



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 24, 2023

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870

(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Worship 10:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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

We thank Linda Stauffer for filling in for Morgan over the next few weeks. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Prelude

"This Is My Father's World"

Franklin Sheppard

©2010 Alfred Sacred

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

Gathering

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

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

“Lord of Light”

ELW 688

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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1 Lord of light, your name outshining
all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom
as the servants of your grace;
use us to fulfill your purpose
in the gift of Christ your Son:

Refrain

Father, as in highest heaven,
so on earth your will be done.

2 By the toil of faithful workers
in some far outlying field,
by the courage where the radiance
of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness,
through reproach and suffering won:
Refrain

3 Grant that knowledge, still increasing,
at your feet may lowly kneel;
with your grace our triumphs hallow,
with your charity our zeal;
lift the nations from the shadows
to the gladness of the sun: Refrain

4 By the prayers of faithful watchers,
never silent day or night;
by the cross of Jesus, bringing
peace to all and healing light;
by the love that passes knowledge,
making all your children one: 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.

Canticle of Praise

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

All

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

A reading from Jonah.

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from

punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8 (Read responsively)

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go

into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

ELW 765

Text © Oxford University Press 1931

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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: Merciful God **Receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

Please stand

Offertory

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

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Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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



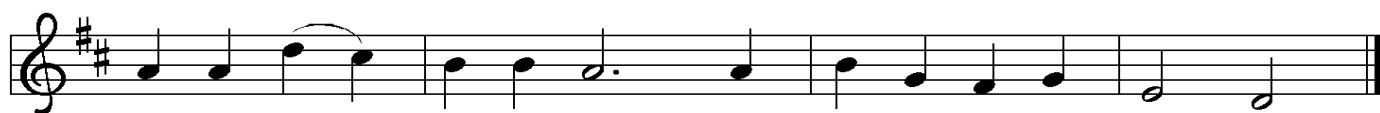
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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 Hymn:

“Take My Life, That I Maybe”

ELW 685

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

1 Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.

Distribution Hymn:

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW 592

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> | <p>2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> |
| <p>3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,</p> | <p>4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.</p> |

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.

Benediction

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

“Rise Up, O Saints of God”

ELW 669

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
the word of hope proclaim.

3 Rise up, O saints of God!
The kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

4 Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod;

and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r,
rise up, O saints of God!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“March Pomposo”

R M Stults

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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

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Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday

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Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

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E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Morgan Noon, Organist

Lay Reader: Jeff Justi

Ushers: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech: Rich & Kathy Schlessman

Att. Sept. 17: 59

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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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 that we take the time to reflect and identify one blessing in our lives each day, and that this brings us serenity of spirit.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Set-up Oct. 1 – Elizabeth Libben, Cleanup - ??

Set-up Oct. 8 – No communion

Set-up Oct. 15 – Joleen Dillender, Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

Set-up Oct. 22 – Joleen Dillender, Cleanup - ??

Set-up Oct. 29 – Toni Nossaman, Cleanup - ??

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.

Coffee Hour and Conversation: With Pastor Stacy and Ryan buying their own home, this means that our church gets to make decisions on the parsonage. The council wants to hear **YOUR** input. Please join us for coffee on **October 1st at 9:30** in the upper room to share your ideas.

College Students: St. John's Faith Life Team would like to keep in contact with our college students by sending birthday wishes. Please let Dawn Schlessman know, if you have a student currently attending college.

This fall there are so many wonderful opportunities to worship, study, pray, and serve with your St John's family. We hope you will join us.

Book Club October 10th: We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10 am in the Upper Room. We are reading "The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation" by Barbara R. Rossing. Read Chapters 3 for our next discussion.

1st Wednesdays of the month: We gather for lunch and **reflect on scripture** for the upcoming week. We read the scripture together, talk about what is happening in the world, and Pastor Stacy helps craft prayers from the conversation. No previous experience necessary.

October 15th is the **pet blessing**. Please turn in pictures of your pets by October 1st so we can bless them during worship. If possible, please send a picture of your pet to Jenna Stacy (jenstacy4408@gmail.com) who will put together a power point of all pets to be blessed. Please send your photo by October 1st to be included in the power point presentation.

Sunday School will be the first Sunday of the month beginning in October and November at 9:30 AM. All youth are invited to talk about our God together! Jenna Stacy will also be leading Sunday School once a month for our youth!

A Bible Study, "Reading Through Genesis", will begin on **October 8** at 9:15 a.m. and will meet each Sunday morning at the church. The format will be reading a number of verses and discussing them. This is not a Bible Study about knowing the right answers but is about being curious and thinking together about each passage. So, if you are curious about God and enjoy being with others I hope you will join in this time together. Since this is an extended study, you may want to try it out or come to it some of the time. Whatever works for you will be great. - Lynn Schlessman

Beginning October 25th, we will gather at 10:30 for a weekly **Bible study** on renewal and will continue this through Advent. This is a study prepared by our bishop and will help us look toward the future and see what God is up to. You are invited to this study, no experience necessary! Pick up a study in the back of the sanctuary or at the handicap entrance.

December 3rd will be the **Christmas program**, and practice will begin in late October. Please save the date for another fun program!

As you can see, there are many opportunities. We hope you will join us! Blessings,
Pastor Stacy

Happy Birthday to Chuck Ruggles, Jim Semon III, Jeff Justi, and Jenna Stacy, Holden Stacy.

Faith Life team wishes to thank the congregation for all the donations of school supplies for the backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to the sewers of the backpacks and to the Kingsleys for the Thrivent grant. We are sending off 83 completed backpacks and 31 Fabric Kits. This could not be done without your support. Many, many thanks to you all!

Attention ladies: The Eastern Conference Women's Fall Retreat takes place on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at Zion Lutheran Church, 930 S. Main St., Huron, OH 44839. Registration and coffee hour begin at 9:30 am. Theme is "Blessed to Follow". Cost is \$10.00 paid at the door this includes coffee hour and lunch. The offering will be divided between human trafficking and the synod. RSVP by Oct. 2nd to Leslie Foxworth at 419-239-1760 or lljean2@aol.com.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 24^h THRU OCTOBER 8th

Sunday, September 24	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
Sunday, October 1	9:30 am	Sunday School Coffee hour and Conversation
	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
Tuesday, October 3	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, October 4	12:00 noon	Scripture & Prayer Berardi's Huron
Sunday, October 8	10:30 am	Sunday Worship

October Birthdays

Oct. 5 – Ann Voight

7 – Barb Bliss

14 – Mike Chill

23 – Lynn Schlessman

Pat Babiuch

28 – Thomas Dawson

Peg Kingsley

30 – Jason Thompson

John Wilson

31 – Cole Ruggles

October Anniversaries

Oct. 2 – David & Susan Zorn (30)