



“A sower went  
out to sow.”

MATTHEW 13:3, NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
July 12, 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**

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**July 12, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/ Hymn Sunday**

Welcome to Worship! God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the 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.

We thank Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt for leading our worship this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

**Noisy Offering in support of Cancer Services.**

1 Hear the pennies dropping!

Listen while they fall;

Ev'ry one for Jesus,

He will get them all,

Refrain:

Dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping;

Hear the pennies fall!

Ev'ry one for Jesus,

He will get them all.

2 Dropping, dropping ever. From each little hand;

'Tis our gift to Jesus, from his little band. Refrain

3 Now, while we are little. Pennies are are store;

But, when we are older, Lord, we'll give you more.

Refrain

4 Tho, we've little money. We can give him love;

He will own our off'ring, Smiling from above. Refrain

## Introduction

God's word is everlasting and continues to come to us throughout the seasons of the year and of our lives. Even during those times when we feel further from God, God is present and continues to call to us, always welcoming us back. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

*Please stand*

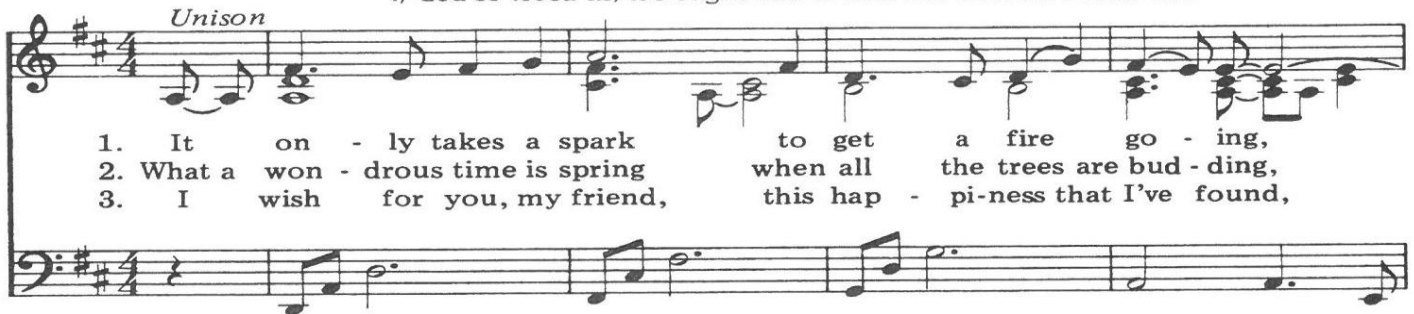
## Gathering Hymn

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

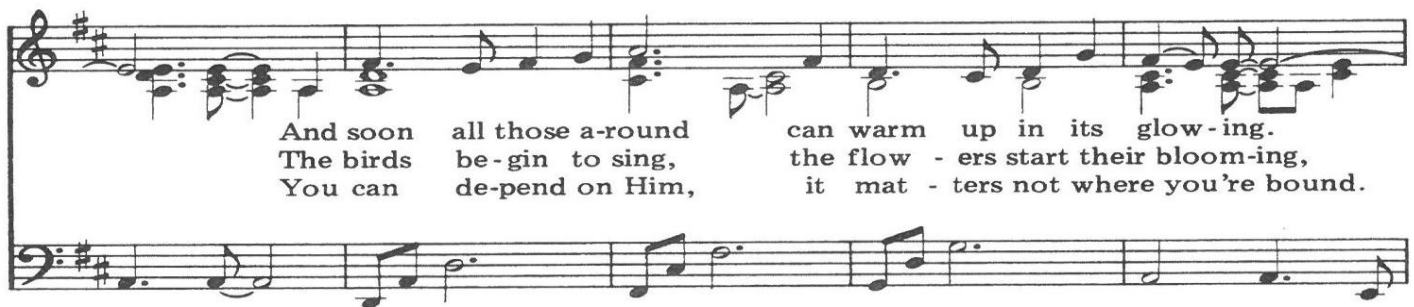
# It Only Takes a Spark 477

*If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:11*

*Unison*



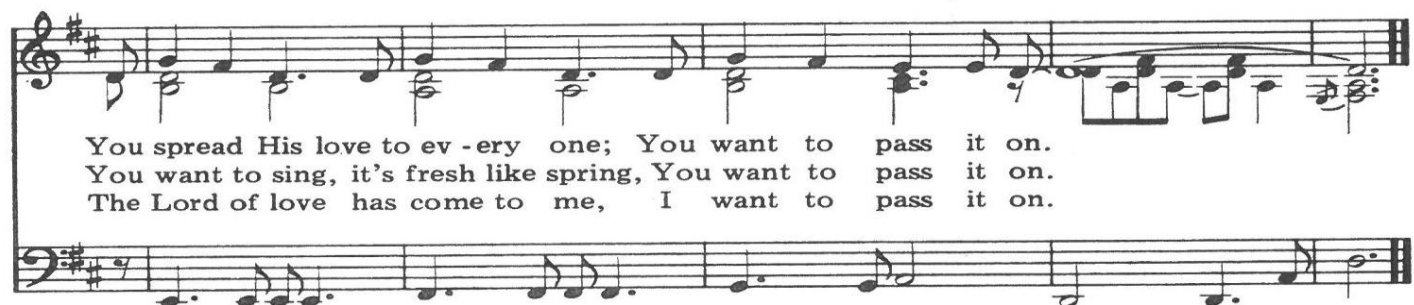
1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,  
2. What a won - drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,  
3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that I've found,



And soon all those a-round can warm up in its glow-ing.  
The birds be-gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom-ing,  
You can de-pend on Him, it mat - ters not where you're bound.



That's how it is with God's love once you've ex-pe-ri-enced it;  
That's how it is with God's love once you've ex-pe-ri-enced it;  
I'll shout it from the moun-tain top— I want my world to know;



You spread His love to ev - ery one; You want to pass it on.  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

WORDS and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON  
Irregular meter

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## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**  
Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Readings and Hymns

**Advent:**

**Melinda Zorn**

### Isaiah 40:10-13

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**Hymn:**

*"Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"* vs.1

**ELW 242**

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1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.

## Christmas

Jim Stauffer

### Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.<sup>[a]</sup>

### Hymn:

*“Joy to the World”* vs. 1

ELW 267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!	and heav'n and nature sing,
Let earth receive her king;	and heav'n and nature sing,
let ev'ry heart prepare him room	and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

## Epiphany

Sandy Thompson

### Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with

joy.<sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Hymn:** *“Light Shone in Darkness”* vs. 1 **ELW 307**

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1 Light shone in darkness at the world's creation,  
bathing in beauty nature's revelation.

All that has being, cry in adoration,  
"Praise for the light. Amen!"

**Lent:** **Melinda Zorn**

**Mark 8:31-38**

[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.<sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Hymn:** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”* vs. 1 **ELW 338**

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869 Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927 Public Domain

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,

a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.

**Mark 16:1-8**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus's body].<sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.<sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"<sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.<sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.<sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.<sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."<sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**Hymn:***"Hallelujah, Jesus Lives"* vs. 1**ELW 380**

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Music: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887 Public Domain

1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!  
He is now the Living One;  
from the gloomy halls of death

Christ, the conqueror, has gone,  
bright forerunner to the skies  
of his people, yet to rise.

**Pentecost:****Sandy Thompson****John 20:19-23**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**Hymn:***"O Day Full of Grace"* vs. 1**ELW 627**Tr. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 O day full of grace that now we see  
appearing on earth's horizon,  
bring light from our God that we may be

abundant in joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
your name on our hearts emblazon.

## Christ the King Sunday:

Melinda Zorn

### Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?’ <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

### Hymn:

“*Crown Him with Many Crowns*” vs. 1

ELW 855

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893 Public Domain

1 Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns  
all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing  
of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king  
through all eternity.

### Holy Baptism:

Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt

### Matthew 3:16-17

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

### Hymn:

“*Children of the Heavenly Father*” vs. 1

ELW 781

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.

## Holy Communion:

Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt

### Luke 22:19

Then he (Jesus) took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”<sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

### Hymn:

“Come, Let us Eat” vs. 1 & 2

ELW 491

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and adapt. © 1972

*Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1(Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,  
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
(Our Lord's body let us take together,  
our Lord's body let us take together.

2(Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,  
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.  
(Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,  
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

**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

“Come, Let us Eat”

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and adapt. © 1972

*Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*Please stand*

### Offertory

“All Are Welcome” vs. 3

ELW 641

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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 our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner;

among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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 his love for us

on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,  
in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

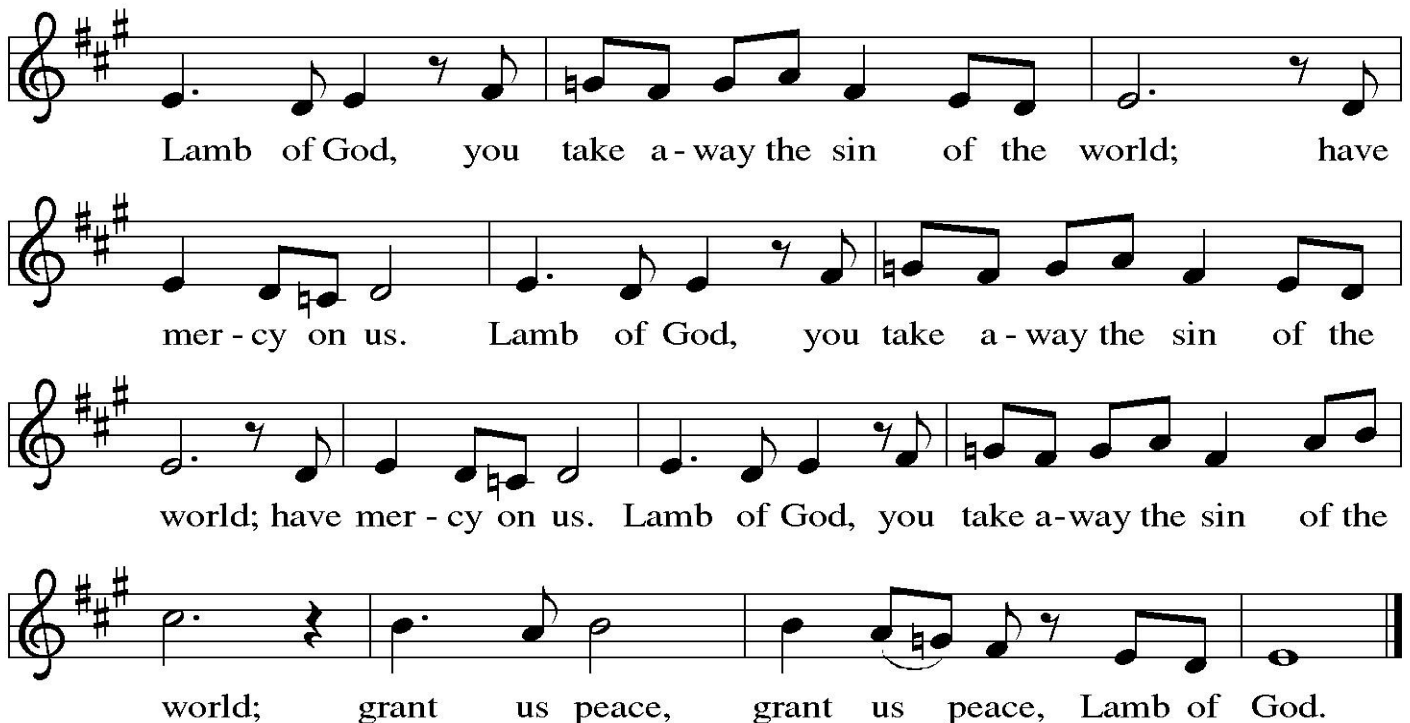
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

### **Invitation to Communion**

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

*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:***“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”*

ELW 512

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
 open to the seed of your word.  
 Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
 where love can grow and peace is understood.  
 When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
 Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**Distribution Hymn***“Just As I Am Without One Plea”*

ELW 592

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
 but that thy blood was shed for me,  
 and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
 with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
 fightings and fears within, without,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
 because thy promise I believe,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

4 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*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.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Amen.****Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

“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.

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

### Refrain

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

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

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

## Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go in peace, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

“Lift High the Cross”

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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

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Nathan Samsa, Organist

Lay Readers: Melinda Zorn, Jim Stauffer, Sandy Thompson

Ushers: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Melinda Zorn

Audio/Visual Tech.: Jon Baaske

Att.: July 5 – 40

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

**Bible Verse for July:** *1 John 3:18*

“Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth”.

**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: Laurie Kropf**

July 19 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben                      Clean-up – Sue Lynn Schlessman

26 – 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.

**Christmas in July:** Faith Life is doing the annual Christmas in July this month!

Donations are going to Cancer Services on Perkins Ave. We will have a special offering this morning and would appreciate the support. Thank you!!

**Celebrating the Harvest:** Sunday, July 19th, we will celebrate the harvest during worship. On that Sunday, please bring in items from your farms and gardens to decorate the space. All items will then be donated to Victory Kitchen.

**Worship at the Park:** Wednesday, July 29th we will have worship at Nickel Plate Beach that includes a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to share. Worship is at 6 PM. We need help with this service!

Who would like to bring and roast hot dogs? Who will bring a case of cold water? Who would like to bring plates, napkins, and utensils? Please let Pastor Stacy know by texting her at 419-680-0358. Thank you!

**New Worship Ministry Lists are posted! We need your help with worship.**

Looking for a way to serve and get involved at St. John's? We need lay readers, communion assistants, ushers, AV techs, assisting ministers. Please give prayerful thought to helping with these much-needed aspects for worship. The third quarter sign-up sheets are posted for you to choose which Sunday you can help out!

**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.

**Are you Interested?** St. John’s Council would like to offer a CPR Instruction class but need to know if you are interested in taking the course. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary

**Happy Birthday** to Kathleen Shuck and Jim Semon II.

**Happy Anniversary** to Brad & Joleen Dillender and Ted & Lynn Call.

**ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR JULY 12<sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday, July 12	9:30 am	Worship
Thursday, July 16	10:00 am	Book Discussion at Patina Creek Coffee
Sunday, July 19	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, July 21	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday, July 26	9:30 am	Worship