St John Lutheran Church

Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister

November 1, 2026

The WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us. Rooted in God's grace, we are a community growing in faith, called to love and serve our neighbors. We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and one another. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

PRAYER REQUESTS When we pray for each other, we demonstrate Christ's love for each of us

For the **Shoup** family, as they lost their 8-year-old daughter Charlotte in a car accident, her mother Alexis is in ICU
For **Christy and Scott Arnett**, daughter and son-in-law of Jonette Christy, sustained a non-serious injury in a car mishap
For **Kaitlyn**, 19-year-old granddaughter of retired teacher Gail Murray, friend of Peggy, severe health issues

For all of those in various stages of cancer treatments including **Karma Wisecarver**, **Lynn Hart, Scott Arnett**, **Sandy Mohler**, **Jenna McGuire**, **Tim Moore**, **John Rogers**, and **Jonathan Ripley**

Continued prayers for **Kyle Jackson, Jim Fogle**, **Jon Leist**, **Donna Canini**, **Charlotte Meyer**, and **Linda Miller**

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! We all face challenges from time to time…whether it be a health issue, loss of a loved one, family difficulties, financial hardship, anxiety, or fears. Please don't hesitate to reach out and ask for prayers or for support. We're all here to help in any way, or just to simply listen. Please feel free to reach out to Amy to let her know how she can help (614-208-3719 amyblytle@gmail.com). If you have a prayer request, Sue Mason can send an email to all members (614-260-1107 susiemase3@hotmail.com).



Mark your calendar for December 6 for lunch/euchre party following church



Ed Rutter November 2
Sarah Kincaid November 2



OFFICE HOURS Amy will be available in the church office on the following dates in November from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day…
Wednesday, November 4
Wednesday, November 18

Scripture for today November 1, 2026

Revelation 7: 9-17, Psalm 34: 1-10, 22,
1 John 3: 1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

This is All Saints' Day. As Lutheran Christians we celebrate All Saints' Day as a universal Christian celebration that honors and remembers all Christian saints, those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. It is something we affirm every Sunday in the words of the Apostles' Creed when we say we believe in the "communion of saints."



REMINDER: Thank you to everyone participating in this year's "**Bless A Bloom-Carroll Child at Christmas**" initiative. Here are a few reminders: **ALL DONATIONS ARE DUE AT THE CHURCH BY NOVEMBER 15**. Our MEF Fund will also help support this project. You can spend up to $150 per child, with the church reimbursing you up to $100. That means your out-of-pocket expense will be no more than $50 per child. Simply give your receipts to Alan Fisher and he will take care of the reimbursements. Thank you for your generosity and for brightening the Christmas season for a Bloom-Carroll Child!

The Inside Story by Sally Acton

Today's closing hymn, "When the Saints Go Marching In", began as a 19th century, African-American spiritual and Protestant Christian hymn rooted in the book of Revelation and themes of judgment day. The lyrics focus on salvation, the apocalypse, and the gathering of the faithful in heaven. In New Orleans, the brass bands adopted the spiritual into a traditional double duty funeral march. Bands would play a slow, mournful dirge on the way to the cemetery and then break into a celebratory upbeat swing version once the body was laid to rest.

Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. Also, we will have a container in the cart for anyone wanting to make a $$ donation. Thank you, everything is appreciated.
NOTE: items in our grocery cart that members donate are given to Lutheran Social Services in Lancaster. This is different from the quarterly donation from our MEF that is given to the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission.

The **Altar Flower** chart is in the Narthex where you may sign up to place flowers on the altar. Flowers are $35. You may leave the money in the envelope under the chart for Jon Leist. Please be sure to indicate if the flowers are for a special occasion and let Don Hornbeck know if you would like it posted in the Weekly Update.

O'HUID'S GAELIC PUB

GALS AND GUYS will meet at O'Huid's Gaelic Pub, 167 W Main St, Lancaster, on Tuesday, November 10, at 12 noon. If possible, please let Charlotte know if you plan to attend.

A Summary of Council Meeting Minutes October 25, 2026

ATTENDEES: Sally Acton, Jonette Christy, Mike Drodofsky, Alan Fisher, Briana Hart, Neil Jarvis, Diana Johnson, Amy Lytle, Sue Mason, Charlotte Meyer – ABSENT: Deb Canini, Jerry Canini & Jon Leist

Meeting chaired by Alan. MINUTES of previous meeting were approved as presented. Alan reviewed current FINANCIALS which were in good standing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- LITHOPOLIS HONEYFEST – Although weather impacted attendance, our booth did not have many visitors even during nice weather. Comments from some of our members were to possibly move our booth into the main event along Columbus St. Sue commented that the sponsorship fee for this year's event was minimal, ranging from $50 to $250 and beyond; council agreed to follow-up in July for possible participation.
- SAM CLASSES/AMY's SCHEDULE – Amy is still waiting for results of her SAM classes; she will continue to follow up; Alan reviewed Amy's upcoming schedule, she has no more Sundays scheduled off for the rest of the year.
- ROOF REPAIRS - Durable Slate has repaired the roof; payment of $1,345 has been made.
- KITCHEN IMPROVEMENTS – Paint color for the cabinets were decided a few weeks ago by several church members (cupboards are in good shape & can be painted instead of installing new ones); Jerry is also researching countertop options.
- "BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS" - Amy reported that this event was held Oct 3 with 4 animals being blessed; this was the first year for this event, so hopefully we'll have more participants next year.
- BRAINSTORMING SESSION (May 31) - Council will continue to monitor suggestions made at this session for possible action.

NEW BUSINESS:

- EUCHRE PARTY/LUNCH - Charlotte reported that Pam & Neil Jarvis would like to hold a Euchre Party/Lunch on Sunday, Dec 6; council approved; details to follow.
- BLOOM-CARROLL FOOD PANTRY & BLESS A CHILD AT CHRISTMAS - Sue reported that she, Gina Meyers, and Neva Hornbeck shopped for our quarterly donation to this food pantry on Oct 13; cost was $750 from our MEF Fund (previously approved by Council). She also reported that Wanda Mann (Food Pantry & Bless A Child Coordinator) would like to attend an upcoming church service to personally thank the congregation for their donations and to provide us with an informational overview of the pantry. Question was asked if it was published anywhere that St. John makes these quarterly donations (another way to get our name out in the community); Sue will reach out to Gina for an answer and report at next meeting. Council agreed for Wanda to attend an upcoming service; Amy suggested Nov 22 where we could also present Wanda with the Bless A Child Christmas donations; Gina will reach out to Wanda to coordinate.
- LSS FOOD PANTRY (Lutheran Social Services – This is different from the Bloom-Carroll Food Pantry) - Sally commented that the donations for the LSS Food Pantry have declined. Instead of requesting actual items, it might be more beneficial to request a monetary donation from members; the food bank could then use these monies to purchase food from the Mid-Ohio Food Cooperative where they could get more items for the monies; council agreed.
- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE- Charlotte asked about the timing of our Christmas Eve service; 7:00 pm special music, 7:30 pm church service. Discussion was held to possibly involve our children in the service.
- FLUTE PLAYERS - Sally commented that Jill Snyder's Flute Organization, who provided us with beautiful, special music during our church service earlier this month, purchases their own sheet music out of pocket. Sheet music has gotten very expensive and it would be a nice gesture to provide them with an honorarium for their services; Sue made a motion to provide a $250 honorarium; seconded by Sally; motion passed.
- BAKE SALE - Diana reported that the village has contacted her to see if we would participate in the Christmas in the Village on Sat, Dec 12, by holding a bake sale at Wagnall's. Council agreed; Diana will inform the village; a colored flyer with our church Christmas events will be printed to distribute to people stopping by our bake sale table; details to follow. Sally informed us that a Gospel Sing will also be held the same day at 2:00p at our church.
- MEMBERS RECENTLY ABSENT - Charlotte reported that a church member had approached her about contacting individuals in our church directory who have not recently attended our services. Alan also commented that he would like to see us focus on increasing our attendance; possibly put up flyers at Wagnall's Library and the local post office advertising our future events. After discussion, it was decided to have a "Homecoming" event on the 5th Sunday in January (1/31/2027). Those individuals who haven't attended recently will be contacted by someone (contact to be determined) and invite them to church that day. A potluck will follow our church service; council will continue to brainstorm ways to increase attendance.

PENDING:

- Vanguard is requesting that we update our administrative documents; Neva Hornbeck has agreed to be added to the MEF account (ALAN & MIKE)
- Project "To-Do" List – Jon will compile a "to-do" list for members to help with projects around the church; to possibly include members who would like to help with updating our outside church sign (JON)
- Parking Lot Repairs – update to be provided at next meeting (JERRY)
- Railing Replacement – the black hand railings at the basement entrance and walkway will be replaced with a wooden railing to match the one at the back choir entrance
- Zoom Events – Amy reported that instructions to church members for using Zoom will be distributed (tentatively in November); Zoom will be used for council meetings and in the event that church services are canceled due to inclement weather (AMY & DON HORNBECK)
- Narthex Carpet Replacement (JON researching options)
- Church Signage into Lithopolis (ALAN has left message with the village; he will continue to follow up).
- Church Mission Statement (COUNCIL will compile, then members to vote w/approval)
- 175th Anniversary / 2030 – "goal tree" (COUNCIL)

WISH LIST: Light up cross on top of church

With no further business, the meeting was closed with council members reciting the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sue Mason, Council Secretary