



# ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. 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 **Jerrie Ripley**, as she has another heart procedure on November 20th, and as she continues cardiac rehab

For **Ryan Rutter**, son of Freda & Ed, fell and injured his back, is improving

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

For **Jim Fogle**, having difficulty recovering from his hip surgery

For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, having a difficult time as she continues through her cancer journey

Continued prayers for **Lee Smith, Jon & Linda Leist, Bill Meyer, Freda Rutter, Linda Miller, and Shirley & Larry West**

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](mailto:susiemase3@hotmail.com).



#### Scripture for today, Nov 16:

Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98,  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

#### Amy Office Hours This Week

Amy will be in the church office this week on Tuesday, November 18, 10–2, instead of the normal Wednesday.

#### Coffee, Donuts & Decorate

It's almost time to make our church glow with the joy and beauty of Christmas and we'd love your help decorating. Please join us **Sunday, November 23rd, immediately after Church Service.** Coffee and donuts will be provided! We look forward to a fun time of fellowship as we prepare our church for the celebration of Christ's birth.

#### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Marianne Daily	November 17
Danny Conant	November 18
Anna Bartos	November 20
Helen Rutter	November 21
Chuck Wolcott	November 23



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



Today's Hymn of the Day, "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" was written by Edward Mote in 1834 after he had the idea for the chorus "On Christ the Solid Rock, I stand" while walking to work. He was inspired by the biblical parable of the wise and foolish builders, where a wise person builds their house on a rock and the foolish one on the sand, which collapses in a storm. The hymn's message of unwavering hope in Christ, even amidst hardship, has resonated with believers for nearly two centuries.

**Council meeting today** immediately after church in the Parish Hall basement.

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 all know times have been tough lately, and our local food pantry is seeing more families in need. If you are able, please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. For the **Embassy of Winchester** nursing home, please place your donated items in the collection box located in the Narthex. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference. Together we can help ensure no one goes hungry. Thank you !

**Gals & Guys Lunch Bunch** dined at **Scramblers** this past Tuesday .....



2025 YTD Offerings Summary	
Offerings through:	11/9/2025
Budget (yearly)	56,750.00
Budget YTD	50,201.92
Offerings - Received	60,117.82

YTD Over(+)/Under(-) 9,915.90  
 (Includes prepaid offerings from a member's \$3k RMD)

2025 Average Attendance Information	
Q1 = 33, Q2 = 36, Q3 = 35,	Oct = 33, Nov = 30

Thank you for your contributions  
to pay-off our loan for  
 the new sanctuary ceiling

**Worship Leader**

Today Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)  
 11/23/2025 Jon Leist  
 11/30/2025 Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

**Happenings**

Today November Council Meeting immediately after church  
 11/19/2025 (Wed) Amy's Wednesday office hours 10am - 2pm **(Date chgd due to Thanksgiving)**  
 11/23/2025 (Sun) Coffee, Donuts, Decorate - 9am Come early and help St. John prepare for Christmas  
 11/30/2025 First Sunday in ADVENT

**Opportunities to Serve**

Contact Don Hornbeck with information for our weekly Sunday bulletins.

**Sunday School & Bible Study**

Adults - Sunday mornings 9am-10am upstairs in the Parish Hall  
 Children - During the church service in the Parish Hall youth room (Jonette Christy)

**Weekly Average Attendance by month for 2021 through 2025**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
<b>2021</b>	0	15	22	34	29	26	30	28	29	30	30	20	24
<b>2022</b>	14	21	26	48	40	32	31	30	38	32	29	34	31
<b>2023</b>	24	31	29	35	38	33	33	30	35	26	29	29	31
<b>2024</b>	17	23	30	25	46	46	45	39	34	29	30	36	33
<b>2025</b>	36	28	37	38	35	36	33	37	31	33	30		34
Yr-Yr Chg	19	5	7	13	-11	-10	-12	-2	-3	4	-1		

Amy Lytle's email address: amyblytle@gmail.com  
 Amy Lytle's cell phone: 614-208-3719  
 Council President contacts: 614-286-6175 / alfisher@aol.com  
 St John's website: www.stjlithopolis.com  
 St John's email address: office.stjohnlithopolis@gmail.com  
 St John's office phone: 614-837-2947 (voice mailbox)  
 St John's mailing address: 133 West South Street, PO Box 206 / Lithopolis, Ohio 43136  
 St John's facebook page: https://facebook.com/StJohnLithopolis

# **Christmas Gospel Sing**

**December 13th, at 2:00  
St. John Lutheran Church  
133 West South Street  
Lithopolis, Ohio 43136**

**\*\*\* The St. John Choir \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Ed Ewing \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Arnold Coy \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Cameron Spencer \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Rick Moore \*\*\***

**\*\*\* All4HIM \*\*\***

**Country Church Promotions  
Tim Acton 740-653-4121 / Ed Ewing 614-302-9222**



**Sunday, November 16, 2025**

ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

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.

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 SONG *How Firm a Foundation* (ELW 796)**

<sup>1</sup> How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

<sup>2</sup> "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

<sup>3</sup> "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

<sup>4</sup> "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

### **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.

**O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

*Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.*

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup> See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup> But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of  
Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to  
judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

A reading from 2 Thessalonians.

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's

bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate.

<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work.

<sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21:5-19**

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup> When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup> They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup> “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup> This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup> So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON: IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD (AS WE KNOW IT)**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* (ELW 597)**

<sup>1</sup> My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

<sup>2</sup> When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

<sup>3</sup> His oath, his covenant, his blood  
sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away,  
he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

<sup>4</sup> When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne!  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

## **WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

Let us confess our faith using the words of 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Minister:** Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

**Reader 1:** God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Reader 2:** God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Reader 3:** God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Minister:** God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Help us to turn compassion into action, so that we may be your hands in a hurting world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Reader 4:** God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Reader 5:** God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Minister:** We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **WE SHARE THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **WE PREPARE FOR 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.**

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.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, 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 *As the Grains of Wheat* (ELW 465)**

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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ grant you peace.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG *When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)* (ELW 785)**

<sup>1</sup> When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

<sup>2</sup> Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.  
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

<sup>3</sup> He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

<sup>4</sup> Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul.  
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Congregation Joins in Singing

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

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