

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 15, 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

November 15, 2026 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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 thank Linda Stauffer for sharing her gift of music with us this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Bell Prelude *"Beautiful Savior"* Arr. James L Klein

©1986 by National Music Publishers

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Call to Worship

I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go to the house of the Lord!
I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go to the house of the Lord!
Unless the Lord builds the house,
in vain do the builders labor.
Unless the Lord builds the house,
in vain do the builders labor.
Surely the Lord is in this place.
This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!
Surely the Lord is in this place.
This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!
Oh, come let us worship!
Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship!
(Ps. 122:1; Ps. 127:1; Gen. 28:16-17)

Gathering Hymn *"We Praise You O God"* ELW **870**

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963 Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626 Public Domain

1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

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.

Hymn of Praise *"Come, All You People"* ELW **819**

Text st. 1 and music © 1986 World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland and the Asian Institute of Liturgy & Music, notated by I-to Loh; English paraphrased by I-to Loh.
Text sts. 2 & 3 © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

1 Come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.

2 Come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.

3 Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is at hand!
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,

they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (Read responsively)

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 **In the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8 **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and
| **we are gone.**
11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
] 12 **So teach us to number our days,**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security,"
then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of
the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others
do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those
who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and
put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two,
to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one
who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more
talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground
and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and
settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents;
see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also
came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made
two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also
came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you
did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and
hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied,
'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and
gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the
bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So
take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those
who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who
have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave,
throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
"

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"* ELW **674**

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1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

Prayers of the people:

Response: God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Choir Offering *"Day by Day"* Caroline Sandell-Berg, Stan Pethel

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Please stand if you are able

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
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Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving
Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed,
took bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
This do in remembrance of me.
In the same way also he took the cup after supper,
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying:
Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in 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



Distribution Hymn: *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"* ELW **632**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: William Croft, 1678-1727 Public Domain

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Distribution Hymn: *"Deep River"*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888 Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876 Public Domain

Refrain
Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

1 Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
that promised land where all is peace? Oh, Refrain

2 Oh, when I get to heaven, I'll take my seat,
and cast my crown at Jesus' feet. Oh, Refrain

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.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Charge To the People
Beloved in the Lord,
God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Benediction
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen

Sending Hymn *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"* ELW **551**

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1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.

2 We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.

3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.

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

Postlude *"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"*

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
"A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known"
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor — Church: 419-625-2192
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday — Cell: 419-680-0358
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary — 419-625-2192
E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Organist: Nathan Samsa
Usher: Chuck Thompson — Lay Reader: Lisa Fryer
Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn — Communion Assistant: Allison Young
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com — Attendance: Nov. 8 - 71
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2026 The Year of the Way of Love. "We love because he first loved us."
Bible Verse for *1 John 5:2–3*
"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome".

Council asks the congregation to pray that we give thanks for those who have shared their faith journeys; that we should all aspire to do the same.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Nov. 22 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
29 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
Dec. 6 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws Clean-up – Paula
13 – Set-up – Jim Kluding Clean-up – Jim
20 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
24 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben Clean-up – Elizabeth
27 – No Communion Jt. Worship at Zion Huron

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

St. John's oldest member, August Hohman, is now residing at the Bellevue Care Center. Augie's new address is August Hohman, Bellevue Care Center, 1 Audrich Square, Bellevue, OH 44811. Please include him in your prayers, he would love a visit or drop him a card as he makes this transition.

The Giving Tree is up! St. John's will help with the needs of families in Erie County! Please take a tag and have your gifts and supplies back by Sunday, Nov. 29th. Each package must have their **Name, Age, Gender and case worker initials**.

Hanging of the Greens! Mark your calendars to decorate St. John's sanctuary for Christmas! Hanging of the greens will take place on Sunday, November 22nd right after worship along with a pizza fellowship. Please plan to join us!

Poinsettia Orders: It's time to order your poinsettias for the holidays. Order deadline is Sunday, November 15th. Fill out the order with your payment and put in offering plate.

Joint Advent Worship: The members of Zion Lutheran Church Huron will join us for worship on **Sunday, November 29th**. Following worship, we will have an Advent Party which will take place in the fellowship hall. Lunch will include a pasta bar with all the toppings. Games and crafts for the kids as well as fellowship time for the adults. **Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary.**

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing: Zion and St. John's will be ringing the bell at Cornell's on Saturday, December 5 from 9 am – 7 pm for the Salvation Army. If you would like to help ring the bell, please call Kris during Zion office hours and she will add your

name to the list? Office hours are M-Th 9am-2pm. 419-433-4711 It's a first come first serve for time selection!

Save the date! January 13th from 9:30 to Noon we will go to Second Harvest to learn about food insecurity and their important work. We will also help sort food.

Bible Study opportunity: Beginning in January, Pastor Stacy will do a monthly bible study on forgiveness. If you are interested, please let her know what days and times work best for you.

Christmas Trivia Contest: The Huron High School Key Club and the Edison High School Key Club are sponsoring a Christmas Trivia night at Zion Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 3rd. Profits earned by the joint Key Clubs will be donated to the Kiwanis International Children's Fund as a Christmas donation. A light dinner at 5:30 with contest to begin at 6 p.m. There will be 10 rounds of Christmas Trivia. Subjects will be Christmas carols, traditional and contemporary Christmas music, worldwide Christmas traditions, Holiday foods, Christmas folklore, colors and decorations of Advent, Christmas movies and Holiday TV specials. Cost is $5.00 per person. Teams can be made up of 4-8 people. If you are interested in being part of a St. John's team or 2 teams, let Pastor Stacy know.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 15TH THRU NOVEMBER 29TH

Sunday, November 15	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Tuesday, November 17	6:30 pm	Council Meeting meets in Upper Room
Wednesday, November 18	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, November 22	9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Worship Pizza Lunch and Hanging of the Greens
Thursday, November 26		**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
Sunday, November 29	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School Christmas Practice Jt. Advent Worship with Zion Huron at St. John's Fellowship Advent lunch and party

November Birthdays
Nov. 6 – Susan Zorn
Joleen Dillender
7 – Holden Cantu
8 – Milly Reed
9 – Dawn Schlessman
13 – Jacob Thompson

November Birthdays
24 – John Miller
Liam Young
26 – Lisa Fryer

November Anniversaries
Nov. 8 – Chuck & Sandy Thompson

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We will beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season with poinsettias. Please place your order by **Sunday, November 15th**.

No. of plants_____@ $12.50 each_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

St. John's Lutheran Church

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased)_____

_____

IN HONOR OF (Living)_____

_____