



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is Reformation Sunday.** 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 **Kaylen Rinehart**, granddaughter of Jon & Linda Leist, recovering at home after being kicked by a horse
- For **Jim Huddleston**, neighbor of Mike & Willie Moore, battling bladder cancer
- For **Jim Fogle**, having difficulty recovering from his hip surgery
- For **Jerrie Ripley**, as she continues cardiac testing and rehabilitation
- For **Brian Fowler**, as he recovers from West Nile Virus
- For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, having a difficult time as she continues through her cancer journey
- For **Maria Canini**, sister of Jerry Canini, recovering at home after undergoing back surgery
- Continued prayers for **Lee Smith, Jon and 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.



Scripture for today, Oct 26:

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46,
Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36



Linda Knicely was the winner of last Sunday's euchre tournament and crowned **Queen of Euchre**. Her son, Lucas, came in second, and Alan Fisher's wife, Nancy, had the most loners. Thanks to Pam & Neil Jarvis for hosting the event.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Ruby Wolcott	October 22
Christy Arnett	October 28
Aliyah Ripley	October 30
Sarah Kincaid	November 2
Ed Rutter	November 2

There will be a birthday celebration for **Betty Anderson's 85th** birthday and everyone is invited! It will be held November 9, from 1:00-3:00p, in the Multi-Function Building at the Lithopolis Methodist Church. Please stop by and wish Betty a happy 85th!





THE INSIDE STORY
BY SALLY ACTON



Today's Gathering Song, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God", was written by Martin Luther around 1527 as a paraphrase of Psalm 46, inspired by his faith during times of spiritual and political turmoil, including a looming plague. The hymn served as a battle hymn for the Protestant Reformation, providing a message of hope and spiritual defense against hardship and persecution. The text uses spiritual struggle against "the ancient foe" (the devil), with God as the ultimate fortress and Christ as the champion who has already won the victory.



If you would like a loved one to be mentioned in the All Saints Sunday prayers of remembrance, please send their name and date of death to Amy Lytle via email (amylytle@gmail.com) or text (614-208-3719) no later than Thursday, October 30. Thank you!

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are starting! Our SAM, Amy Lytle, will be in the office at St. John on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, beginning Wednesday, October 22. Office hours are from **10:00 - 2:00**. You are welcome to stop by and chat - no appointments needed. Just text her at 614-208-3719 if the church door is locked so that she can let you in.

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, **let Don Hornbeck know if you would like it posted in the Bulletin.**



Thanksgiving Gospel Sing
 November 8, at 2:00
 Lancaster Campgrounds
 2151 West Fair Ave
 Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Vicki Moore
 Noah Sargent
 Kameron Waite
 Grace4Faith
 Cameron Spencer
 Arnold Coy
 All4HIM

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



JON LEIST is planning a TRUNK OR TREAT night. The date is Oct. 30th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. This is when those wanting to participate can drive to the church parking lot, open their car trunks (which will have lots of candy in them) and pass out treats to the kids, then enjoy hot dogs from ROSIE's (Jon's grill) along with the neighborhood kids and adults. We have done this many times over the years. It's a lot of fun! Feel free to decorate your car (and yourself) if you'd like!



SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING NOTES OCTOBER 12, 2025

ATTENDEES: Sally Acton, Bonnie Butterbaugh, Deb Canini, Mike Drodofsky, Alan Fisher, Briana Hart, Jon Leist, Sue Mason, Charlotte Meyer, Chuck Wolcott, Ruby Wolcott

ALAN FISHER reviewed the budget and our current finances, which is always the first order of business when Council meets.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS will be needed for 2026. We have had 12 members in the past, which is a good number to have but at the end of this year, 8 council members will have completed their four-year terms. If you would like to be a part of decision-making for our church, please consider joining this group. We could function on a smaller number but would rather not. The meetings are always scheduled after Sunday service once a month. This helps make it easier to attend, especially during inclement weather.

A LOT WAS ACCOMPLISHED over the past month. DURABLE SLATE replaced missing roof shingles on the sanctuary and replaced the rusty ridge flashing with copper. The decking leading to the back entrance of the church basement has been redone and will be recoated soon with a slip-resistant surface.

LINDA LEIST PURCHASED A NEW SET OF COMMUNION SERVICE TRAYS. The others were a bit worn. The old ones can be donated to a church in need.

JON LEIST is planning a TRUNK OR TREAT night. The date is Oct. 30th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. This is when those wanting to participate can drive to the church parking lot, open their car trunks (which will have lots of candy in them) and pass out treats to the kids, then enjoy hot dogs from ROSIE's (Jon's grill) along with the neighborhood kids and adults. We have done this many times over the years. It's a lot of fun! Feel free to decorate your car (and yourself) if you'd like!

CHARITABLE CHRISTMAS BUYING will be as follows: St. John will be buying gifts for 10 children. If members would like to contribute, a \$50.00 donation would be appreciated. I believe this will be for 3 families. We have willing shoppers who will be happy to help with the shopping. Any additional funds that will be needed will be taken from the MEF.

JON LEIST will be taking \$500.00 from the MEF fund to shop at Sam's Club to buy items for a nursing home at Christmas.

COMPENSATION FOR AMY'S SERVICES IS AS FOLLOWS:

She will be paid \$200.00 per Sunday for her message

She will be paid \$50.00 for sermon preparation

She will be paid \$30.00 an hour for creative services

She will be paid \$50.00 an hour for classes that would include catechism classes and possibly Sunday School

Mileage will be 70 cents a mile = \$51.83

Other expenses will be determined as we adjust to her new circumstances and duties.

SUBMITTED BY RUBY WOLCOTT w/edits

2025 YTD Offerings Summary	
Offerings through:	10/19/2025
Budget (yearly)	56,750.00
Budget YTD	46,927.88
Offerings - Received	56,513.79
YTD Over(+)/Under(-)	9,585.91
(Includes prepaid offerings from a member's \$3k RMD)	

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

2025 Average Attendance Information
Q1 = 33, Q2 = 36, Q3 = 35, Oct = 32 (27 last week)

Worship Leader

Today Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)
 11/2, 11/9, 11/16 Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)
 11/23/2025 Jon Leist
 11/30/2025 Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (SAM)

Happenings

Update>> 10/30/25 (Thu) St. John Trunk or Treat in the rear parking lot, 6:00 - 7:30pm
 November 5th & 19th Amy's Wednesday office hours 10am - 2pm **(Date chgs due to Thanksgiving)**

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 our church service in the Parish Hall (Jonette Christy)

Weekly Average Attendance by month for 2021 through 2025

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

New>> 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

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – Reformation Sunday

ELW Service of the Word

Introduction to the day

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God,

we confess that we are captive to sin

and cannot free ourselves.

We seek our own way.

We divide the body of Christ.

In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.

Let the words of our mouths,

the thoughts of our hearts,

and everything that we do

be filled with faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
to proclaim release to the captives.”

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
I proclaim to you
that your sins are forgiven and you are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG ELW 504 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
through life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

GREETING (ELW p. 213)

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. 213)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit
renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your
faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and
comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the
gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

**⁶ The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**⁸ Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

**¹⁰ “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

Paul’s words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ’s death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

A reading from Romans.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through

faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: God's Gift of Grace

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Be Glorified* (ELW 744)

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.

3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.

4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Let us confess our Christian faith.

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Minister: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

Minister: Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Reader 1: Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Minister: Refresh and strengthen our faith, O God, so that as your disciples, we show all those we encounter the grace and mercy that you have shown us. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints, especially on this day, Martin Luther. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Minister: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE

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

WE OFFER THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.**

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious

her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

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.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.