



“TELL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED:

**LOOK, I HAVE
PREPARED MY
DINNER...
EVERYTHING
IS READY;
COME TO THE
WEDDING
BANQUET.”**

MATTHEW 22:4, NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 11, 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.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

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 music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Prelude *"Allegro Marcato"* Edvard Grieg (1843–1907) Public Domain

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand

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

"We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

ELW 681

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800 Public Domain

1 We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain

All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord,
we thank you, Lord,
for all your love.

2 You only are the maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread. Refrain

3 We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure--
our humble, thankful hearts. Refrain

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

Geneva Cepec

A reading from Isaiah.

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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

Psalm 23 (Read responsively)

Sophia Scovanner

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Mallory Snook

A reading from Philippians.

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

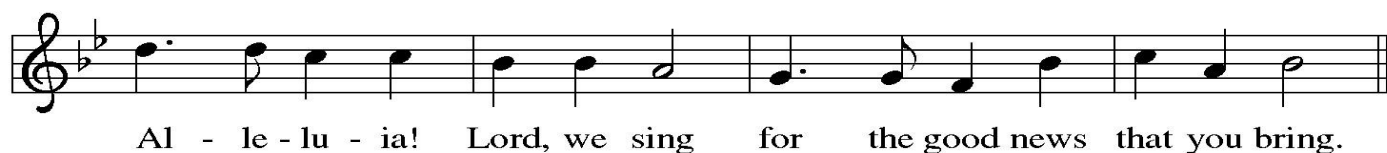
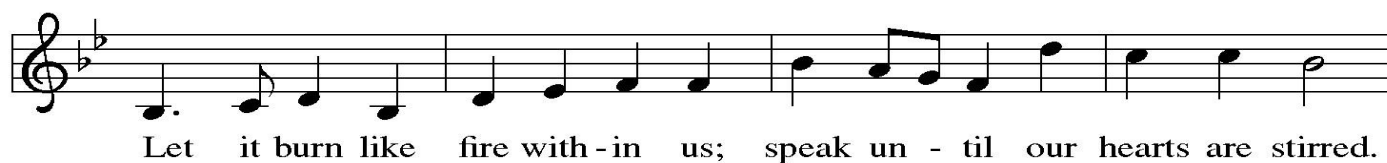
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm,

another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.’ ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

ELW 708

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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 nearby 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*

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

Prayers of the people: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love”

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Please stand

Offertory Sing vs. 1 *“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!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in 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.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Distribution Hymn:

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

ELW 697

Text: North American traditional Music: North American traditional Public Domain

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain

2 Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Refrain

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. Refrain

Distribution Hymn:

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW 660

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Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
Refrain

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Refrain

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain

Please stand

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
His grace.

Amen

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with
Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your
Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in
the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ELW 661

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936 Public Domain

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. Refrain

Refrain
I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. Refrain

Dismissal

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

Postlude

“I Love to Tell the Story”

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936 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

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

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Usher: Ray Witt/Hunter Boger
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Assisting Minister: Lucas Snook
Communion Assistant: Mary Snook
Extinguish Candles: Lucie Boger
Basket Holders: Emily, Liam Young
Att.: - Oct. 4 - 58

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

Bible Verse for October: *1 John 4:10-11*

“In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another”.

Council asks the congregation to pray that we all strive to see one another, and the world, through God's eyes.

Communion Clean-up today: Paula Hoffman Laws

Oct.18 – Set-up - Joleen Dillender
25 – Set-up - Elizabeth Libben

Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

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

Prayer request: August Hohman, our oldest St. John's member needs your prayers. Please include August in your prayers.

Thank You: Our family would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family for the love, prayers, and support you have given us throughout this past year during our grandson's illness.

Your prayers, kindness, encouragement, and presence carried us through some of the hardest days we have ever faced. We will never forget the way you surrounded our family with love.

Thank you for praying with us, standing beside us, and loving our family. We are deeply grateful. The Young Family

Thank you to the members of St. John's for all your prayers for Ted and I and my family. My mother, Janice Ingersoll, passed away on Sunday, September 27th. **Lynn and Ted Call**

Have you missed some members of our church family who are not able to attend worship anymore? Did you know that Pastor Stacy tries to visit those who are homebound at least once a quarter? Would you be willing to visit a member of our church family once a month to help during the between time? We will have an informational meeting on **October 28th at 10:30 AM at Gathering Grounds**. Please let Pastor Stacy know if you can be there. Being at this meeting does not mean that you have to participate—you're welcome to come and learn more!

Reformation Sunday, October 25th: Over the centuries, Lutherans have kept a special day to thank God for the freedom that the word of God grants to believers and to pray that with the help of God's Spirit, the church will be continually reformed and renewed. You are invited to worship with us on this Reformation Sunday, in praise and petition to God for the ongoing health of the church. **Wear your RED!**

Happy Birthday to Mike Chill.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 11TH THRU OCTOBER 25TH

Sunday, October 11	9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Confirmation Class Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Wednesday, October 14	10:00 am 5:30 pm	Book Discussion Chapters 3 & 4 Choir Practice
Sunday, October 18	9:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Confirmation Class Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship
Tuesday, October 20	9:00 am 6:30 pm	Trip to LMM/Getting to Know Our Neighbors Council Meeting
Sunday, October 25	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship

Love at the Laundromat

September 26, 2026, was a huge success. We had 14 volunteers from both Zion and St. John who served 24 families at the newly renovated Huron Laundromat. We provided detergent, dryer sheets, etc. as well as paying for using all the machines. Our guests look forward to having the opportunity to get all their laundry washed. We allow them to wash clothing, but also bedding and other items used in their homes. The machines were all constantly running. The people tell us over and over how important it is to them. Thank you for donating and supporting this mission. A big thank you to those who volunteered to serve at the laundromat. We really are doing God's Work in our community.

St. Stephen UCC's annual Christmas Bazaar takes place on Saturday, November 14th, 9 am to 3 pm at 905 E Perkins Ave. Sandusky. Door prize, lunch available, Free Admission.

Lutheran Dartball league begins October 19! New players are always welcome. Contact Paul Nabors ([440-315-5078](tel:440-315-5078)) or the Zion's office ([419-433-4711](tel:419-433-4711)) if you are interested in joining the Zion Huron team. Competitions are held on Monday evenings. They play on Monday evenings travelling around the area (Bellevue, Castalia, Sandusky and Norwalk). Some churches have 2 teams. There is a home match and away match with each team. This starts on October 19 and goes into the beginning of March. They break during the Christmas/New Years holiday weeks.

Christmas Card Making Workshop: The workshop will be held on Thursday, November 12, 4:00-8:00 pm in the Fellowship hall at Zion's Huron. Arrive anytime during workshop hours and create one-of-a-kind Christmas cards! All supplies are provided-papers, images, stickers, ribbon and little sparkly things await you! The workshop is free and all ages are welcome.

Please call or text Diane Chevalier at [419-602-7412](tel:419-602-7412) with any questions. In order to plan for supplies please sign up on the registration sheet on the bulletin board or call the Zion office at [419-433-4711](tel:419-433-4711).

St. John's UCC annual Swiss Steak Dinner. The dinner takes place on Oct. 16th from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm at 2712 Mason Rd. W. Milan OH 44846. Tickets are \$14 and carry out is available. Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, dessert and beverage. Carry Out available.