

*Abide  
in my love*

JOHN 15:9



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
May 5, 2024

**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 5, 2024**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome to Worship! This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

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 Becky Siebert from the NW Ohio Synod Global Mission Board and Jim Stauffer for leading our worship this morning while Pastor Stacy is on sabbatical. Thank you to Linda Stauffer for sharing her 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

*"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"* John B. Dykes

Arranged by Albin C. Whitworth ©1984 by Carl Fischer, Inc. 62 Cooper Square, NY NY

Special Offering in support of Clean Water

*Please stand if you are able*

**Gathering**

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

## Thanksgiving For Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Gathering 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!

## 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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

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, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, 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.

*Final refrain*



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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

A reading from Acts.

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 98 (Read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the  
earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

**Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6**

A reading from 1 John.

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

*Please stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -

lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel: John 15:9-17**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*Please stand if you are able*

**Becky Siebert**



## Hymn of the Day

“*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*”

ELW 708

Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,

fill us with your love,

show us how to serve

the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,

silently washes their feet,

master who acts as a slave to them. Refrain

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,

varied in color and race,

neighbors are near us and far away. Refrain

3 These are the ones we will serve,

these are the ones we will love;

all these are neighbors to us and you. Refrain

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,

silently washing their feet:

this is the way we will live with you. Refrain

## Prayers of the people:

**Response:** God of Grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## Choir/Congregation Offering

“*We All Are One In Mission*”

ELW 576

**Everyone sings verses 1 & 3    Choir will sing verse 2**

Text © 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

*Used by permission.* Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

1 We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service,  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
with God's surprising grace,  
so ev'ry folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united,  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming Word.

We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.

Please stand if you are able

## Canticle of Thanksgiving

*Refrain*



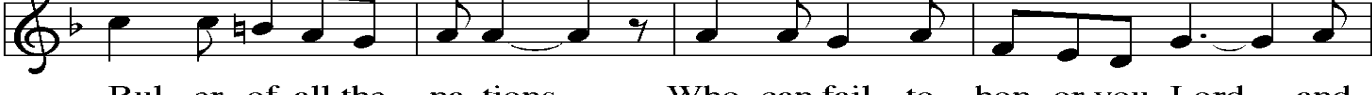
Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O



God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

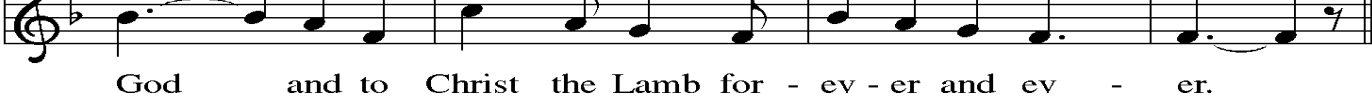


Rul - er of all the na - tions. Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and

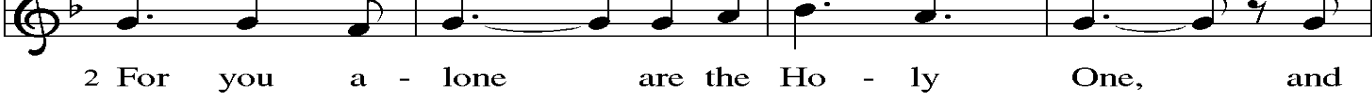
*Refrain*



sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va - tion be - longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

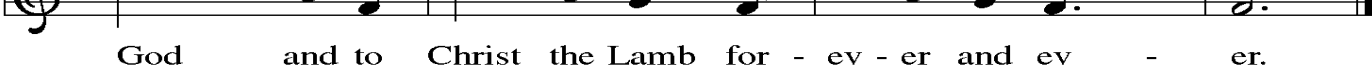


bless - ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

*Refrain*



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va - tion be - longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

## **Thanksgiving For The Word**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

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

## **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 Alive! Let Christians Sing”*

ELW 389

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

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

## Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

*From Sunday and season.com. License #SAS103330*

*Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-720241 All rights reserved.*

*Copyright License A 11364729 / Streaming License A 20657245 with permission under CCLI All rights reserved.*

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

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Admin.

419-625-2192

Morgan Noon, Organist

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Today's Musician: Linda Stauffer

Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Usher: Jeff Justi

Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws

Audio/Visual Tech: Jon Baaske

Attendance: April 28 - 55

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

Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

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 Jim and Linda Stauffer in honor of our two granddaughters' graduations-one from high school and one from Wittenberg University.

**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.

**A Special Offering** will be gathered **TODAY** in support of clean water. Our speaker, Becky Seibert will share her message from the Global Mission Board concerning clean water.

### **Communion Clean-up today:**

May 5 – NO COMMUNION

May 12 – Set up - Toni Nossaman

Clean up – Elizabeth Libben

May 19 - Set up – Joleen Dillender

Clean up – Sandy Thompson/Jim Kluding

May 26 - Set up – Toni Nossaman

Clean up -

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.

**We grieve the loss** of our sister in Christ, Sue Graybill. Sue passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> surrounded by family. Please keep Sue's family, Ray Smith and family in your prayers.

**New Address:** Jerry Bauer is now living at The Parkview Community. His new address is Jerry Bauer, The Parkview Community Rm 204, 3800 Boardwalk Blvd Sandusky, OH 44870. Please keep Jerry in your prayers as he makes this adjustment.

### **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.

**Graduation is fast approaching!** Please contact Sandy Thompson with names of our High School, Technical School, or College graduates.

**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.

### **Upcoming Sabbatical Events:**

**Hopewood Pines:** Travel to Morrow County to experience one of our Lutheran camps. We will look at how camps form communities in the short time kids are gathered, how they share the Good News in new and old ways, learn about our local camp, and see where we send some of our youth. Monday, May 6, leaving the church at 9:30 AM. Lunch is provided. Please contact Jim Stauffer for more information at 419-515-4349.

**Bellwether Farm May 30th:** Venture to Wakeman with Jeff Justi to see an Episcopalian camp. They have an enormous community garden and provide farm to table cooking opportunities and meals to people who attend their camp. See how they care for the earth

and share their faith through nature. May 30<sup>th</sup> in the morning, Lunch is provided. If you are interested, please contact Jeff Justi or Sandy Thompson.

**Spirituality Retreat May 31 & June 1:** Rev. Dr. Lisa Dahill will join St John’s to talk about spirituality, meditation, and nature. No church experience is necessary even though those are churchy words! There will be time for prayer, journaling, and walking the labyrinth. This will be at Zion, Huron’s outbuilding, from May 31-June 1. Dinner, snacks, and lunch will be included. There are only 15 spots available and the cost is \$20. Reserve your spot soon! Friday, May 31 – Dinner 6 pm, event 7-9, Saturday, June 1 – 9-12 (lunch at 12) and 1-3 Saturday.

**Happy Birthday** to Bob Stacy, Lisa Wilson, and Elizabeth Libben. Belated birthday wishes to Jim Kluding.

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

**Firelands Chorus** presents “Songs We Like To Sing” on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 pm) at Zion Lutheran Church, 503 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, OH. A freewill offering will be collected.

**ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> THRU MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

Sunday, May 5	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship - Speaker, Becky Siebert
Monday, May 6	9:30 am	Field Trip to Hopewood Pines
Tuesday, May 7	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Sunday, May 12	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship, Rev. Mary Ann Siefke
Sunday, May 19	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship, Rev. Steve Bauerle

Weekly Verse:

**“Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.  
Genesis 1:11**

- May 5 – Go outside and enjoy God’s creation.  
6 – Take a moment to be in a peaceful place.  
7 – Share how you are doing with someone you trust.  
8 – Affirm a gift you see in another.  
9 – Visit a park or beach.  
10 – Take time to help another.  
11 – Practice relaxing the muscles in your body.

**Thank you:** Kind friends, You’re Unbelievable! Thank you so much for the generous donation to our laundry love project! Because of gifts such as yours we’ve expanded the mission to twice a month. God is blessing this work in our community. May God bless you all. **The Laundry Love Team**