

APRIL 19



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Third Sunday of Easter.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. 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 **Bill Meyer**, who is back at the Springs at Wyandot Trail in Lancaster, now under Hospice care

For **Donna Canini**, getting her tests completed for her upcoming heart valve procedure in May or June, CAT scan and the ultrasound of her carotid artery will both be in mid- April

For **Kyle Jackson**, nephew of Deb Canini, waiting for the radiologist report for his thyroid issue

For **Scott Arnett**, son-in-law of Jonette Christy, home now but going through many tests and dealing with issues from mini strokes and a mass in his lungs

For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, is doing another new treatment in her cancer journey

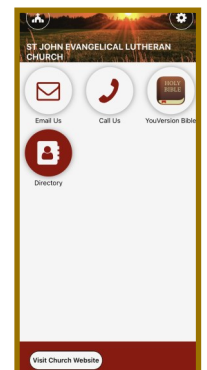
For **Brian Fowler**, as he slowly recovers from West Nile Virus

Continued prayers for **Jim Fogle, Jon & Linda Leist, and Linda Miller**

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Sue Mason, who will email our church members. She can be reached at: 614-260-1107 or at susiemase3@hotmail.com.

Great News! We have worked with our **online church directory** contact and the app is now up and running! You should be able to log into it as you previously did with the same username and password. You will see 4 icons on the screen on your app. In addition to the Directory and the Bible reference, you will find a new “Email Us” icon that takes you right into your email function to send your email directly to our church

office. There is also a new “Call Us” icon which will provide you with the church office phone number and give you the option to place the call. Just a reminder that you still have the “Visit Church Website” icon which takes you right to our weekly bulletins and other information. If you have any questions – or if you need help downloading or need help with the app – please see Sue Mason.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Kalee Anderson	April 18
Ariana Hart	April 19
Kaden Anderson-Gibson	April 22



Church Council Meeting

Immediately after church today



Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. 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.

CALLING ALL SHOPPERS! Did you know that **Kroger has a Community Rewards Program**? They will send monies to St John every time you shop at any of their stores. Instructions for signing up are in a blue folder on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider enrolling in this easy way to earn money for our church while doing your grocery shopping!



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 Linda 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 Bulletin.



We had 11 attend this month's **Guys & Gals Lunch Bunch** at Delaney's Diner on Tuesday, Good food, great company—and not a crumb left behind.

The Third Sunday of Easter falls two weeks after Easter Sunday and continues the Church's joyful celebration of the resurrection. During this season, we hear stories of the risen Christ appearing to his disciples—often in ordinary moments—bringing reassurance, peace, and renewed purpose. These readings remind us that Easter is not just a single day, but a season of transformation, calling us to live as witnesses to Christ's life and love.



This Sunday is also often known as **Good Shepherd Sunday**, highlighting Jesus as the one who knows, guides, and cares for his people. In the Gospel, we are reminded that Christ calls us by name and leads us with compassion and steadfast love. It is a comforting image—one that speaks of trust, guidance, and belonging.

Together, these themes invite us to reflect on how we recognize Christ's presence in our daily lives and how we, in turn, are called to follow and share his care with others.

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE

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 we have
been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (ELW 377) *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!*

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!
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.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 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.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 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.
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!
- 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!
Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

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 (ELW p. 204)

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
We exalt you, we adore you,
We lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
Here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
You have come from heav'n above;
On the cross you died to save us;
Now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
In your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
In the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together the prayer of the day.
**O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in
the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we
may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 2.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
- ³ The cords of death entangled me;
the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
- ⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

¹² How shall I re-pay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 1.

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us;

Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-43

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [followers of Jesus] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and the two men found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ The eleven disciples were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then the two men told what had happened on the road and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus^[l] himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."^[m] ³⁷ They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.^[n] ⁴¹ Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,^[o] ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: HOW DO WE KNOW JESUS?

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 483) *Here Is Bread*

- 1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, drink the wine, Christ is with us here.
In this bread there is healing, in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.
- 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, He is with us.
Know His grace, find peace, feast on Jesus here.
In this bread there is healing, in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.
- 3 Here we are, joined as one, Christ is with us, He is with us.
We'll proclaim, 'til he comes, Jesus crucified.
In this bread there is healing, in this cup there's life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

Reader 1: Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reader 3: God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there are lies, reveal truth, where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reader 4: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Amy: Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: Eternal Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Communion.

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 (ELW p. 207)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus,
your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You suffered death our lives to save:
Have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
You set us free from guilt and grave:
Have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
Eternal peace with God you made:
Give us your peace, we pray.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (ELW 465)

As the Grains of Wheat

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.
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.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 537) *On Our Way Rejoicing*

- 1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
Who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?
On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
Hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!
- 2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
Unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
On our way rejoicing now and evermore.
On our way rejoicing; as we forward move,
Hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!
Thanks be to God.

Let us sing together:

**God be with you 'til we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you,
God be with you 'til we meet again. Amen.**

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