



“Don't be afraid;

**YOU ARE WORTH
MORE THAN MANY
SPARROWS.”**

MATTHEW 10:31, NIV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 21, 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

June 21, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ 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 welcome and thank Pastor Mary Ann Siefke from Trinity Seminary 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

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

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

ELW 876

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt. Public Domain

1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.

2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;

from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

Greeting

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

And Also with you.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high -



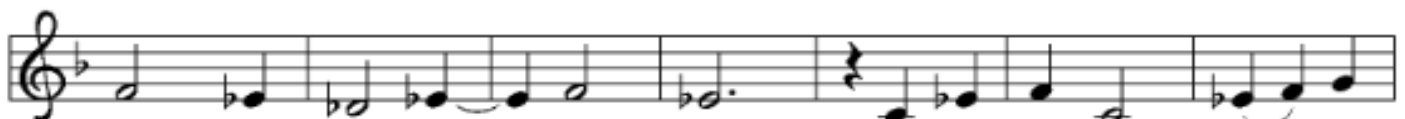
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
 peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

A reading from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;

let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18 (Read responsively)

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹⁰ **I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

[¹¹ I put on sackcloth also,
and became a by-word among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

] ¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

¹⁷ Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

¹⁸ **Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.**

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

A reading from Romans.

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

"I Love You Lord"

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The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to wor-ship you; O my soul, re-joice. Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear." Chord symbols are placed above the notes: F², Gm/F, F, Bb, F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, Bb/D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, Bb, F/A, Fsus/G, C⁷, Bb²/F, F².

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Day Camp Blessing

Linda Stauffer

Sermon

Pastor Mary Ann Siefke

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“Be Not Afraid”

Sing 3x with joy

ELW 388

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Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid, sing out for joy!
Christ is risen, alleluia!

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.**

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

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

"Be Not Afraid"

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Please stand

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "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." The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, key signatures, and a triplet of eighth notes in the final line.

Music: *River of Life*, Tillis Butler, d. 2002
Music © 1999 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.

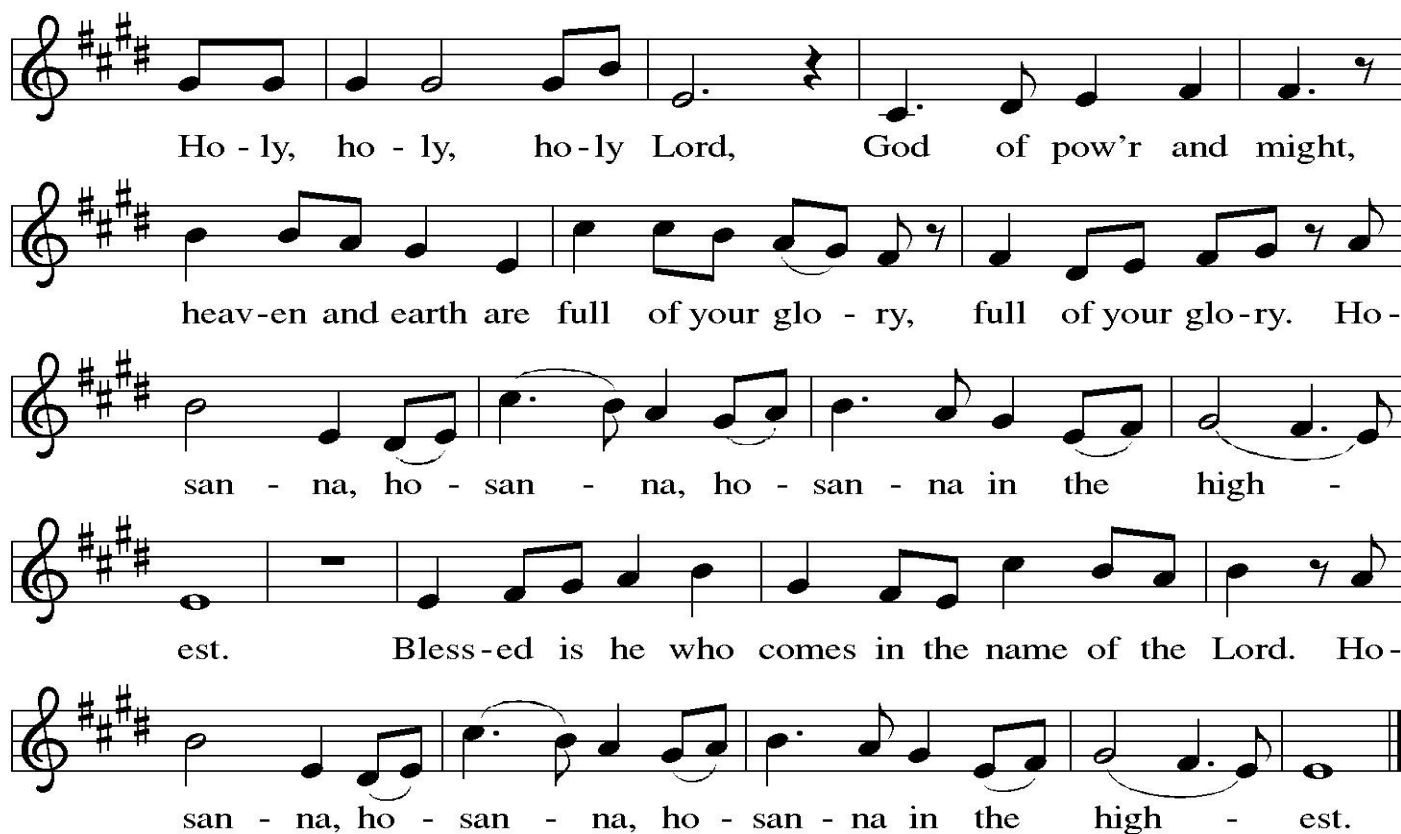
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 for 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

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:

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

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

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.

Distribution Hymn:

"This Is My Father's World"

ELW 824

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901 Music: Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt. Public Domain

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

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.

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

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ELW 810

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693 Public Domain

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

3 Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693 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

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

Bible Verse for June: 1 John 3:11

“For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another”.

Thank you to our fathers and all men gathered here this morning. Please accept a small token of our gratitude for all you do in love and service for the sake of the children who are in your lives.

Council asks the congregation to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the enthusiasm of our new members and appreciation for the traditional wisdom of our longtime members, that we are now one in following Jesus and doing his work in the world.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

June 28 – Worship at Nickel Plate Park – Zion Huron in charge of communion

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Elizabeth Libben or Sandy Thompson.

Day Camp News:

We have over fifty youth signed up for day camp this year, the week of June 22nd – 26th. Would you be able to help?

We need people for sign in (8:45-9:15), sign-out (3:45-4), or to spend half a day helping

with the kids! Dawn also needs volunteers to help feed all of the kids and volunteers. It's going to be an amazing week, but we can't do it without you. Please let Pastor Stacy know how you can help. Thanks!

On Sunday, June 28th, St. John's and Zion Lutheran Huron will worship together at **9:00 AM** at Nickel Plate Beach. We hope you will join us! **Please bring canned food donations for Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry.** Pick up some items at the store, or bring a monetary donation! **Breakfast will be provided after worship.**

Favorite Hymn Sunday:

July 12th we will be singing our favorite hymns in worship! Please email Pastor Stacy at stacylauer@gmail.com or text her at 419-680-0358 with your favorite hymn by June 28th!

Scholarship applications will be available during the month of June for members of St. John's attending post-secondary education. Application forms can be obtained at the church. Please complete the form with your information and mail it to the church: St. John's Lutheran Church, c/o the Scholarship Team 106 Scheid Rd., Sandusky, Ohio 44870. **Applications must be returned by June 30, 2026 to be eligible for the scholarship.** Recipients will be announced in July or August.

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 Clark Ross, Sue Bottorf, Kathy Strayer, and Cindy Schlessman.
Happy Anniversary to Lynn and Sue Schlessman.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR JUNE 21ST THRU JULY 5TH

Sunday, June 21	9:30 am	Worship/Blessing of Day Camp
Mon.-Fri. June 22-26	9am-4pm	Day Camp at Zion Lutheran Huron
Sunday, June 28	9:00 am	Jt. Worship at Nickel Plate Park Light breakfast after worship
Saturday, July 4	HAPPY	250TH FOURTH OF JULY
Sunday, July 5	9:30 am	Worship



Flamingo Fundraiser Information

Flamingos will be placed in yards each evening by our high school families.

Flamingo fundraiser is run on donations to raise money for our high school youth to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2027 with other area Lutheran congregations.

Donations

- You can make a donation as insurance to make sure that flamingos never get in your yard
- If the flamingos arrive in your yard, you call 419-680-0358 to request they be removed and make a donation to have them removed
- If you want to send the flamingos to a specific person, you can make a donation to ensure that happens
- All donations are tax deductible and are run through the St John's youth account. You can donate by check, cash, or online through the St John's website. Please let us know when you make the donation what you are making it for (to insure you don't get flamingos, to have them removed, or to send them to someone).

Flamingo fundraiser will run June 13-27th.

Thank you for your support!