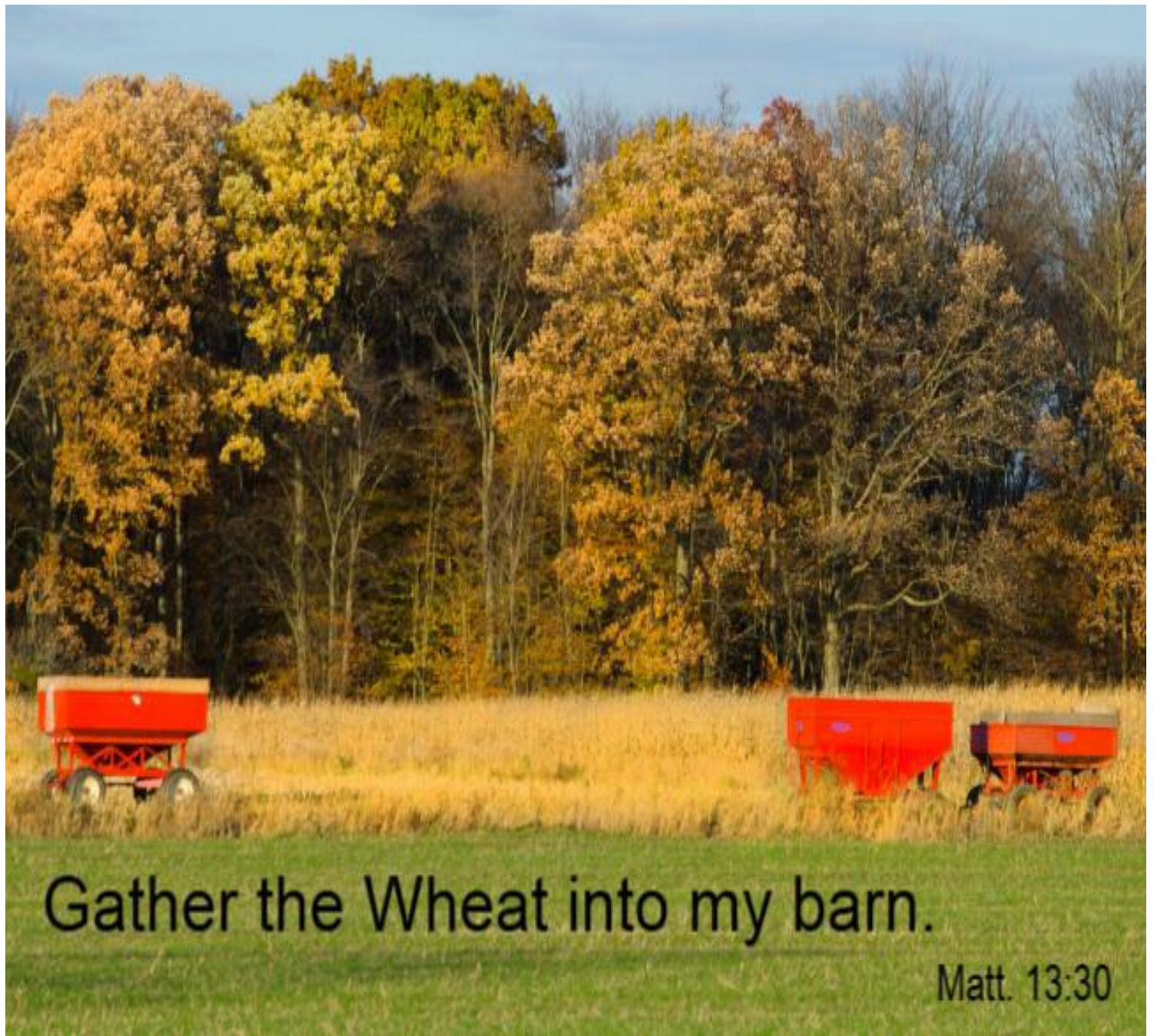




St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
July 19, 2026

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 9:30 a.m. Live streamed to Facebook

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

July 19, 2026 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to Worship! It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

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 leading our music today. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again soon.

Bell

Welcome and announcements

Gathering

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

Please stand if you are able

Gathering Hymn

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW 689

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1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

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.

Kyrie



2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for that

hun-gry and the poor; that

friends and fam-i-ly; for

wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,

we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord,

let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17 (Read responsively)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;**

they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy on me;**

give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;

because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans.

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

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: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."³⁷ He answered, "The one

who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

Please be seated.

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand if you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Drawn to the Light”

ELW 593

Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker

1 People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost,
we were drawn to the light of God.

2 How can we tell a heaven from hell
if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
and we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

Refrain

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night,
drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight
to be drawn to the light of God.

3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

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

“Drawn to the Light”

Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker

Please stand if you are able

Offering

"All Are Welcome" Verse 3

ELW 641

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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
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, 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,

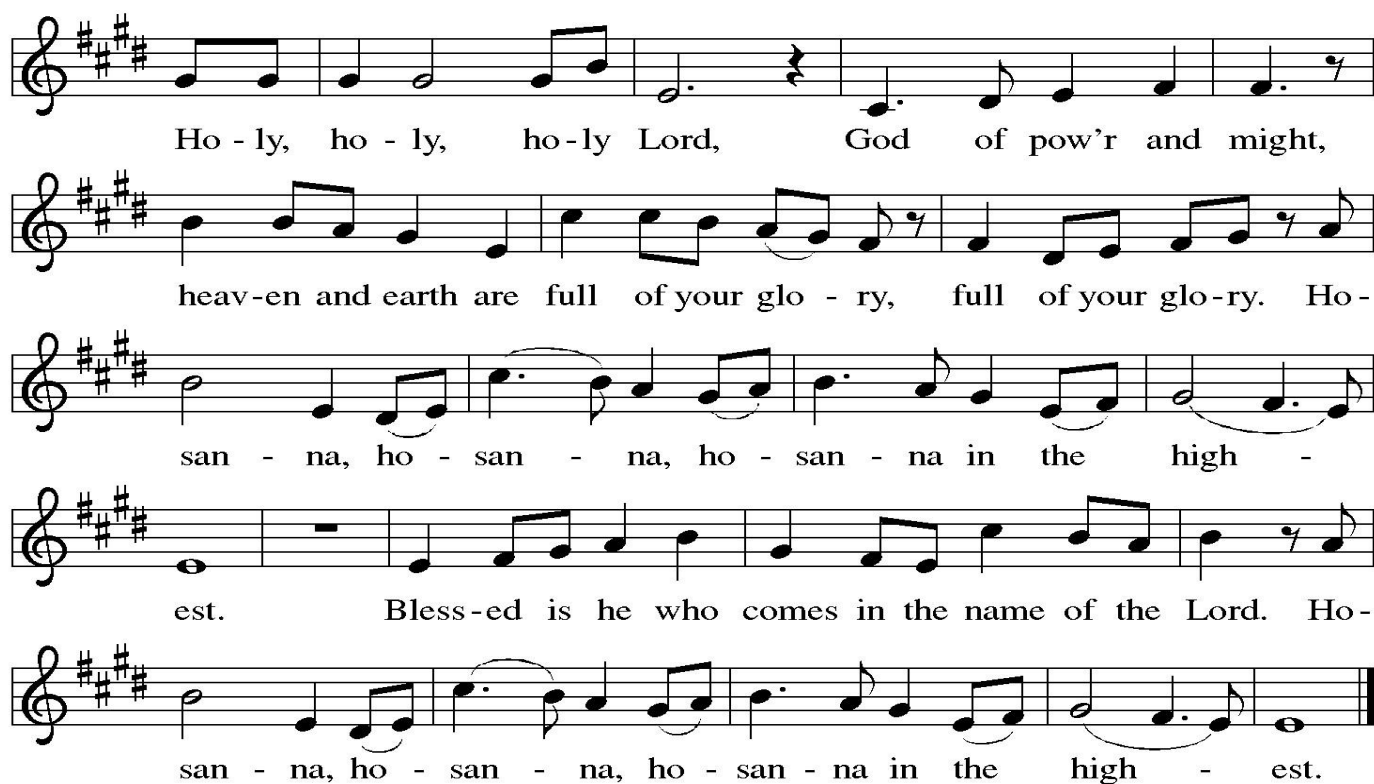
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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



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

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

ELW 379

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Distribution Hymn

“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

Please stand if you are able

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power
of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and
in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our 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

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

ELW 694

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Music: Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613 Public Domain

1 Sing to the Lord of harvest
your songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices
your alleluias raise;
by him the rolling seasons
in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest
a joyous song of love.

2 God makes the clouds drop fatness,
the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness,
the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness,
all things with large increase
and crowns the year with goodness,
with plenty and with peace.

3 Bring to this sacred altar
the gifts his goodness gave,
the golden sheaves of harvest,
the souls Christ died to save.

Your hearts lay down before him
when at his feet you fall,
and with your lives adore him
who gave his life for all.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Music: Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613 Public Domain

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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, Admin.

419-625-2192

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Organist: Nathan Samsa

Usher: Ray Witt

Lay Reader: Allison Young

Audio/Visual Tech.: Melinda Zorn

Communion Assistant: Allison Young

Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

Attendance: July 12 - 34

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

2026 The Year of the Way of Love. “We love because he first loved us.”

Bible Verse for July: *1 John 3:18*

“Little children, let us love not in word or speech but indeed and truth”.

Council asks the congregation to offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation, that God unites us as one people in our love for Christ, our nation and one another.

Communion Clean-up today: Sue & Lynn Schlessman

July 26 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender	Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
Aug. 2 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Clean-up –
9 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender	Clean-up – Sandy Thompson
16 – Set-up – Jim Kluding	Clean-up – Jim Kluding
23 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Clean-up – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
30 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender	Clean-up – Sandy Thompson

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

Worship at the Park: Wednesday, July 29th we will have worship at Nickel Plate Beach that includes a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to share. Worship is at 6 PM. We need help with this service!

Who would like to bring and roast hot dogs? Who will bring a case of cold water? Who would like to bring plates, napkins, and utensils? Please let Pastor Stacy know by texting her at 419-680-0358. Thank you!

New Worship Ministry Lists are posted! We need your help with worship.

Looking for a way to serve and get involved at St. John's? We need lay readers, communion assistants, ushers, AV techs, assisting ministers. Please give prayerful thought to helping with these much-needed aspects for worship. The third quarter sign-up sheets are posted for you to choose which Sunday you can help out!

Endowment Grant Applications are being accepted: please contact a member of the endowment team and they will be glad to mail you an application. The requests need to be presented to the Endowment committee no later than October 4, 2026. You can mail the application back to the church, put your request in the endowment mailbox in the basement or present it to any member of the committee. The committee members are John Miller, Ted Call, Jeff Justi, Bob Stacy, Kathy Schlessman, Ron Zorn, Pastor Stacy. If you have any questions, please see a member of the endowment committee.

The Endowment Team will hold its quarterly meeting in mid to late October, at which time all grant applications that have been presented will be reviewed and voted on. Those that are approved will be sent to the Finance Team for additional review and approval.

Erie County Senior Center: On behalf of everyone at the Erie County Senior Center, thank you for your generous support of our Senior Field Day. Your kindness and commitment helped make this event a wonderful success for the seniors in our community.

Because of your support, we were able to offer our guests a fun-filled day and a picnic-style lunch. We saw our seniors enjoy fellowship and entertainment, as well as informational vendors. We are truly grateful for your partnership and your willingness to feed our local senior citizens. Your support demonstrates the strength of our community and the difference we can make when we work together.

With sincere appreciation, The Erie County Senior Center, Madelynn Sosa

Are you Interested? St. John's Council would like to offer a CPR Instruction class but need to know if you are interested in taking the course. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary

Happy Birthday to Valerie Deehr.

Happy Anniversary to Ted & Lynn Call.

ST. JOHN'S CALENDAR FOR JULY 17TH THRU AUGUST 2ND

Sunday, July 19	9:30 am	Worship
Tuesday, July 21	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sunday, July 26	9:30 am	Worship
Wednesday, July 29	6:00 pm	Worship at the Beach Potluck Picnic
Sunday, August 2	9:30 am	Worship