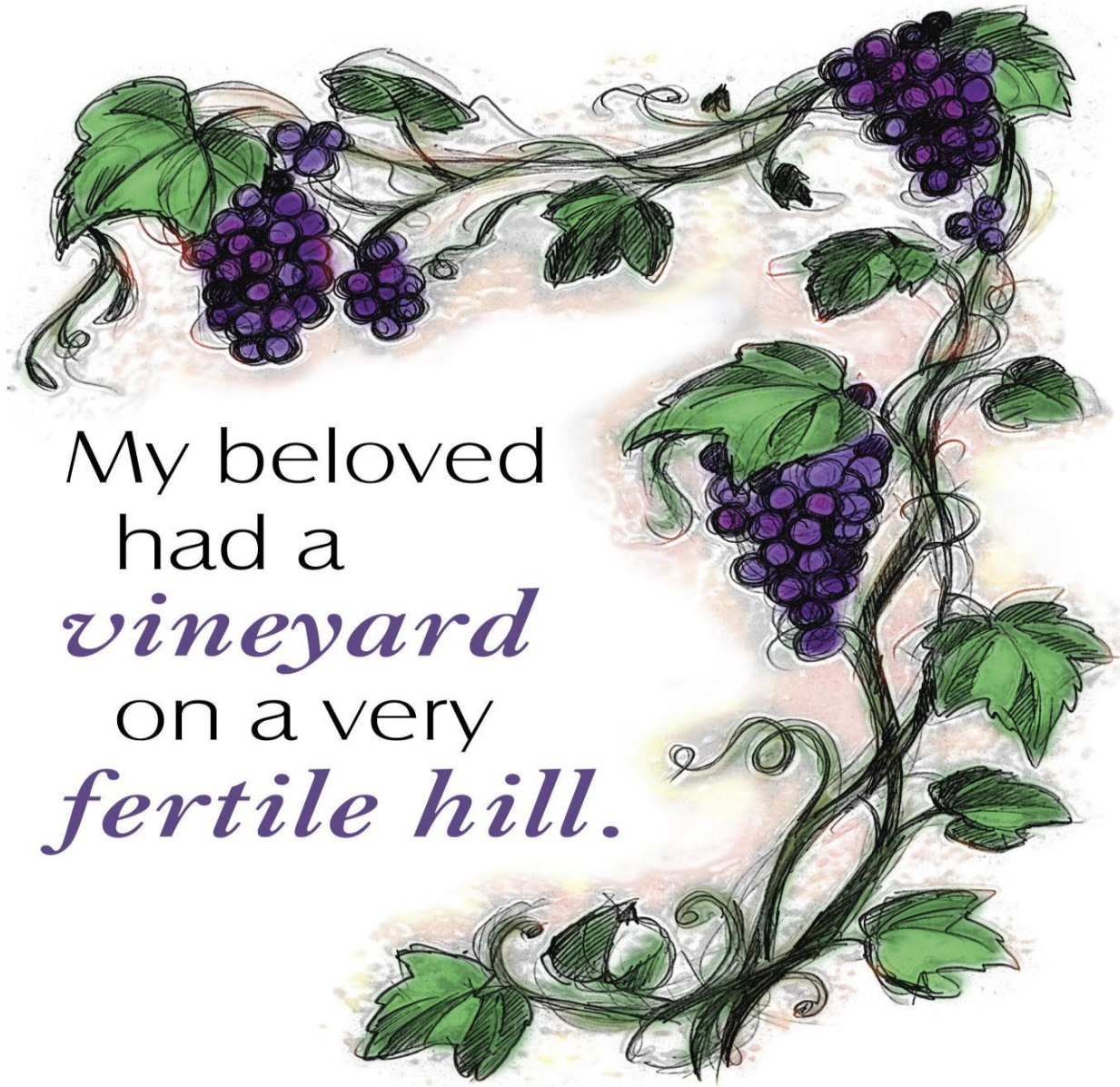




My beloved
had a
vineyard
on a very
fertile hill.

Isaiah 5:1, NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 4, 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 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

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

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty!”

ELW 413

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876 Public Domain

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song
shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy
sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

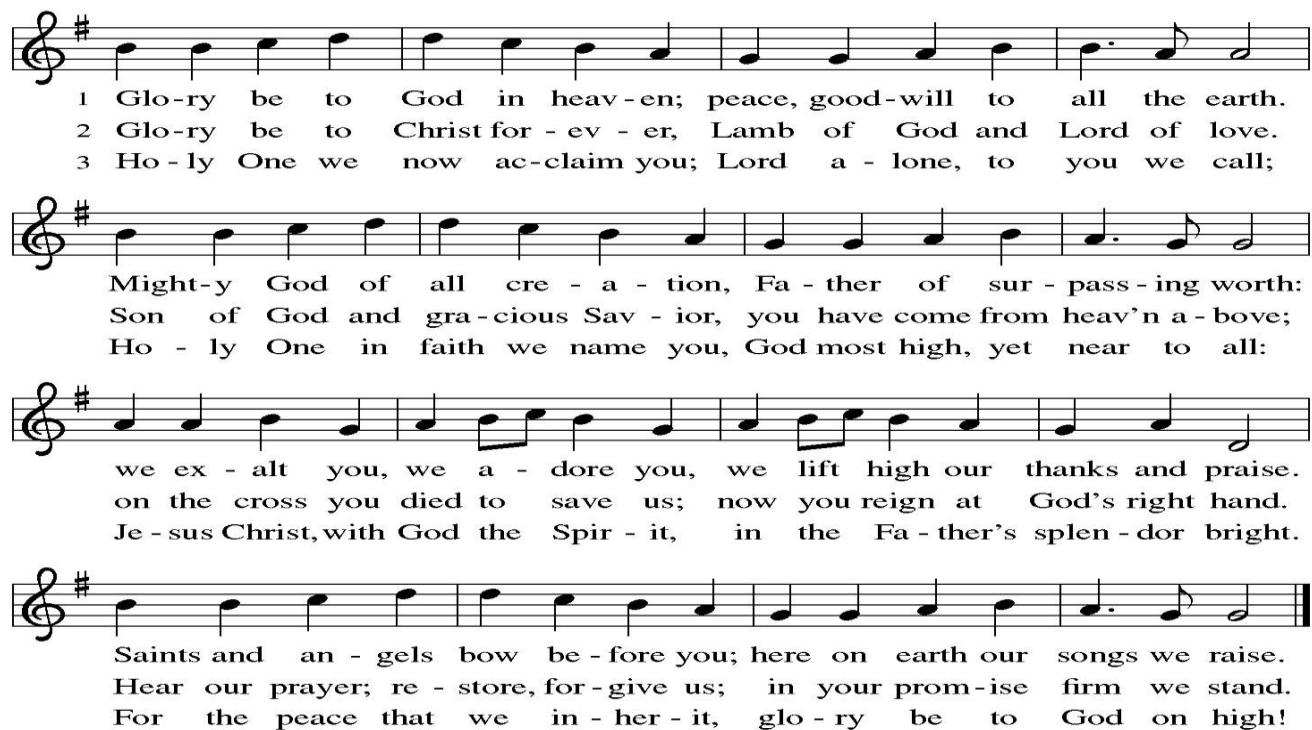
4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky
and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;
Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

- ¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;

he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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

Psalm 80:7-15 (Read responsively)

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and planted it.**

⁹ You cleared the ground for it;
it took root and filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
and its branches to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven;**

¹⁵ behold and tend this vine;
preserve what your right hand has planted.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

A reading from Philippians.

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

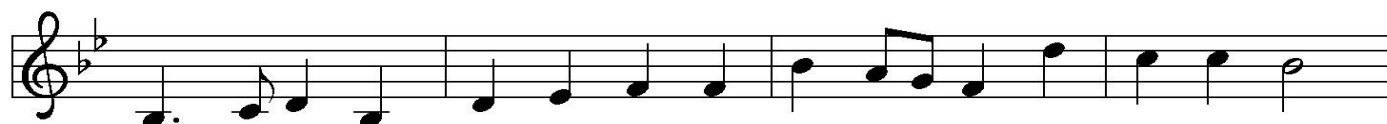
⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Blessing of Our Pets

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW 631

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887 Public Domain

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart. | 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty. |
| 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love. | 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise! |

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

Choir Offering

“Make Me A Channel of Your Peace” Sebastian Temple

Arr. By Mark Barnard ©1967 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213

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Please stand

Offertory Sing vs. 1

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

ELW 674

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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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.

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: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* ELW 502
 Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: Irish tune Public Domain

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
 whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am his
 and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
 my ransomed soul he leadeth
 and, where the verdant pastures grow,
 with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
 but yet in love he sought me,
 and on his shoulder gently laid,
 and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
 with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
 thy rod and staff my comfort still;
 thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Distribution Hymn: *"One Bread, One Body"* ELW 496
 Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo,
 Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Refrain

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
 one cup of blessing which we bless,
 and we, though many throughout the earth,
 we are one body in this one Lord.

1 Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
 woman or man, no more. Refrain
 2 Many the gifts, many the works,
 one in the Lord of all. Refrain
 3 Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
 gathered to one for all. 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.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through 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

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

ELW 729

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1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;

to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

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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

Ushers: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Allison Young

Audio/Visual Tech.: Brandon Alt

Att.: - Sept. 27 - 55

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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

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.

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**

Communion Clean-up today: Jim Kluding

Oct.11 - Set-up - Paula Hoffman Laws	Clean-up – Paula
18 – Set-up - Joleen Dillender	Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
25 – Set-up - Elizabeth Libben	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.

St. John's Pet Blessing: Please bring in a picture of your pet on **Sunday, October 4th** and we will do a blessing during youth time.

Getting to Know Our Neighbors: This year, a focus at St John's is getting to know our neighbors. How can we love who we don't know? Our next field trip is scheduled for **October 20**, when we will go with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries for a public immersive experience in Cleveland. The experience is 9-12, plus drive time. Space is very limited and open to the entire public, so please let Pastor Stacy know if you can join **ASAP**. Thank you to Lynn and Sue for helping organize this!

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!

Endowment Grant Applications are being accepted: please contact a member of the endowment team and they will be glad to mail you an application. The requests need to be presented to the Endowment committee **no later than TODAY**.

Happy Birthday to Ann Voight and AddieLynn Hoffman.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 4TH THRU OCTOBER 18TH

Sunday, October 4	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Adult Class with Lynn Sunday School for all ages Worship/Pet Blessing
Tuesday, October 6	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, October 7	12 noon 5:30 pm	Scripture & Prayer at Parkvue Choir Practice
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