



*"...there am I
among them."*

Matthew 18:20, ESV

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 6, 2026*

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 9:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

September 6, 2026 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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 Marcia Giordano Synodical Authorized Minister and Deacon Carolyn Steinfeldt for leading our worship this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again soon.

Bell

Welcome and announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand if you are able

Confession And Forgiveness

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

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Earth and All Stars!"

ELW 731

Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain
God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

2 Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

3 Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

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



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



B 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.



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.



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

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40 (Read responsively)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Make me go in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

- ³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**
- ³⁷ Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless;
give me life in your ways.
- ³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which you make to those who fear you.**
- ³⁹ Turn away the reproach which I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- ⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

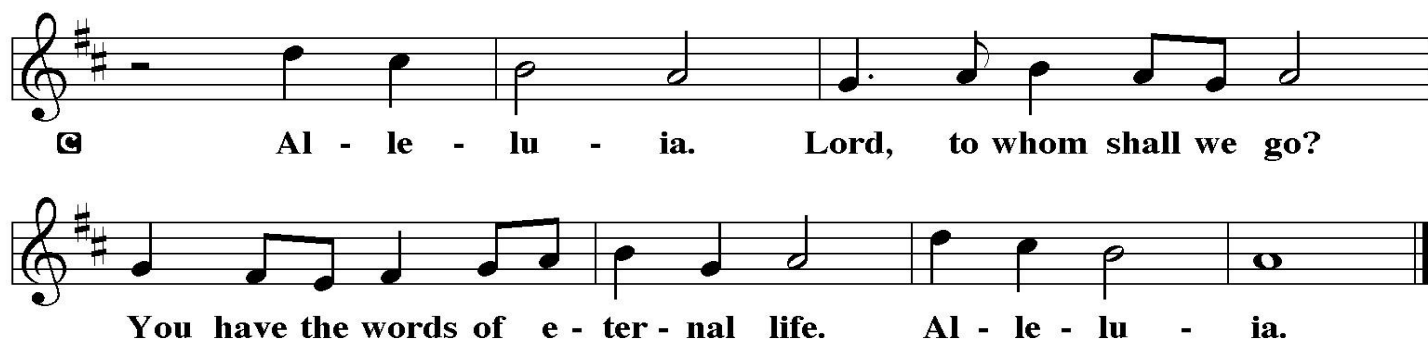
⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”

ELW 716

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

1 Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, ev’ry race;
and in each person may I see
my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

2 Break down the wall that would divide
thy children, Lord, on ev’ry side.
My neighbor’s good let me pursue;
let Christian love bind warm and true.

3 Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.

5 With thine own love may I be filled
and by thy Holy Spirit willed,

4 Give me thy courage, Lord to speak
whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.

that all I touch, where'er I be,
may be divinely touched by thee.

Prayers of the people:

Response: Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

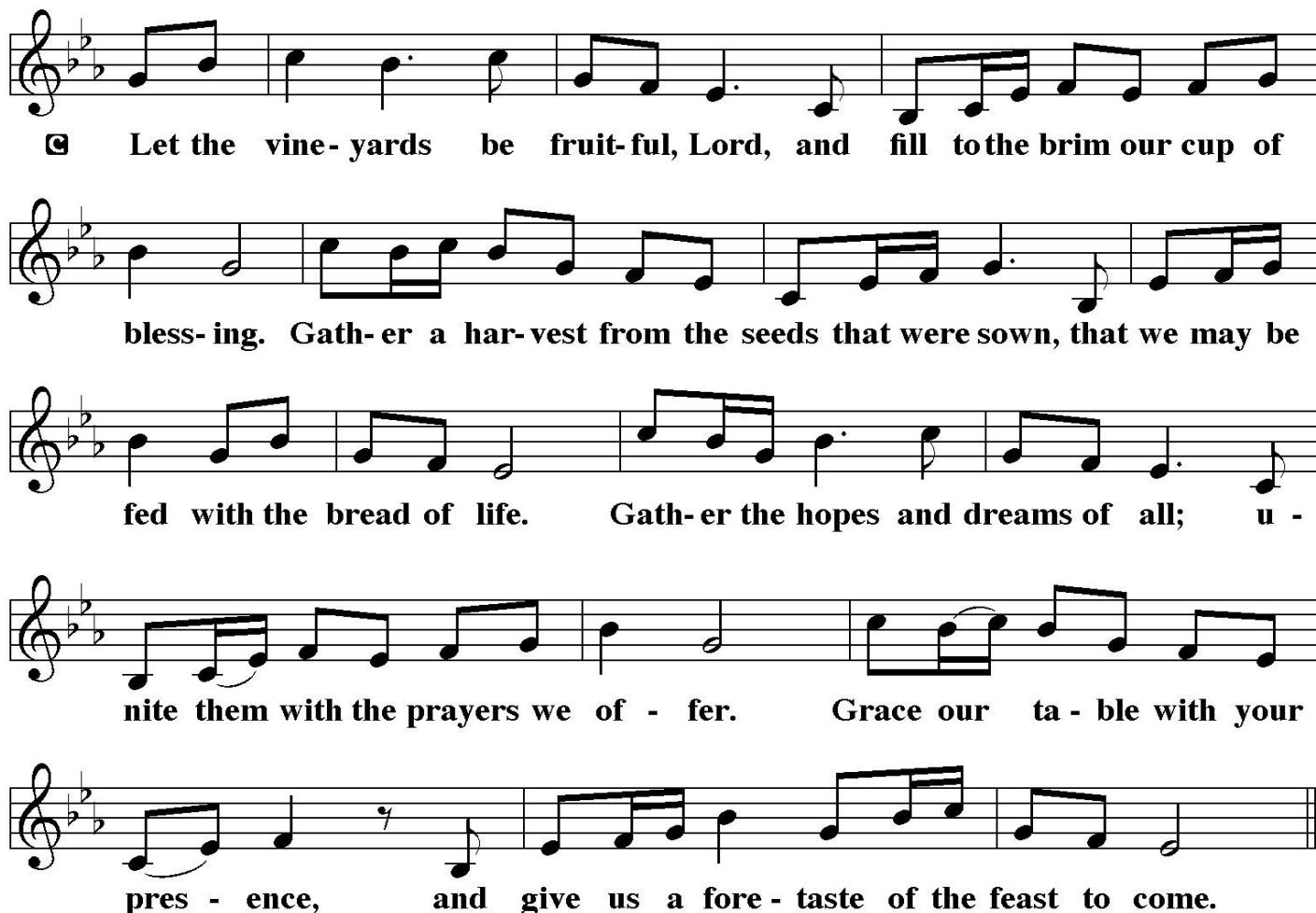
Offering

"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Please stand if you are able

Offering



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us

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

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

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
 and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
 not as we ought but as we are able;
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
 may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your
 saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and 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**

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Communion Song



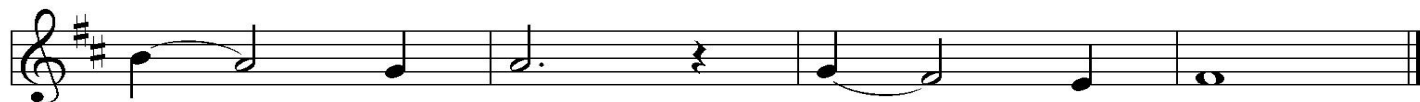
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

"All Are Welcome"

ELW 641

Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
Refrain

as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
Refrain

Distribution Hymn

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

ELW 461

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1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

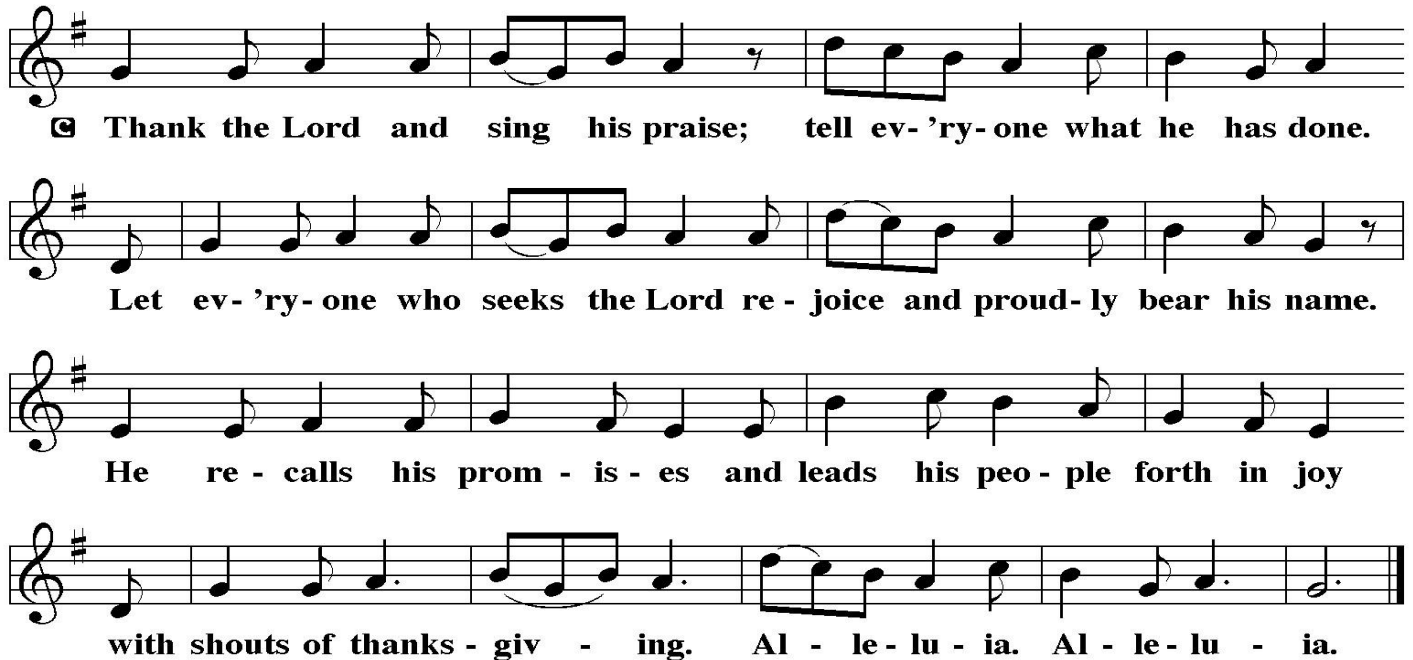
2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.

Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Please stand if you are able

Post Communion Cantic



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry- one what he has done.

Let ev- 'ry- one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud- ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

Sending Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river

I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free."

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

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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, Admin.

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Organist: Nathan Samsa

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Lay Reader: Lisa Fryer

Audio/Visual Tech.: Brandon Alt

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Attendance: Aug. 30 - 62

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 September: *1 John 4:7*

“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God”.

Council asks the congregation to pray for all of our students, teachers, bus drivers and other school personnel as the new school year kicks off, and also that the new collaboration between St. John and Zion continue to enrich us all as the people of Christ.

Communion Clean-up today: Jim Kluding

Sept.13 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben

Clean-up – Sandy Thompson

20 – Set-up – Joleene Dillender

Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

27 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws

Clean-up – Paula

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

Attention Members Special Congregational Meeting: Immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 20, 2026**, a special congregational meeting will be held to discuss the future of the parsonage.

St. John's worship returns to 10:30 am on Sunday, September 13th. We will worship at Edison Park. Sunday, September 13 there will be no live stream of worship. Live stream worship will return on Sunday, September 20th at 10:30 am.

Rally Day: September 13th is Rally Day! We worship together with Zion Huron. Please join us for a festive worship service, a delicious St. John's potluck and God's Work Our

Hands service project. This is a great start for our fall and winter programs, but it's even better when you are part of it. We gather at Edison Park Shelter, 6 East St. Milan, OH. **Coffee time will start at 10:00 am with worship at 10:30** followed by a potluck lunch. After lunch we will assemble the personal care kit items that we have been gathering during the month of August for LW Relief. Water and table service are provided. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

Child Safety Policy: We are implementing a new child safety policy at St John's. If you will be working with our youth, please see Pastor Stacy for instructions on how to obtain a background check. Thank you!

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 22, 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!

New Book Discussion Selection: "Bad Girls of the Bible" by Bible study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs. Ten of the Bible's best-known femmes fatales parade across the pages of this popular and unforgettable study with situations that sound oh-so-familiar. Book discussion meets on Wednesday, September 9th at 10:00 am. Please read chapters 1 & 2 for discussion.

Youth Event:

Trip to the apple orchard: All kids and their families are invited to join us September 27th (rain date October 4th) with a trip to Burnham Apple Orchard from 4-6 PM. St John's will sponsor games for the group, and hopefully a hayride! Please text Pastor Stacy (419) 680-0358 if you are able to go.

August Ingathering of supplies for Lutheran World Relief!

The Faith Life Team asks the members from St. John's and Zion Huron to gather supplies for the LWR Personal Care Kits. For under \$10.00 you can help supply the needs of individuals who are living in refugee camps or experiencing any type of disaster. LW Relief is very specific in what items we can gather for this project. Tubs are available in the rear of the sanctuary and in the handicap entrance for your supplies. We gather these supplies during August and up to Rally Day Sunday, September 13th when we will assemble the kits for our 2026 "God's Work, Our Hands" project. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



Ingathering items:

light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*

sturdy comb, remove packaging

metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

**Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap*

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 October 4, 2026. You can mail the application back to the church, put your request in the endowment mailbox in the basement or present it to any member of the committee. The committee members are John Miller, Ted Call, Jeff Justi, Bob Stacy, Kathy Schlessman, Ron Zorn, Pastor Stacy. If you have any questions, please see a member of the endowment committee.

The Endowment Team will hold its quarterly meeting in mid to late October, at which time all grant applications that have been presented will be reviewed and voted on. Those that are approved will be sent to the Finance Team for additional review and approval.

Happy Birthday to Ellie Bell, Brandon Alt, Ann Witt, and Trudi Baaske.

Happy Anniversary to Richard & Kathy Schlessman and Ron & Melinda Zorn.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 6TH THRU SEPTEMBER 20TH

Sunday, September 6	9:30 am	Worship
Wednesday, September 9	10:00 am	Book Discussion in the Upper Room
Sunday, Sept.13 Rally Day	10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Coffee Time at Edison Park Worship Potluck picnic and LWR Kit project
Tuesday, September 15	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 16	5:30 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, September 20	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Adult Sunday Class begins 1 Corinthians Sunday School for all ages Worship Special congregational meeting

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

NEPAL FLOODING

SUMMER 2026

ELCA.org/disaster

Communities in Nepal are facing catastrophic loss after deadly, devastating floodwaters swept through the Himalayas. Many have died, homes have been destroyed, and entire communities are struggling to access basic necessities.

Lutheran Disaster Response has long-standing relationships with trusted partners throughout Nepal. With your help, we stand ready to support emergency relief and long-term recovery through these established partners who know their communities best.

Your gifts enable this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need and to remain for as long as recovery takes.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike.

Will you give today to provide critical aid in these early days and, crucially, in the months and years to come?

.....

Yes, I want to help!

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response

\$_____DDG0060

☐ Lutheran Disaster Response: International

\$_____IDG0016

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to the ELCA, write "Lutheran Disaster Response" on your check's memo line and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America