

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Apríl 21, 2024

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870 (419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, PastorApril 21, 2024Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Worship! The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

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 Jenny Weichel for sharing her gift of music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bells Welcome and announcements Prelude *"Here I Am to Worship"* Tim Hughes ©2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Please stand if you are able

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the H 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
Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt.ELW 369Music: Robert Williams, 1781–1821

1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia! Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia! offer praise with love replete, Alleluia! at the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!

3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia! God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia! when contending death and life, Alleluia! met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!

Greeting

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

2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia! sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia! all your grateful homage pay; Alleluia! Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia! now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia! **Canticle of Praise**



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

Psalm: Psalm 23 (Read responsively)

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely 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: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1 John.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

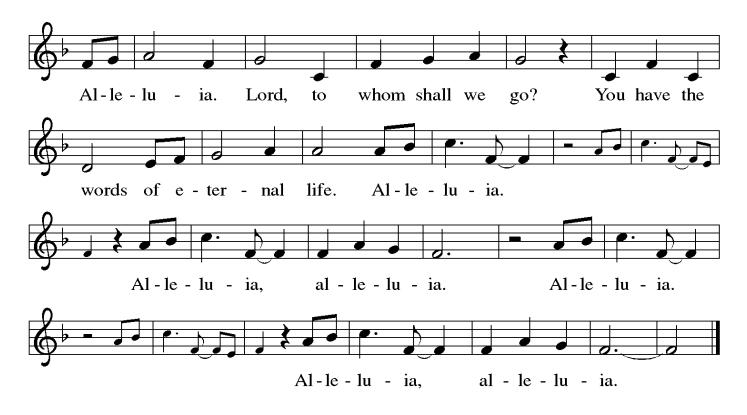
¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 10:11-18 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

ELW **502**

- The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
- 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.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

- 2 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
- 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.
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Prayers of the people: Response: God of Grace,

Hear our prayer.

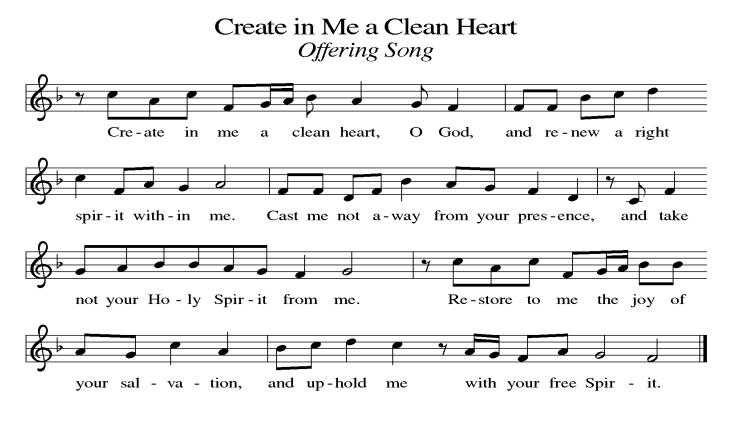
Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *Please be seated*

Choir Offering'Praise Him! Praise Him!''Words: Fanny J Crosby 1820-1915Music: Chester G Allen 1838-1878

Please stand if you are able

Offertory



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through 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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.** With <u>[name/s and]</u> your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

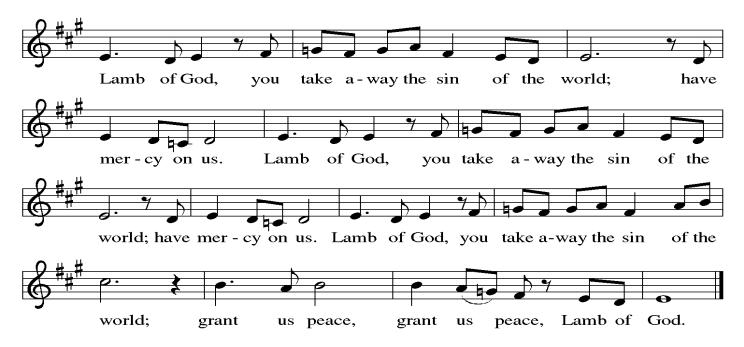
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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



Distribution Hymn *"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat"* ELW **484** Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publications.

Refrain You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat. Come give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.

1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice; so when you call your fam'ly, Lord, we follow and rejoice. Refrain

12

2 With joyful lips we sing to you our praise and gratitude that you should count us worthy, Lord, to share this heav'nly food. Refrain

4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, no mortal tongue can tell: whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain

Distribution Hymn

"Bread of Life from Heaven" Text and music © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Refrain Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given, we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.

Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; 1 giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. Refrain

4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. 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.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

ELW 474

3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ outpoured? Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord? Refrain

5 You give yourself to us, O Lord; then selfless let us be, to serve each other in your name in truth and charity. Refrain

set your hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. Refrain

2 Seek not the food that will pass away;

3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself for the life of the world. Come to the one who is food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. Refrain

5 Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. Refrain

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. *Please be seated*

Pastor Stacy's Sabbatical Sending

Pastor Lynn Schlessman

Congregation is seated while Pastor Stacy, Pastor Lynn and members of the church council come forward and gather around the Baptismal font.

Introduction

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God for Pastor Stacy and ask for God's blessings as we send her for Sabbatical rest and study. We ask God to bless this intentional time of growth both for her and for our congregation, and we ask that God to bring her and her family safely back to our community refreshed and nourished with God's Spirit as we all seek to glorify God with our gifts to serve all of creation.

Readings

A reading from Exodus: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8).

And again from Exodus: I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. (Exodus 23:20)

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke: Now, more than ever, the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to out-of-the-way places and pray. (Luke 5:15-16)

Sabbatical "Sending" Litany

Pastor Lynn: We wish Godspeed to Pastor Stacy as she begins her sabbatical.

Pastor Lynn: As you journey, God dwell with you while we are away from one another.

Pastor Stacy: God's blessing on you while I am gone from you.

Pastor Lynn: God fill you with the Holy Spirit as you study and visit new surroundings.

Pastor Stacy: I thank God for the ministry we share and the gift of this time away.

Pastor Lynn: We pray that you experience the gift of spiritual growth and the joy of discovery in your journey and that you return renewed and energized for ministry.

Pastor Stacy: I pray that you, also, will be renewed and energized to serve in God's name.

Pastor Lynn: We send you with our blessing.

Pastor Stacy: God's peace be with you as I leave to walk in different places.

Let us pray: Spirit of God, bless Pastor Stacy during her sabbatical. Renew her for ministry through this time set aside for reflection and study, the refreshment of a break from daily tasks and routine, and the excitement of new learning and direction. Grace her with your presence and keep her steadfast in the faith while we are gone one from another. **Amen**

Removal Of Stole

The primary and unique symbol for Pastors is their stole. It points to their being set apart by the Church for Word and Sacrament ministry. We will now remove Pastor Stacy's stole and place it on the pulpit where it will remain until she returns from Sabbatical. The presence of Pastor Stacy's stole will remind us of our shared Sabbatical journey and of our mutual commitment to prayer for one another during this time of rest and growth.

Members of the Council remove Pastor Stacy's stole and place it on the pulpit. Pastor Stacy's family is invited to come forward.

Family Blessing

God of love, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless the Scovanner family during this Sabbatical time. Grant them safe travel. Fill their lives with joy, laughter, and prayer, so that this might be a time of discovery and renewal for each of them individually and together as a family; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Pastor Stacy and other leaders process to the middle of the sanctuary while the assembly stands, gathers near, and lays hands on Pastor Stacy.

Congregational Laying On Of Hands

Eternal God, you fill us with every good thing and your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for Pastor Stacy, her family, and for our life together at St. John's. As they depart for Sabbatical, send them forth with your blessing, fill them with your Spirit, and bring them again into our presence with renewed life in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All return to seats.

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

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again" Sending Hymn ELW 536 Music: William G. Tomer, 1833–1896 Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

1 God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain Till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again,) till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again.) God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

Dismissal

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

Postlude

"Rejoice the Lord is King" Mark Hayes Words and Music - ©2018 Lorenz Publishing Corporation, The Please join us for a fellowship brunch for Pastor Stacy and family in the fellowship hall.

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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

Church: 419-625-2192 Cell: 419-680-0358 419-625-2192 E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com Lay Reader: Paula Hoffman Laws

Morgan Noon, Organist Today's Musician: Jenny Weichel Usher: Chuck Thompson Communion Assistant: Paula Hoffman Laws Audio/Visual Tech: Melinda Zorn Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com Like us on Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church, Sandusky

Attendance: April 14 - 78

2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse "So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Jerrie and Bob Krawetzki in honor of Jerrie's birthday.

Council asks the congregation to pray for Pastor Stacy and her family as they travel for sabbatical. We pray that Pastor feels renewed, refreshed, and refilled with the Holy Spirit and that our congregation does the same, that together we may rededicate ourselves to doing God's work in the world.

Communion Clean-up today: Sue and Lynn Schlessman

1 2	
April 28 - Set up – Elizabeth Libben	Clean up – Elizabeth Libben
May 5 – NO COMMUNION	
May 12 – Set up - Toni Nossaman	Clean up – Elizabeth Libben
May 19 - Set up – Joleen Dillender	Clean up – Sandy Thompson/Jim Kluding
May 26 - Set up – Toni Nossaman	Clean up -
Thank you for your willingness to help	with this important ministry. If you would like to

help out, please see Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

Sabbatical Thanks: Thank you so much to everyone who is helping with things while I am on sabbatical. I hope this will be a time for us all to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the ministry that we get to do together. I will be holding each of you in my prayers as we journey and learn. Thank you so much. Pastor Stacy

Sabbatical Pastoral EMERGENCIES: Melinda Zorn volunteered to receive **EMERGENCY** calls from the members of St. John's during Pastor Stacy's sabbatical. Three pastors have agreed to be on-call to cover a visit/pray with, or call back to the person. Please call Melinda Zorn who will then contact a pastor to help with your emergency.

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

Special Offering Opportunity: On Sunday, May 5th we will gather a special offering in support of Global Clean Water. Becky Siebert will be our featured speaker that day. Becky is representing the Global Mission Board.

We grieve the loss of our brother in Christ, Chuck Kingsley. Chuck passed away peacefully on Friday, April 5th surrounded by family. His funeral took place at St. John's on Wednesday, April 10th. Please keep Peg and family in your prayers.

Thank you: Chuck's family would like to thank all our St.John's friends for your support and caring during these past two weeks. Your cards, texts, and help with his funeral and luncheon were welcomed and very appreciated. I truly felt like our St. John's family was with me through this difficult time. Blessings to each and every one of you. The Chuck Kingsley family

SI. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL 21° THRU MAY 5°		
Sunday, April 21	9:15 am	Genesis Study with Lynn
	9:30 am	Youth Final Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Sabbatical Blessing and
		Fellowship
Sunday, April 28	9:15 am	Genesis Study with Lynn
	10:30 am	Worship
Sunday, May 5	9:15 am	Genesis Study with Lynn
	10:30 am	Worship

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL 21ST THRU MAY 5TH

Weekly Verse:

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10-12

- Apr. 21 Spend 1 hour technology free
 - 22 Take a different route to work today
 - 23 Go for a walk outside
 - 24 Schedule dinner or coffee with a friend
 - 25 Find God in nature today
 - 26 Write down 3 places you saw God today
 - 27 Spend 1 minute deep breathing