

MY FATHER'S HOUSE HAS MANY ROOMS;  
IF THAT WERE NOT SO,  
WOULD I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT  
I AM GOING THERE  
TO PREPARE  
A PLACE  
FOR YOU?

JOHN 14:2, NIV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
May 3, 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**

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**May 3, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to Worship! As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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.

Prelude

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

### **Gathering**

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

*Please stand if you are able*

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of **✝** Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn**

*“Lord God, We Praise You”*

**ELW 558**

Text: attr. Gregory I, 540–604; tr. Composite Music: Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681 Public Domain

1 Lord God, we praise you,  
now the night is over,  
active and watchful, standing here before you;  
singing, we offer prayer and meditation;  
thus we adore you.

2 Monarch of all things, fit us for your mansions;  
banish our weakness, health and wholeness  
sending;  
bring us to heaven, where your saints united  
joy without ending.

3 All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us your salvation;

yours is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
through all creation.

### **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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: Acts 7:55-60**

A reading from Acts.

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,  
for you are my tower of strength.**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love."

## Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from 1 Peter.

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation <sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

<sup>8</sup> and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

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 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the

Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

*“We Know That Christ Is Raised”*

ELW 449

Text © John B. Geyer

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies  
no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!

2 We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.  
Hallelujah!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!

## 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

*“We Are The Church”* Nancy Price and Don Besig

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## 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.

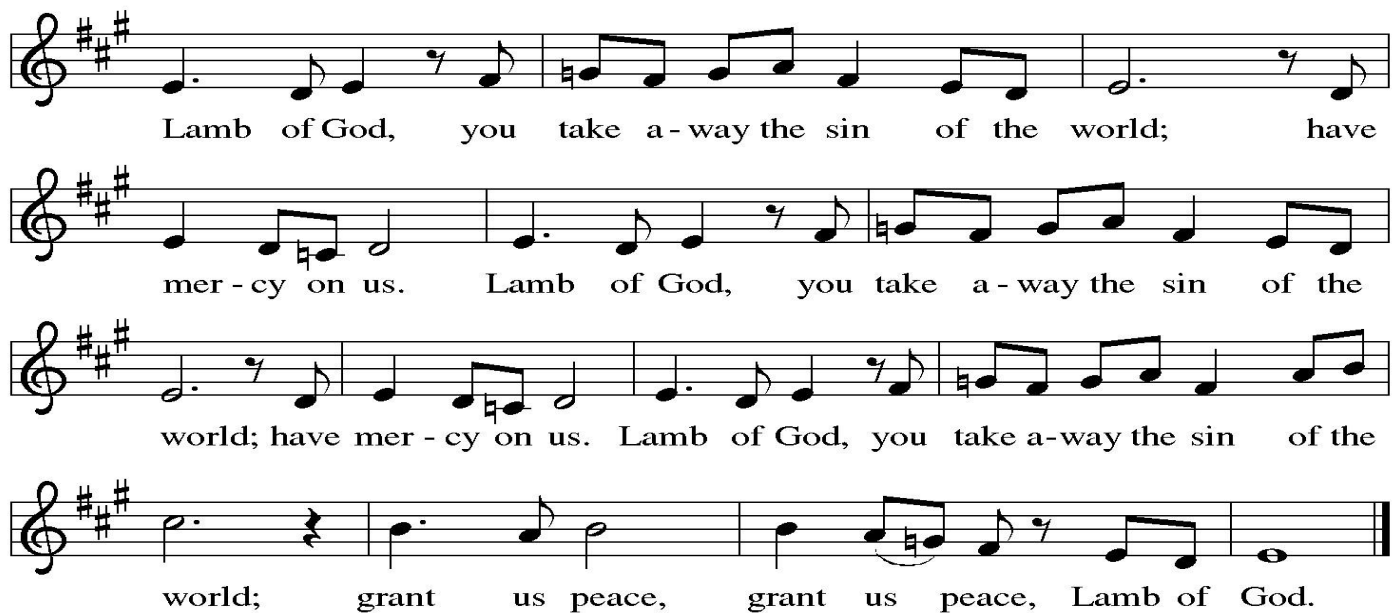
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us  
not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

*“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”*

ELW 367

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds  
in praise of love that still abounds:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!  
Repeat their song of glory here:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Eternal is the gift he brings,  
therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Now still he comes to give us life  
and by his presence stills all strife.  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
set heart and will on things above  
that we conquer through your triumph;  
grant grace sufficient for life's day  
that by our lives we truly say:  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Adoring praises now we bring  
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:  
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"  
Be to the Father, and our Lord,  
to Spirit blest, most holy God,  
all the glory, never ending!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Distribution Hymn**

*“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*

ELW 389

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching ev'ry place and time.

3 In ev'ry insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,

till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

### **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**

*"Commonwealth Is God's Commandment"*

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1 Commonwealth is God's commandment;  
common goods are meant to share.  
Tables set and doors wide open  
welcome angels unaware.  
Refrain  
Plead for the peace of all creation.  
Pray for a place where grace is found.  
Shanti, pax, shalom, maslaha:  
common good is holy ground.

2 Sharing lavish gifts and blessings,  
love that not one mite withholds,  
stretch out arms to friends and strangers:  
God has sheep of many folds. Refrain

3 Genders, races, tribes, and nations,  
hear the Holy One who calls,  
biding all to work together,  
bridging lives and breaching walls. Refrain

## Dismissal

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

## Prelude

*“Commonwealth Is God’s Commandment”*

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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: Allison Young

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Allison Young

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Attendance: April 26 - 71

Website: [www.stjohnlcsandusky.com](http://www.stjohnlcsandusky.com)

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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”.

**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 10 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Elizabeth
17 – Set-up – Jolene Dillender	Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
24 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws	Cleanup – Sandy Thompson
31 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	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.

**May is here and jammed packed with upcoming events!**

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** – The youth of St. John’s will lead our worship. We give thanks to our mothers and all women for all they do in love and service for the sake of the children who are in their lives.

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** – 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 Deehr. Keep our young adults in your prayers as they enter higher education and as they begin their place of employment.

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** – 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 31<sup>st</sup>** – We will share in the Baptism of Jackson William Fink, infant son of Michael and Christina Fink and grandson of Bill and Connie Deehr.

**Day Camp News:**

We have over fifty youth signed up for day camp this year, the week of June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Thank you members of St. John's!** The "noisy collections" the last few months supported ELCA Good Gifts. Your generous donations totaled \$400.00. The youth of St. John's selected the following purchases to support education and health care: 6 individuals to send to school, 8 individuals for school supplies and 8 individuals to the health clinic. **We are very proud of the selections our youth made to help those who do not have the opportunity to learn and healthcare.**

**Happy Birthday** to Corwin Semon, Bob Stacy, Lisa Wilson and Elizabeth Libben.

**Happy Anniversary** to Nathan and Christine Samsa.

**ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> THRU MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday, May 3	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Catechism Class Sunday School plan worship service Worship
Tuesday, May 5	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, May 6	12:00 noon 5:30 pm 6:15 pm	Scripture and Prayer at Parkvue Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, May 10	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Youth practice for Mother's Day Worship
Wednesday, May 13	5:30 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, May 17	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Catechism Class Worship

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St. John's Website



St. John's Facebook



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