

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 5, 2023

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

February 5, 2023 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome to Worship! Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

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.

Prelude

"Jesus is All the World to Me"

Richard Blake quoting ELIZABETH by Will L. Thompson
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Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

Gathering

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

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

“Gather Us In”

ELW 532

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.</p> <p>3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.</p> | <p>2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.</p> <p>4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.</p> |
|---|---|

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



☩ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☩ Great and won- der- ful are your deeds, O God of the u- ni- verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na- tions.



Who can fail to hon- or you, Lord, and sing the glo- ry of your name?



☩ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.



☩ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☩ Sal- va- tion be- longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for- ev- er and ev - er.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 48:1-9a [9b-12]

A reading from Isaiah.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[
^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.]

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 [10] (Read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

[¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.]**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human

except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

[¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.]

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Text: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer,

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Installation of Church Council Members

L: The following persons, having been elected by this congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

St. Paul wrote: “There are many different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way, in each person for the good of all.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation, and we thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord and his people.

We ask you to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather.

We ask you to work together to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in the congregation, and God’s will is done in the community and the world.

We ask you to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

We ask you to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Council: Yes, by the help of God.

L: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all the baptized?

Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.

L: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Amen

Prayers of the people: Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

"He Hideth My Soul" by William J. Kirkpatrick
Arr. Mark Hayes ©2003 by Alfred Publishing Co, Inc.
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Please stand

Offertory

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

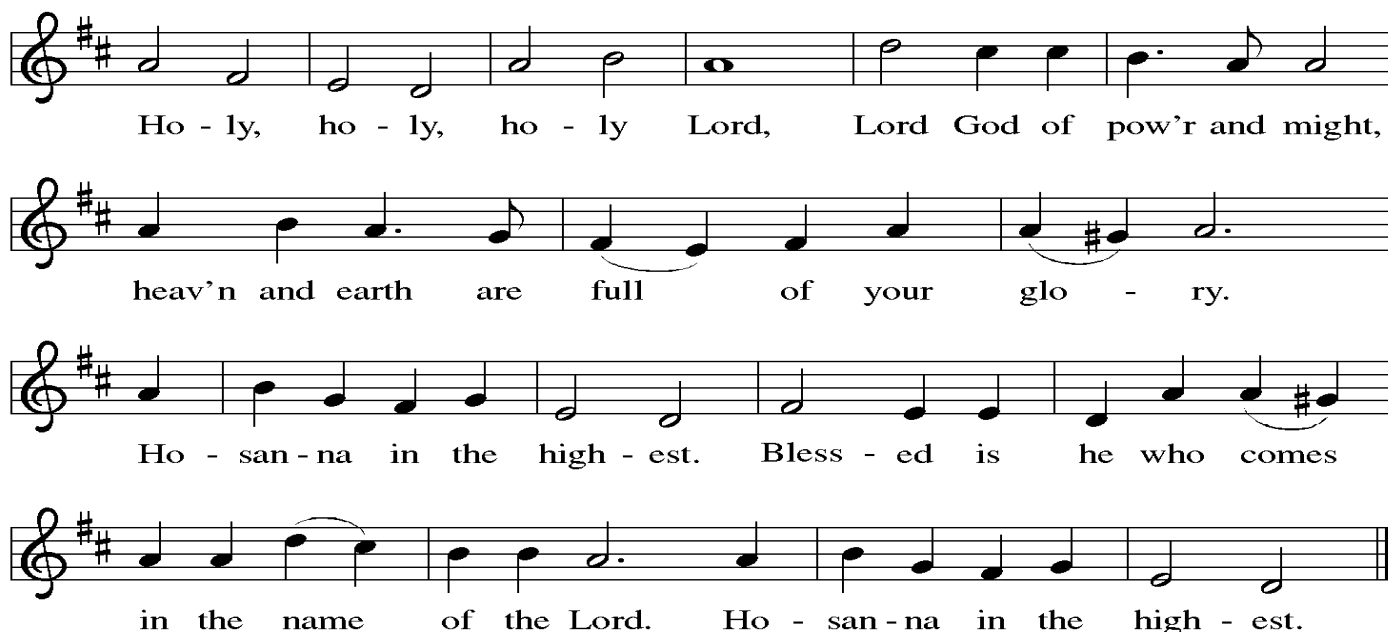
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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.

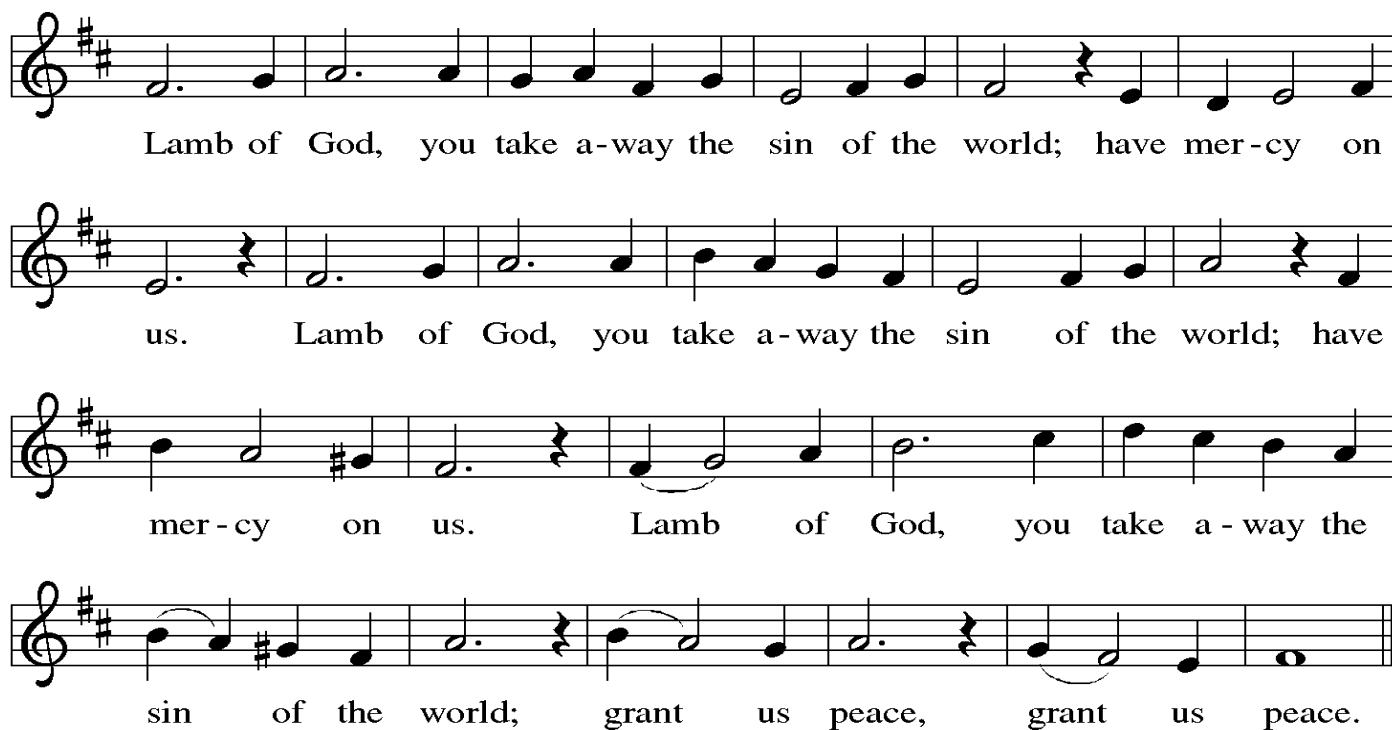
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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



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 Hymns:

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 471

Text & Music: African American Spiritual

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain

Distribution Hymn:

"I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW 485

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1 "I am the Bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father
beckons."

Refrain

"And I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."

4 "I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
even though you die, you shall live forever."
Refrain

2 "The bread that I will give
is my flesh for the life of the world,
and if you eat of this bread,
you shall live forever, you shall live forever."
Refrain

3 "Unless you eat
of the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink of his blood,
and drink of his blood,
you shall not have life within you." *Refrain*

5 Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain*

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.

Sending Of Communion

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort

of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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

"We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba"

ELW 866

Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are dancing . . .
We are praying . . .
We are singing . . .

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,)
we are marching in the light of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Grand Toccata"

by Gerald Peterson

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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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Lay Reader: Connie Deehr

Ushers: Ray Witt

Communion Assistant: Toni Nossaman

Audio/Visual Tech:

Attendance: Jan. 29 – 51

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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

2023 the Year of Story Memory Verse. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”*. **Acts 1:8**

Council asks the congregation to pray for guidance in the upcoming year, that we may be a welcoming space for authentic conversations, and that we continue our prayers for strength and comfort for those who need it most.

Additionally, council wants to thank the entire congregation for its generous and dedicated giving throughout the year.

Communion Clean-up today: Sue & Lynn Schlessman,

Set-up Feb. 12th- Toni Nossaman, Clean-up – Paula Hoffman Laws

Set-up Feb. 19th – Joleen Dillender, Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman

Set-up Feb. 26 – Toni Nossaman, Clean-up – Barb Bliss

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help out, please see Jerrie Krawetzki, Toni Nossaman, Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

New Book Discussion begins on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Upper Room. ***Help Is Here*** by Max Lucado. Bills pile up. Savings accounts go down. Marriages go south. Pandemics rage. Work goes off the rails. Stress goes off the charts. Suddenly, you feel powerless to calm life's chaos. It's all too much to take on by yourself. But pastor and bestselling author Max Lucado has great news for you--*Help Is Here*. Please read chapters 1 & 2 for group discussion.

Happy Birthday to Ray Witt.

Souper Bowl Sunday is COMING! Please donate your loose change or any monetary amount on Sunday, February 12th. The soup kettle will be in the rear of the sanctuary for your donations and also in the handicap entrance. All donations will benefit Victory Kitchen in Sandusky. Thanks for playing in the Souper Bowl.

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd with the Imposition of Ashes. Join us for special opportunities for fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent beginning March 1st, featuring soup suppers at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is "Perfect Love Casts Our Fear" we will hear from several People of Faith. **The soup supper sign-up sheet is on the back window for you to share your delicious soup recipes.** May God bless you in your Lenten journey.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 5th THRU FEBRUARY 19th

Sunday, February 5	9:30 am 10:30 am	Intergenerational Sunday School Sanctuary Worship live streamed
Tuesday, February 7	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, February 8	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, February 9	1:00 pm 6:00 pm	Small Group Bible Study at Thompsons' Art with Allison at Youngs' home
Sunday, February 12	9:30 am 10:30 am	Small Group with Lynn Sanctuary Worship live streamed
Tuesday, February 14	10:00 am	Book Discussion meets in Upper Room
Wednesday, February 15	6:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday, February 16	8:30 am 11:00 am	Endowment Team meets on Zoom Meditation and Movement meets at Zion Lutheran Church Huron
Sunday, February 19	9:30 am 10:30 am	Catechism Sanctuary Worship live streamed

Annual Spaghetti Benefit: Project Share of Margaretta Township will hold its annual spaghetti benefit on **Saturday, March 4, 2023 at Grace Lutheran Church, Castalia 4:30 pm until sold out.** Drive thru pick up only at the back of the church. Delivery is available for shut-ins. **Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, bread sticks, and dessert. Cost: Free will offering.** Project Share of Margaretta is a 501(c)(3) organization who annually provides gifts, clothing, and food for families of Margaretta School District who share a need.

Church Council and Team Leaders

We are blessed to have the following leaders in place for 2023:

President: Heather Ruggles
VP: Jason Shupe
Secretary: Melinda Zorn
Treasurer: Ron Zorn
Worship Team Rep: Sandy Thompson
At Large Rep: Jerrie Krawetzki
At Large Rep: Needed
Faith Life Rep: Dawn Schlessman
Financial Team Rep: Ron Zorn
Property Team Rep: Jon Baaske
Young Adult Rep: Jenna Stacy

Ministry Team Leader:

Endowment: John Miller

We thank Kevin Young with gratitude for his service as Ex-officio President of St. John's Council and to Amanda Cantu. Many thanks.

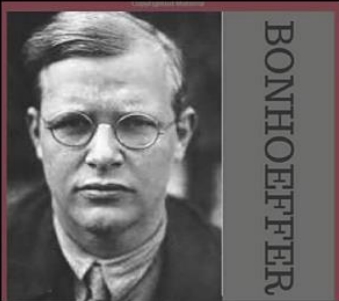
Worship Series
begins on Wed.,
March 1, 2023
at 6:30 pm.

Lent Worship Series

People of
faith

*Perfect LOVE
CASTS OUT*

FEAR



Jimmy Carter

