

I am
the vine,
you are the
branches

JOHN 15:5



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
April 28, 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, Pastor

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to Worship! This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

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

We welcome and thank Pastor Sara Cogsil for leading our worship this morning while Pastor Stacy is on sabbatical. Thank you to Nathan Samsa for sharing his 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

"Thanks Be to Thee, O Lord" by GF Handel

Arr Rick Parks ©1986 Lillenas Publishing Co. All rights Reserved

Please stand if you are able

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

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!”

ELW 377

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Music © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the center
telling the story to open our eyes;
breaking our bread, giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. Refrain

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches;
life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
heaven to earth, Christ to the people,
gift of the future now flowing to me. Refrain

4 Weeping, be gone; sorrow, be silent:
 death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
 Cherubim sing: O grave, be open!
 Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. Refrain

5 City of God, Easter forever,
 golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
 river of life, saints and archangels,
 sing with creation to God the I AM! 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

“Awesome God”

Text and music © 1988 BMG Music Publishing

Our God is an awe - some God, he
 reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,
 pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!
 Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31 (Read responsively)

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

A reading from 1 John.

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Pastor Sara Cogsil

Hymn of the Day

“We Know That Christ Is Raised”

ELW 449

Text © John B. Geyer

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!

2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,
as living members of our Savior Christ.
Hallelujah!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah!

4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!

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: God of Grace,

Hear our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

“Aria”

by GF Handel

Arr Rick Parks

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Please stand if you are able

Offertory

“We Are an Offering”

ELW 692

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The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and triplets.

F/G G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E
We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G C² Dm⁷
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our

C²/E C/E F C/E 3 Dm⁷ F/G G/F
hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.

Em⁷ Em⁷/A A Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G Esus D/F# E/G# Am
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

Dm⁷ C²/E Bb/C Dm^{7sus2} Dm⁷ F/G
give to you, we give to you.

G C² Dm⁷ C²/E C/E
We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our

F C/E 3 Dm⁷ Dm⁷/G 3 C
lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

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.

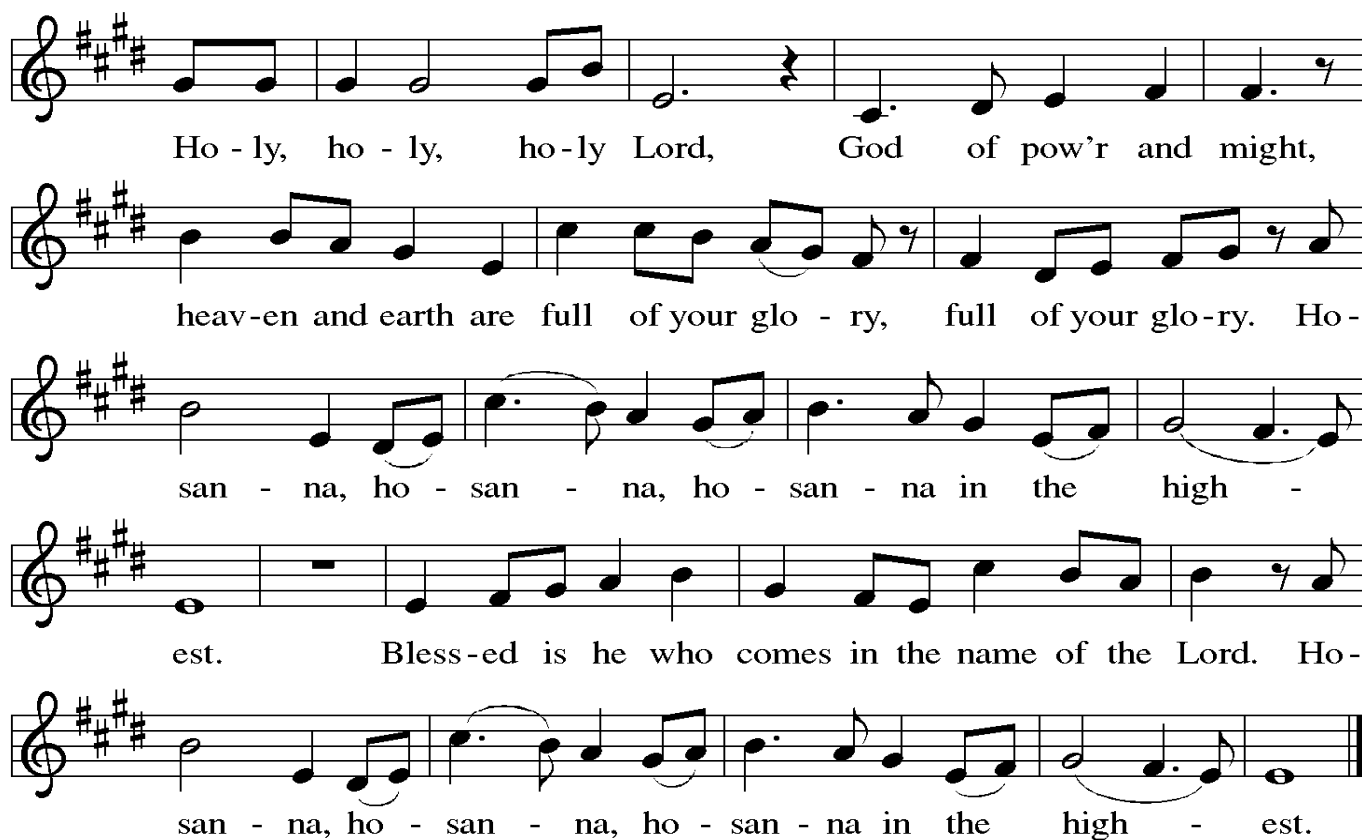
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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 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.

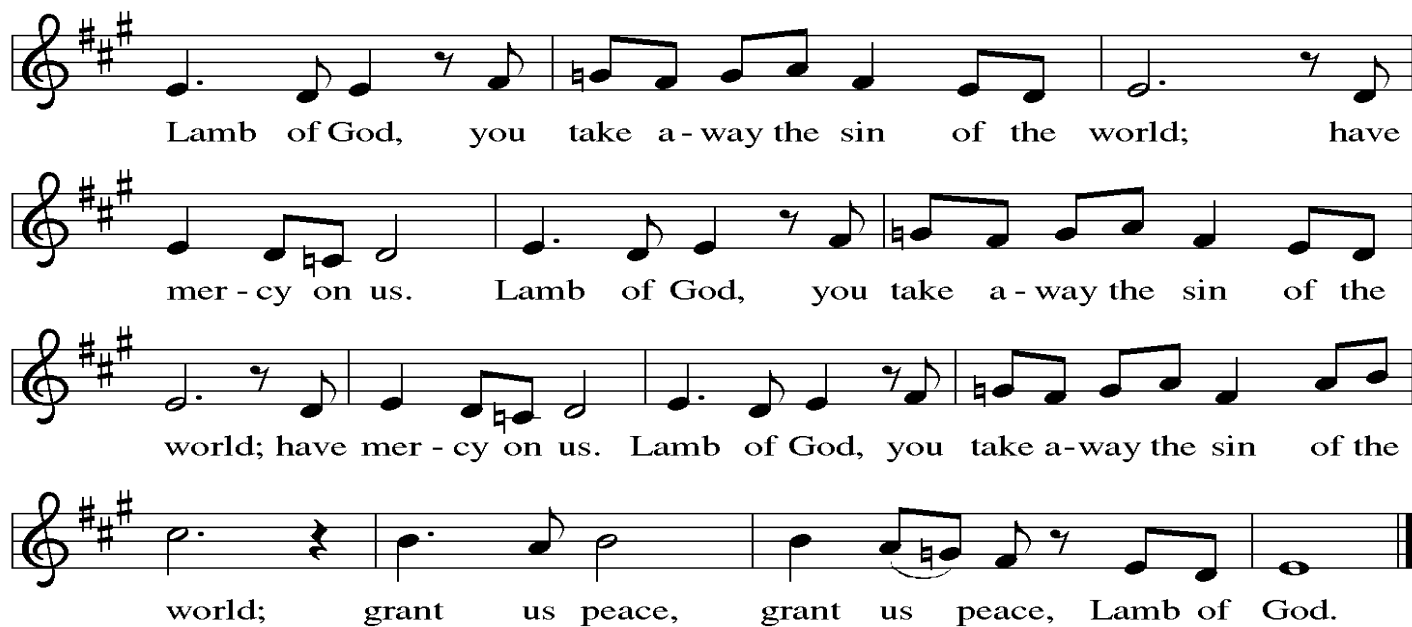
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

ELW 359

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 3708 River Road, Suite 400. Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158.
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1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.

3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.

5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,

that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Distribution Hymn

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

ELW 452

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

1 Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

3 There is one body and one hope,
one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,
one God who made us all.

5 For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.

2 To us on earth he came to bring
from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity,
the very bond of peace.

4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.

Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

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

"Let All Things Now Living"

ELW 881

Text © 1939, 1966 by E.C. Schirmer Music Company

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing
our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Let All Things Now Living"

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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

Church: 419-625-2192

Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday

Cell: 419-680-0358

Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary

419-625-2192

E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com

Morgan Noon, Organist

Lay Reader: Sandy Thompson

Today's Musician: Nathan Samsa

Usher: Chuck Thompson

Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson

Audio/Visual Tech: Jason Shupe

Attendance: April 21 - 58

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

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2024: The Year of Rest Memory Verse

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" Hebrews 4:9

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.

A Special Offering will be gathered on **Sunday, May 5th** in support of clean water. Our speaker, Becky Seibert will share her message from the Global Mission Board concerning clean water.

Communion Clean-up today: 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 at 419-515-4349.

Happy Birthday to Parker Luman and Corwin Semon.

Firelands Chorus presents “Songs We Like To Sing” on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 pm) at Zion Lutheran Church, 503 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, OH. A freewill offering will be collected.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR APRIL 28TH THRU MAY 12TH

Sunday, April 28	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship
Wednesday, May 1	12:00 noon	Scripture and Prayer Bar North Bistro
Sunday, May 5	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship, Speaker, Becky Siebert
Monday, May 6	9:30 am	Field Trip to Hopewood Pines
Tuesday, May 7	1:00 pm	Faith Life Team
Sunday, May 12	9:15 am 10:30 am	Genesis Study with Lynn Worship, Rev. Mary Ann Siefke

Weekly Verse:

“they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:29-31

Apr. 28 – Pray for 3 people in your life.

29 – Open your blinds or go outside & spend 10 minutes in the sunlight.

30 – Write down 3 things you are good at.

“The 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.” Isaiah 58:11

May 1 – Spend time in one of your favorite places.

2 – Visit some murals or art.

3 – Spend a few minutes in prayer.

4 – Do something you enjoy that requires movement.