

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church July 14, 2024

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

July 14, 2024

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

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 welcome and thank Pastor Phil Gardner for leading our worship this morning while Pastor Stacy is on sabbatical. We thank Nathan Samsa for sharing his gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bells

Welcome and announcements

Prelude

"Jewels"

arr by Myra Schubert

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Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, 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

Ymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813 Public Domain

ELW **807**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Amos 7:7-15

A reading from Amos.

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel.

⁷This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,

and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,

and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said,

Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land."

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13(Read responsively)

⁸I 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.

- ⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- ¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

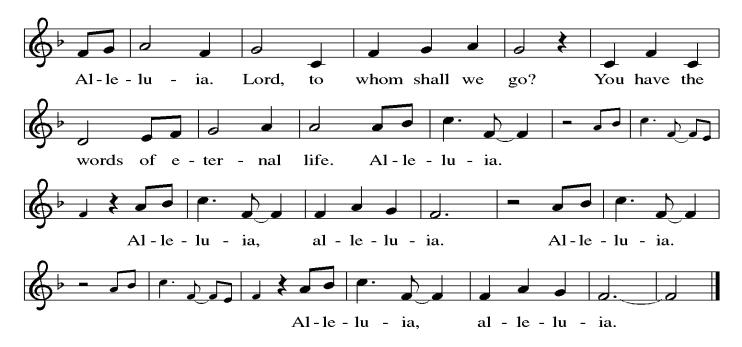
A reading from Ephesians.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 6:14-29

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you

wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Please be seated.

Sermon Pastor Phil Gardner

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW **710**

Text © 1989 William Whitla Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934T

1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.

3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,

2 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run. O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way--the path untried; your truth--the heart of stranger; your life--the Crucified.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the people:

Response: In your mercy, hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

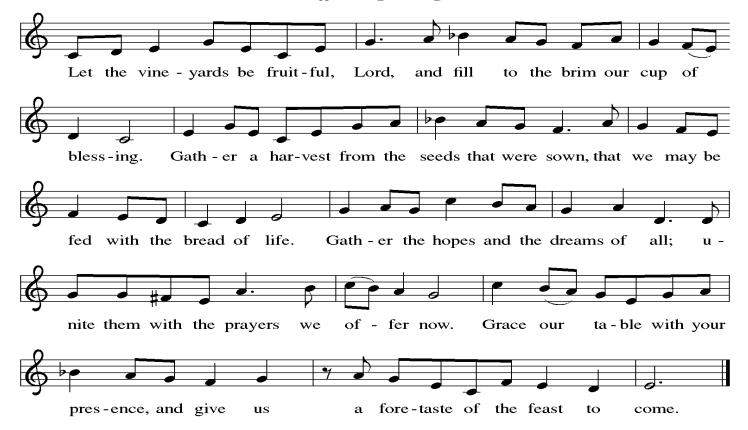
"Beautiful Words of Jesus" by I. H. Meredith Copyright 1903 by Tullar-Meredith Co. Renewal used by permission.

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

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

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offering Prayer

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.

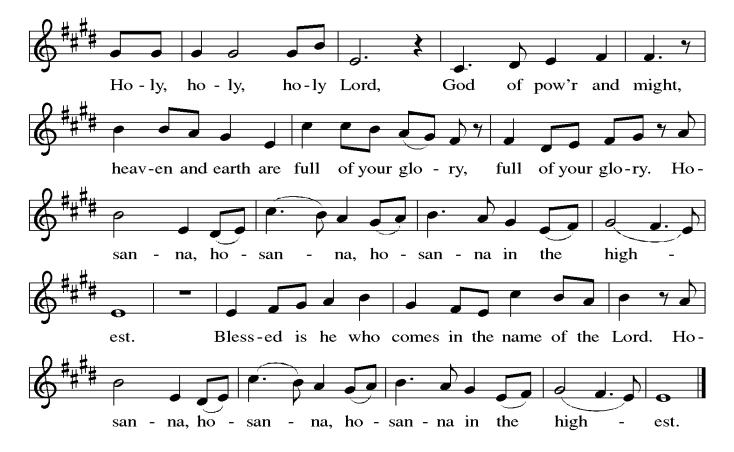
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

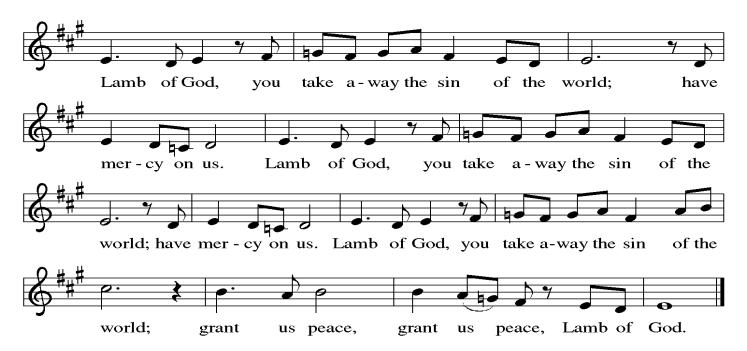
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



Distribution Hymn

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

ELW **697**

Text: North American traditional Music: North American traditional Public Domain

Refrain Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain

3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

ELW **696**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895 Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922 Public Doman

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me":

3 Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call, 2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

4 In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

Post Communion Blessing

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

Amen

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

ELW 414

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774 Public Domain

1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

3 Lo, the apostolic train join your sacred name to hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow; and from morn to set of sun through the church the song goes on.

Dismissal

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

2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim you and, adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

Postlude "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Music: *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna, 1774 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 Church: 419-625-2192

Sabbatical Emergency Contact: Melinda Zorn 412-639-5477

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

Today's Musician: Nathan Samsa

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Usher: Jeff Justi

Lay Reader: Jim Stauffer

Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

William Teen. Weinida Zom Communion Assistant. Sandy mornipson

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com Attendance: June 23 - 43

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2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Bud Schenk in loving memory of his wife, Shirley.

Council asks the congregation to pray for Pastor Stacy and her family as they travel for sabbatical. We pray that Pastor feels renewed, refreshed, and refilled with the Holy Spirit and that our congregation does the same, that together we may rededicate ourselves to doing God's work in the world.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

July 21 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup – Elizabeth Libben

July 28 - Set-up - Joleen Dillender Cleanup -

Aug. 4 – Set-up – Toni Nossaman Cleanup -

Aug. 11 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Cleanup -

Aug. 18 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Cleanup -

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

Pastor Stacy returns to worship on Sunday, July 21st. A sabbatical welcome home luncheon will follow worship so we can share stories and rejoice at being back together. The luncheon will be held at the Legacy Center, 1522 E Perkins Ave. Sandusky at 11:00

am. Please make a reservation on the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. It is very important that we have an approximate number since the luncheon will be catered. **Sabbatical Thanks:** Thank you so much to everyone who is helping with things while I am on sabbatical. I hope this will be a time for us all to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the ministry that we get to do together. I will be holding each of you in my prayers as we journey and learn. Thank you so much. **Pastor Stacy**

Sabbatical Pastoral EMERGENCIES: Melinda Zorn volunteered to receive **EMERGENCY** calls from the members of St. John's during Pastor Stacy's sabbatical. Three pastors have agreed to be on-call to cover a visit/pray with, or call back to the person. Please call 412-639-5477, Melinda Zorn will then contact a pastor to help with your emergency.

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 7, 2024. 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, Colleen Girard, 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.

Prayers needed for former member Jim Wooster as he grieves the death of his wife Becky. Becky passed from this life on Wednesday, June 26th. Jim and Becky moved to Dublin OH 6 years ago. Jim is doing well. His address is 6772 Birchton Point Dr. #202, Dublin OH 43017.

Happy Birthday to Kathy Shuck, James Semon II, and Valerie Deehr. Happy Anniversary to Ted and Lynn Call.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR JULY 14TH THRU JULY 28TH

Sunday, July 14	9:30 am	Worship, Pastor Phil Gardner
Tuesday, July 16	9:00 am	Giving Garden Weeding/Fellowship
Sunday, July 21	9:30 am	Worship Pastor Stacy returns
	11:00 am	Sabbatical welcome home luncheon at
		the Legacy Center
Tuesday, July 23	9:00 am	Giving Garden Weeding/Fellowship
Sunday, July 28	9:30 am	Worship

Weekly Verse: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6:26

July 14 – Make a list of what you are grateful for.

15 – Take a walk. Notice where you encounter life.

16 – Take some time to be alone.

17 – Spend time in one of your favorite places.

18 – Go birdwatching.

19 – Spend time looking at the clouds or stars.

20 – Do something that requires movement outside.

God's Work Our Hands Project for 2024! We begin our drive to collect personal care kit items for our Rally Day Project. Please read the following list of items to be included in the care kits. LW Relief is very specific on what items are needed. Dollar General has lightweight towels in the correct size. In 2022 we made 60 kits to send to LW Relief. Let's work to make 75 or more kits this year! A printed sheet is available in the back of the sanctuary for your convenience.

One lightweight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark color recommended **Two** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. any brand, in original wrapping One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

One sturdy comb, remove packaging

One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging