

MAY 17

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Seventh 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 **Charlotte Meyer** and family, as they mourn the loss of Bill Meyer, funeral this Friday

For **Linda Leist**, who is at home and on Hospice care

For **Donna Canini**, her upcoming heart valve procedure scheduled for June 18

For **Kyle Jackson**, nephew of Deb Canini, diagnosed with Thyroiditis, on steroid medication

For **Scott Arnett**, son-in-law of Jonette Christy, as he undergoes a six-week course of cancer treatments

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

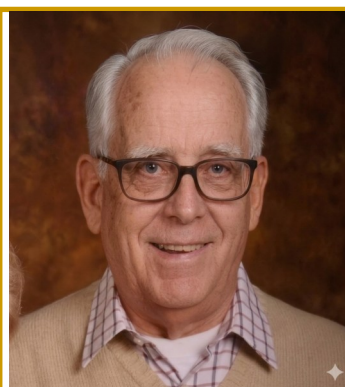
Continued prayers for **Jim Fogle, Jon & Linda Leist**, and **Linda Miller**

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.



Potluck Sunday

Sunday, May 31
St John
Potluck
after church



Services for Bill Meyer will be held this Friday, May 22nd, here at St. John. Visitation will be 11 am, followed by a celebration of life at noon. A luncheon will follow in the church basement at 1.

If you would like to send a card:
Charlotte Meyer
6230 Coonpath Road
Carroll, OH, 43112

UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS



Kloey Arnett	May 21
Giana Hart	May 21
Ammy Rinehart	May 23
Donna Canini	May 24

OFFICE HOURS ARE BACK

Amy will be in the church office this Wednesday, **May 20**, from **10 am - 2 pm**.

Feel free to stop by to chat - this is a great opportunity to share ideas for enhancing worship, serving our neighbors, or just talking in general. Appointment not needed.





THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON

The Hymn of the Day, “**Jesus the Very Thought of You**”, reflects a longing for intimacy with Jesus which focuses on the joy found in contemplating the name of Him. It emphasizes the sweetness, joy, and peace that comes from remembering Jesus moving from the thought to the desire for his presence.

BAKE SALE



On Monday, **May 25th**, St John will be holding our **annual bake sale** as part of the Lithopolis Memorial Day festivities. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for donations of baked goods and volunteers to help set up and staff the tables at Wagnalls. More details to follow.

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.



What a great turn out for the **Mother's Day Tea Party** in the church basement this past Sunday. There was quite an assortment of pastries, and many wore old bonnets and special hats adding a wonderful touch of charm to the afternoon. A big thank you to Linda Leist.



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, Lancaster. This is different from the quarterly donation from our MEF that is given to the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission.

2026 YTD Offerings Summary		
Offerings through:	5/10/2026	
Yearly Budget	60,180.40	
Budget YTD	23,146.31	
Offerings - Received	25,346.38	
YTD Over(+)/Under(-)	2,200.07	9.51%

Average Sunday Attendance Watch	
2025 Avg: 35	Q1(2026): 32, Apr:40, May: 43

Worship Leader

Today	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister
5/24/2026	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister (Pentecost)
5/31/2026	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister

Happenings

Today	<u>Council Meeting</u> immediately after church
5/20/2026 (Wed)	Amy's Wednesday <u>Office Hours</u> , 10am- 2pm
5/22/2026 (Fri)	<u>Bill Meyer Memorial</u> at St, John; <u>11am Visitation</u> , <u>12pm Service</u> , <u>1pm Luncheon</u>
5/25/2026 (Mon)	Memorial Day: Parade, Memorial Service, and Bake Sale
5/31/2026 (Sun)	<u>PotLuck</u> after our worship service

Opportunities to Serve

Contact Don Hornbeck with information for our weekly Sunday bulletins.

NEW= Contact Jon Leist to volunteer to help around the church (*not on Church Council*)

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)

Sunday Average Attendance by month for 2022 through 2026

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
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	33	31	35	34
2026	27	26	44	40	43								36
Yr-Yr Chg	-9	-2	8	2									

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.StJohnLithopolis.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, May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter: Ascension Sunday

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 742)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
Oh, what needless pain we bear--
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged-- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and
ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each
other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn
into your bountiful presence, 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: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 1.

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

¹ Let God arise, and let God’s enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

² **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish
at the presence of God.**

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵ In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶ **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into
freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷ O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰ **Your people found their home in it; in your goodness,
O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

³³ **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵ **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people!
Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 4.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

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 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

The holy gospel according to John, the 17th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: JOIN THE PARADE

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 754)
Jesus, the Very Thought of You

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you
Fills us with sweet delight;
But sweeter far your face to view
And rest within your light.
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the mind recall
A sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!
- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O joy of all the meek,
How kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
Help us to prize your love;
Grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."

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

Amy: 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: O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reader 2: Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment or the loss of loved ones, and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. 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.

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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

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 471)

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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 on you with grace and mercy.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 779)

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

5 When we've been here ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we'd first begun.

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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