

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
May 17, 2026

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Worship! In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

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 Choir Prelude

"Spiritual"

Douglas E Wagner

Music - ©1983 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Blessing of our Graduates: Cassidy Lane, Wade Ruggles, Joshua Thompson, Cole Ruggles

Gathering

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

Please stand if you are able

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

“God Is Here”

ELW 526

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1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
 in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here as bread and wine are taken,
 Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant
 seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living
 to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
 in an age of change and doubt,
 keep us faithful to the gospel;
 help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication,
 all we have to give, receive;
 we, who cannot live without you,
 we adore you! We believe!

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

"I Love You, Lord"

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. 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." The chords are: F², Gm/F, F, B \flat , F/A, Gm⁷, F/A, C⁷_{sus}, C, B \flat /D, C/E, F², Gm/F, F, F⁷, B \flat , F/A, F_{sus}/G, C⁷, B \flat ²/F, F².

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 Reading: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts.

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (Read responsively)

¹ Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of
God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the
God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor. R**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from 1 Peter.

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

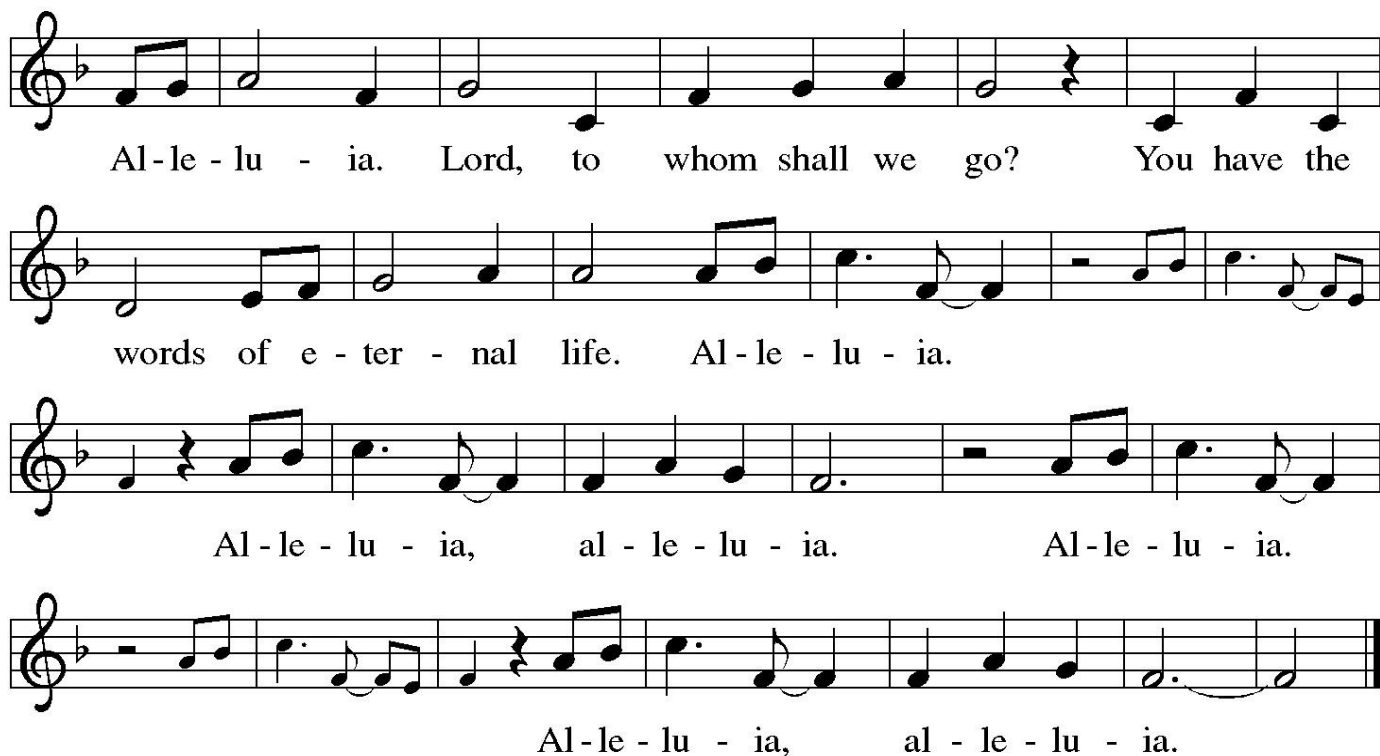
¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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 if you are able

Hymn of the Day

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, We are
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, We will
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, We will
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come, And all

one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all
walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand, And to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each one's
praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son, And all praise to the

Refrain

u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
spread the news that God is in our land:
dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride: And they'll know we are Chris-tians
Spir - it, who makes us one:

by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Prayers of the people:

Response: Merciful God. receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering

"In the Hands of the Lord"

Pepper Choplin

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Please stand if you are able

Offertory

"We Are an Offering"

ELW 692

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The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The score includes various chords such as F/G, G, C2, Dm7, C2/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm7, F/G, G, C2, Dm7, C2/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm7, F/G, G/F, Em7, Em7/A, A, Dm7, Dm7/G, Esus, D/F#, E/G#, Am, Dm7, C2/E, Bb/C, Dm7sus2, Dm7, F/G, G, C2, Dm7, C2/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm7, Dm7/G, C.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

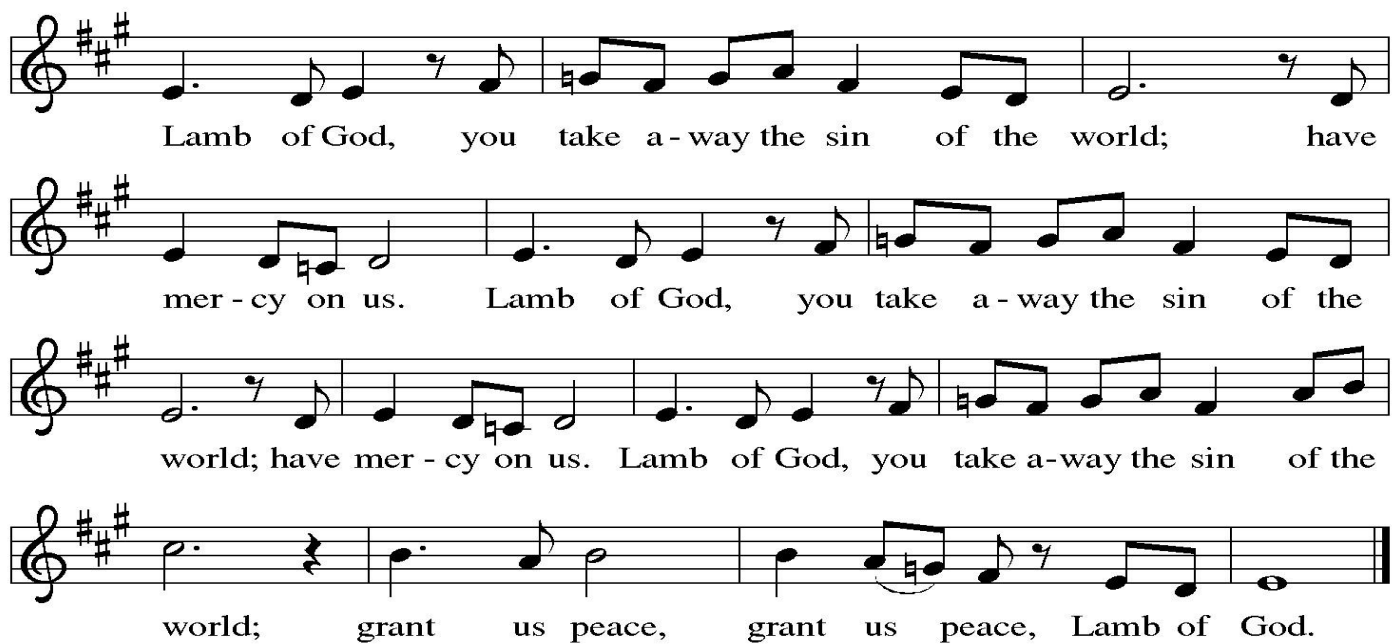
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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



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

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

ELW 392

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887 Public Domain

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

3 Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, hear our plea
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise:
"I am with you evermore"?

4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest,
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.

5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."

Distribution Hymn

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

ELW 393

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

1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod,
ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The holy apostolic band
upon the Mount of Olives stand,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
and with his faithful foll'wers see
their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 To whom the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"This is the Savior!" thus they say,
"this is his glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 "You see him now, ascending high
up to the portals of the sky."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see
returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
all praise to you let earth accord:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,

with Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

ELW 382

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927 Public Domain

1 Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him
as his light once more appears;
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from griefs and tears.

2 Christ is risen! All the sadness
of our Lenten fast is o'er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending
see him rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow. Refrain

Refrain

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead!

3 Christ is risen! All the sorrow
that last evening round him lay
now has found a glorious morrow
in the rising of today.
See the grave its firstfruits giving,
springing up from holy ground;
Christ was dead, but now is living;
he was lost, but he is found. Refrain

4 Christ is risen! Henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthrall.
We are Christ's, in him forever
we have triumphed over all.
All the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased;
hail the day of resurrection!
Let us rise and keep the feast. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt. Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927 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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Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Usher: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Carolyn Steinfeldt

Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Attendance: May 10 - 79

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

Bible Verse for May: 1 John 2:17 “And the world and its desires are passing away, but those who do the will of God abide forever”.

Today, we honor our 2026 graduates Cassidy Lane, Margaretta H.S., Wade Ruggles, EHOVE and Edison H.S., Joshua Thompson, Edison H.S. and Cole Ruggles, Owens Tech and John Deere Technical Certificate. Keep our young adults in your prayers as they enter higher education and as they begin their place of employment.

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: Sue & Lynn Schlessman

May 24 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

31 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws

Cleanup – Elizabeth Libben

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

Favorite Hymn Sunday: July 12th, we will have a special worship service. We will focus on six favorite hymns. If you would like to submit yours, please do so before May 31. We will then draw the submitted hymns out of a hat to choose our final six. If your hymn is chosen, we will ask you to please share very briefly with the congregation on July 12 why this is your favorite hymn.

May Upcoming Events!

Sunday, May 24th – We will share in the Confirmation of Harper Bell, daughter of Jenn and Mike Bell and Victoria Cepec, daughter of Stephanie and Joe Cepec. Harper and Tori will claim for themselves the faith in which they were baptized and promise to follow Jesus Christ in a life of discipleship.

Sunday, May 31st – We will share in the Baptism of Jackson William Fink, infant son of Michael and Christina Fink and grandson of Bill and Connie Deehr. The Deehr family and the Faith Life team invite you to join them for a luncheon immediately following worship to celebrate and meet our newest baptized member, Jackson and his family.

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!

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.

Scholarship Fund Drive: During the month of May we will be raising funds for the St. John's Scholarship Fund. The funds benefit members of the congregation who are continuing their education beyond high school. We need your financial support to ensure that scholarships will continue to be available. Donations can be mailed to the church at 106 Scheid Rd., Sandusky Oh. 44870. Be sure to make the check out to St. John's Lutheran Church and on the memo line put Scholarship Fund. Scholarships will be available in June.

Happy Birthday to Jim Semon, Wade Ruggles, Ron Zorn, Dennis Bottorf, and Joshua Thompson.

Happy Anniversary to Jeff and Kristi Justi.

How about some Italian Food after all the Memorial Day week-end activities? Jim's Pizza Box is giving us that opportunity on Tuesday May 26, 11am till 9pm dine-in, carry out, on-line or phone ordering, 419-433-4463. The wonderful part of this is we will bring a 10% donation to our own Huron Helping Hands Food Pantry. Thank you for supporting this event again this year..

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MAY 17TH THRU MAY 31ST

Sunday, May 17	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Catechism Class Worship
Wednesday, May 20	10:00 am	Love Is the Way Book Study Upper Rm
Sunday, May 24	9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Worship/Confirmation Sunday
Sunday, May 31	10:30 am	Worship/Baptism of Jackson Fink Baptism luncheon following worship