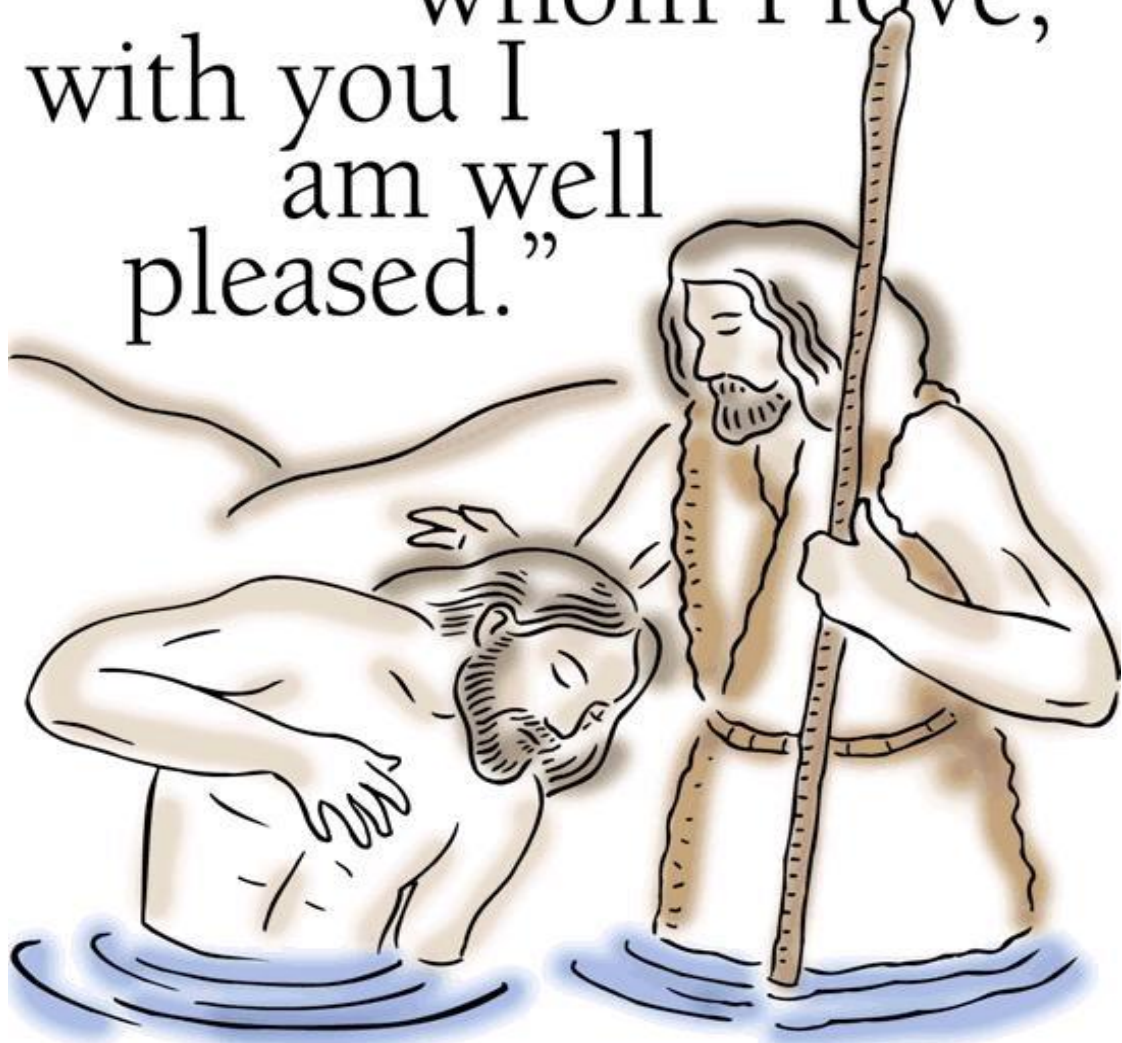


And a voice came from heaven:

“You are my Son,
whom I love;
with you I
am well
pleased.”



L u k e 3 : 2 2

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 12, 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

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome to Worship! Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

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

"Fantasie in C Minor" by JS Bach, arr. Arthur Wildman

The Bach Book Of Organ Music Composed by J S Bach. Arranged by Arthur Wildman.

For Organ Folio. ©Copyright 1956 by Belwin, Inc. Published by Belwin Mills Publishing Corp.

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW 423

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: Robert Lowry Public Domain

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. Refrain

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. Refrain

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. Refrain

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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

Psalm 29 (Read responsively)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ^l forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

"Jesus Loves Me"

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

"You Are Mine"

ELW 581

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You Are Mine



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*
 4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
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Presentation

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Profession Of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

Affirmation Of Baptism

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

Amen.

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

Offering

"Theme of the Blessed Spirit"
Copyright 1953 by Belwin, Inc.

by C. W. von Gluck

Please stand

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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

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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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High, one God, 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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn: "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

ELW 445

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters
Where your cleansing waters flow
Number them among your people
Bless as Christ blessed long ago
Weave them garments bright and sparkling
Compass them with love and light
Fill, anoint them, send your Spirit
Holy dove and heart's delight

2 We who bring them long for nurture
By your milk may we be fed
Let us join your feast partaking
Cup of blessing, living bread
God, renew us, guide our footsteps
Free from sin and all its snares
One with Christ in living, dying
By your Spirit, children, heirs

3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom
Unimagined, all your ways
To your name be glory, honor
With our lives we worship, praise

We your people stand before you
Water-washed and Spirit born
By your grace, our lives we offer
Recreate us; God, transform!

Distribution Hymn:

“Baptized and Set Free”
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 453

1 We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

2 We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.

3 We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

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

"Everytime I Feel the Spirit"

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked the my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Everytime I Feel the Spirit”

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St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”

And a congregation of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN’S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

Church: 419-625-2192

Pastor Stacy’s Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

419-625-2192

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Nathan Samsa, Organist

Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Ushers: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws

Audio/Visual Tech.: Jeff Justi

Att.: Jan. 5 - 44

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Like us on Facebook: St John’s Lutheran Church Sandusky

2025 The Year of Listening Memory Verse.

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

Communion explanation

What kind of bread was eaten at the Last Supper? Leavened or unleavened?

Scholars disagree, however Dr. Robert Bartels, Professor of New Testament at the Luther-Northwestern Theological Seminary states, “the kind of bread used for Holy Communion is not a matter for quibbling. . .When the Lord’s Supper is celebrated, there is no uniformity to the *kind* or *shape* of the bread used. Some use the pressed unleavened

wafers, some use home-made loaves, leavened and unleavened. . . what difference does that make? None at all. . .It is not the bread that makes the Lord’s Supper! What makes the Lord’s Supper is our Lord’s words and His intentions.”¹

Each Sunday during Epiphany our Holy Communion bread will be made using various recipes from different traditions. As we explore the various communion breads, please remember that, in the words of Dr. John F. Jansen, “We ought not to make the elements something ‘special’ – because it’s rather that the very ordinary and common elements of bread and wine become the means of grace – not through their substance – but rather through the presence of the Lord through his Spirit. And that’s why every service of communion includes a prayer that God will set apart the common to a special use.”²

Today’s bread is Barley Cakes. The author says, “Such romance exists around the “BARLEY BREAD” of Christ’s day. . . This is it . . . however it makes no claim to resemble the barley cake which Gideon’s soldiers smote his enemies on the battleground . . . ‘Behold, I dreamed a dream and lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp . . . (Judges 7:12).³

¹Living Bread, p.9

²ibid., p.10

³ibid., p.20

Council asks the congregation to pray in this season of Hope, to pray that all people are united in sharing, giving, and loving.

Sunday, January 19th, we would like to give thanks for Morgan and all of the joy she brought to our congregation. We continue to miss her, so we will remember her near her birthday with a service that is full of music.

If you have a musical talent you would like to share, please let us know by Sunday. We will also have bell ringers, and if you would like to participate with those please let Sue Schlessman know. No prior experience needed!

Communion Clean-up today: Paula Hoffman Laws

Jan. 19 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

Jan. 26 - Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup – Sue and Lynn Schlessman

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.

St. John’s Audio Visual Team is looking for two or three people who would like to help with streaming worship. Team will mentor you! Please contact Melinda Zorn, 412639-5477, Jon Baaske, 440-915-5071, or Ann Voigt, 419-357-8483.

New Ministry Lists are posted on the bulletin board for the first quarter of 2025. If you are looking for an opportunity to help with ushering, lay reading, help serve communion or help with streaming our worship, see all the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Thank you, members of St. John’s, for all the lovely cards and wishes for our anniversary. They were greatly appreciated. Bev and Augie Hohman.

Thank you to all who helped take down our Christmas decorations. Blessings.

2025 Calendars: Have you received a 2025 calendar or an abundance of calendars that you don’t need? Please bring in your 2025 calendar and place in the basket in the back of the sanctuary and they will be taken to the nursing homes. Thank you.

Annual Meeting/Mark your calendars: St. John's 2024 Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, 2025 after worship.

Teams and Committees: Team/committee reports for the 2024 annual congregational booklet will be due by January 12th to Sandy Thompson. Please send your report in a Word doc to sandy8110@gmail.com or mail to the church at 106 Scheid Rd Sandusky, OH 44870 attention Sandy Thompson

Happy Birthday to Sandy Thompson.

Happy Anniversary to Kathy Shuck and Jim Kluding.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 12TH THRU JANUARY 26TH

Sunday, January 12	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School Worship
Sunday, January 19	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship
Tuesday, January 21	7:00 pm	Church Council
Thursday, January 23	5:30 pm	Worship Team
Sunday, January 26	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship

The Year of Listening

Welcome to **2025: The Year of Listening**.

Our focus in 2025 is to learn the sacred art of listening. Listening to God. Listening to Ourselves. Listening to Others. And Listening to the Community.

God's invitation to listen is a gift that permeates the Scriptures. From the Shema, **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might"** (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

To the Psalms, **"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer"** (Psalm 61:1).

To the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, **"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock"** (Matthew 7:24).

To the words the Exalted Jesus repeats to the seven churches in Revelation, **"Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches"** (Revelation 2-3).

God longs for us to hear, so God invites us to listen.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

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!

January 2025

"Shine Jesus Shine"

ELW 671

Week 1 – "Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story"

1. Enjoy the song selection video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FssM5ezQE7g&t=4s:1-5>

2. Read and reflect on the scripture that inspired the song. **Isaiah 60:1-5**
3. Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.
4. Write something on your bathroom mirror that reminds you that you are a reflection of Christ. How did this note affect your day?