

*"I came
that they may
have *life*
and have it
abundantly."*

John 10:10, NRSV

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 26, 2026

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

April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Worship! Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

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

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Welcoming of New Members

Cepec family – Stephanie, Tori and Geneva

Snook family – Devon, Kendra, Mary, Lucas, Mallory

Livingston family – Leianda and Hayley

Bell family – Mike, Jen, Harper, Warren, Ellie

Vicki Kluding

Boger family – Curtis, Carolyn, Hunter and Lucie

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.

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

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641

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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.

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*

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
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*

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Tori Cepec

A reading from Acts.

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 23 (Read responsively)

Geneva Cepec

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though 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.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely 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 Peter 2:19-25

Tori Cepec

A reading from 1 Peter.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see
 Je - sus, to reach out and touch
 him, and say that we love him.
 O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to
 lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,
 Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Text and music: Bob Cull
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Gospel: John 10:1-10

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All

who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Blessing of the Youth Service Project

“Jesus Loves Me”

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Public Domain

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Music: J. Wyeth,
Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813 Public Domain

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

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:

Response: Merciful God. receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt. Music: J. Wyeth,
Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813 Public Domain

Please stand if you are able

Offertory

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: *River of Life*, Tillis Butler, d. 2002
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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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

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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

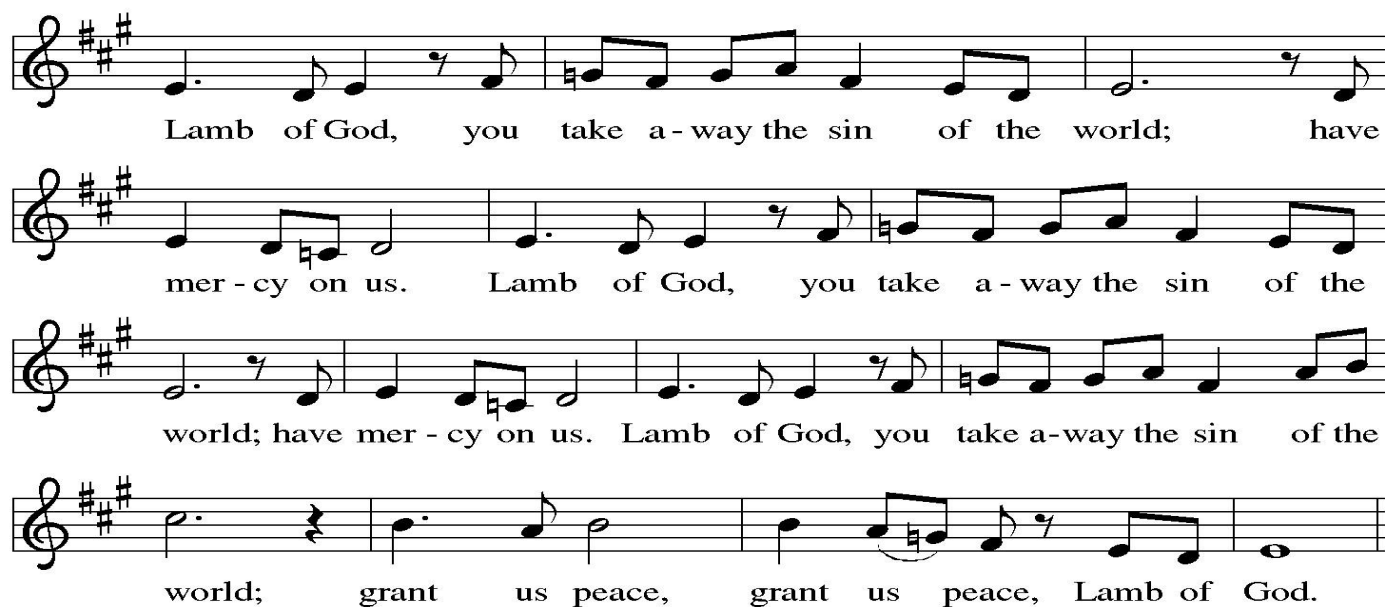
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Distribution Hymn

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

ELW 789

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847 Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 Public Domain

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.

2 We are yours; in love befriend us,
be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us,
seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.

Distribution Hymn

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Sending

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 774

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

Dismissal

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

Prelude

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Join us in the fellowship hall to welcome and connect with our new church members.

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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.

Church: 419-625-2192
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Nathan Samsa, Organist
Ushers: Warren Bell, Mallory Snook
Audio/Visual Tech: Brandon Alt

Lay Readers: Tori and Geneva Cepec
Communion Assistant: Harper Bell
Assisting Minister: Mary Snook

Attendance: April 22 - 51

Acolytes: Hayley Livingston, Ellie Bell

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Comm. Basket Holders: Hunter & Lucie Boger

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

2026 The Year of the Way of Love. Welcome to 2026: The Way of Love! This year for our annual theme, we will be grounded in 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us."

Council asks the congregation to pray In this year of the Way of Love, council asks the congregation to pray that we follow Jesus' command to love one another as he loves us, even when that is challenging, and to remember that God's love is for ALL people.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

May 3 – Set-up - Jolene Dillender	Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
10 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Elizabeth
17 – Set-up – Jolene Dillender	Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
24 – Set-up – Paula Hoffman Laws	Cleanup – Sandy Thompson
31 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Elizabeth Libben

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

New Member Sunday: Today St. John's church family welcomes 6 new families. To welcome and connect with our new church members, please join us for a meet and greet after worship in the fellowship hall. We welcome The Cepec family: Stephanie, Tori and Geneva. The Snook family: Devon, Kendra, Mary, Lucas and Mallory. The Bell family: Mike, Jen, Harper and Ellie. The Livingston family: Leianda and Hayley and Vicki Kluding. The Boger family: Curtis, Carolyn, Hunter and Lucie. We give thanks for these new families and look forward to "Being a family of disciples, faithfully making Christ known".

First Communion: We celebrate that Hunter Boger will be celebrating his first communion today and we rejoice with him and his family.

Graduation is fast approaching! Please contact Sandy Thompson with names of our High School, Technical School or College graduates.

Happy Birthday to James Kluding.

Pastor Katie Suggitt is retiring! Pastor Katie will lead her final worship service at Zion on Sunday, April 26 at 9 am. Following worship, there will be cake and refreshments to thank her for her years of pastoral care and leadership. All are welcome. There will be a basket for happy retirement wishes and thank you notes. If you would like to send your wishes, drop them off at Zion's or her address is Pastor Katie Suggitt, 110 Scheid Rd. Sandusky, OH 44870.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR APRIL 26TH THRU MAY 10TH

Sunday, April 26	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School service project Worship New member fellowship
Wednesday, April 29	5:30 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Practice Bell Practice
Sunday, May 3	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Catechism Class Sunday School plan worship service Worship
Tuesday, May 5	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Wednesday, May 6	12:00 noon	Scripture and Prayer at Parkvue
Sunday, May 10	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Youth practice for Mother's Day Worship

We are moving into the digital age for your convenience! The following QR codes can help you navigate to the St. John's website, St. John's Facebook page and share your offerings through tithely.ly. Just scan the QR code and it will take you to that site.



St. John's Website



St. John's Facebook



tithely.ly offering

DINE IN Fundraiser: The Edison High School Speech and Debate team will be hosting a "Dine In" fundraiser on Monday, May 4 from 4-8 pm at the **Norwalk** Chipotle Restaurant. We have 4 students who have qualified for the National Speech and Debate Tournament which will be held in Richmond, VA from June 13-18 and are trying to raise funds to attend. Please pick up one of the fliers which must be presented when ordering in order for the club to get 25% of the sale. Fliers are available on the back window.

Thank you!

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of St. John's,

What a wonderful surprise to receive your generous gift of \$1,000.00! On behalf of everyone at Serving Our Seniors, I want to thank you – sincerely – for your generous donation. Your support of our mission incredible!

Thank you for always being so generous to help those who are in less fortunate older adults, who live in the Erie County community. Your contribution will help us provide meaningful support to older adults throughout the County, enabling them to maintain their health and functional independence as they continue to grow older.

We are deeply grateful for your belief in our mission and the investments you have made for the work that we do. Sincerely, Sue Daugherty, Director.

Dear members of St. John's,

Thank you for your gift of \$3500.00 to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) on January 25, 2026. Your support of our Guardianship Services Program truly makes a difference!

Your generosity is a testament to the power of compassion and community. As Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Your gift not only impacts the lives of those we serve but also strengthens the fabric of our community. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this important work. Sincerely, Brian Sturgeon, Director of Individual Giving