at Zion Lutheran Huron and joint worship with Zion Huron at Huron at **7:00** pm.

Join us at St. John's for special opportunities for fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent beginning March 12th, featuring soup suppers at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm. Holden Evening Prayer along with focus on the Psalms and that God can handle all of our emotions! **The soup supper sign-up sheet is on the back window for you to share your delicious soup recipes.** May God bless you in your Lenten journey.

Thank you:

Thank you so much for your 2/11/2025 donation to Firelands Habitat for Humanity in the amount of \$1000.00 from the Endowment Fund. We appreciate your partnership in this ministry dedicated to providing "a hand-up, not a and-out."

We recently completed our 115th house and we are currently building two more. We are grateful for your support in this mission, truly making a difference in the lives of others.

In Partnership, Maribeth Zuker

Dear Endowment Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution in the amount of \$3500.00 to the Humane Society of Erie County. This git has allowed us to move forward with repairs and maintenance needed in our dog kennel.

The grant funds will be used to re-seal the dog room floor and to repair filters on drain covers in the dog room.

Your support of our mission and efforts is greatly appreciated. Our job can include some very challenging days, but knowing our supporters are behind us helps us move forward and focus on the good days! As we receive no public or tax monies, our donors are very important to us! Thank you again. Melissa Gundlach, Executive Director

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 23RD THRU MARCH 9TH

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Sunday, February 23	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Monday, February 24	10:30-11:30 11:30 am	Visitation for the Hohman family Funeral for Beverly Hohman
Tuesday, February 25	10:00 am	Book Discussion Chapters 9 & 10
Sunday, March 2	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Monday, March 3	10:00 am	Bible Study on Listening
Tuesday, March 4	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, March 5 Ash Wed.	7:45-9 am 7:00 pm	Ashes on the Go Zion Huron Jt. Ash Wednesday worship at Zion Huron
Thursday, March 6	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, March 9	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship

Happy Birthday to Sue Lucht, Dawson Dillender, Kevin Young and Ted Call

Church Council and Team Leaders

We are blessed to have the following leaders in place for 2025:

President: Jeff Justi Faith Life Rep: Dawn Schlessman

VP: Allison Young Financial Team Rep: Ron Zorn
Secretary: Melinda Zorn Property Team Rep: Bill Deehr
Treasurer: Ron Zorn Young Adult Rep: Jenna Stacy
Worship Team Rep: Sandy Thompson Endowment: Bob Stacy

At Large Rep: Mike Babiuch

We thank Jason Shupe with gratitude for his service as President of St. John's Council and to Jon Baaske and Paula Hoffman Laws. Many thanks.

Weekly Listening Plan

For this Year of Listening, we have invited local musicians to select a song for collective reflection each month. We encourage you to explore the monthly scripture and weekly listening practices.

We invite you to join us in these four unique listening practices each month!

February 2025

"We Believe" Newsboys

Week 4 – "We believe in the crucifixion, we believe that he conquered death, We believe in the resurrection, and He's coming back again..."

- Enjoy the song selection video. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKhDj6laLVY&t=2s</u>
- 2. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. Matthew 28:19
- 3. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
- 4. Brainstorm acts of service you could do to show the love of Jesus to your community. Put these ideas someplace you will be reminded to live out the love of Jesus every day.