



APRIL 5

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is Easter Sunday.** 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 **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 **Bill Meyer**, who had a setback, moved back to the Springs at Wyandot Trail in Lancaster, going into Hospice care

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.

Guys & Gals Lunch Bunch

will dine at Delaney's Diner on Tuesday, **April 14**, located at 674 Main St, Groveport.

Please RSVP to Charlotte Meyer, if possible.



A heartfelt thank you to all who shared their food, time, and talents to make today's Easter Breakfast a joyful and delicious success! Your generosity is truly appreciated.



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Amy Anderson
Linda Wolf
Kalee Anderson



April 9
April 9
April 18

Happy Easter!



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON

Today's Closing Hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" was written by Charles Wesley in 1739, shortly after his evangelical conversion, as a Hymn for Easter Day. Unlike simple narratives of the resurrection, Wesley's hymn focuses on the power of the resurrection for the believers. This hymn has undergone many changes over 250 years, often reduced from its original eleven stanzas to four or five verses in modern hymnals.



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.



The Universal Church Directory app is still down—it has been reported to the company multiple times. Contact the church office if you need an address or phone number of a church member.

2026 YTD Offerings Summary		
Offerings through:	3/29/2026	
Budget (yearly)	60,180.40	
Budget YTD	16,202.42	
Offerings - Received	15,604.87	
YTD Over(+)/Under(-)	-597.55	-3.69%

2026 Average Sunday Attendance Watch	
PrevYr Avg = 35	Jan = 27, Feb = 26, Mar = 44

Worship Leader

Easter	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister
4/12/2026	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister
4/19/2026	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister
4/26/2026	Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister

Happenings

4/14/2026	Guys & Gals Lunch Bunch @ Delaney's Diner in Groveport
4/26/2026	Council Meeting immediately after church

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)

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										32
Yr-Yr Chg	-9	-2	8										

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

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 5, 2026

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of
your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew
us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk
in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

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 (ELW 365) *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!

Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross
for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you
delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day
to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the
resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A reading from Acts, Chapter 10.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]:

"I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,**
"God's mercy endures forever."

- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation
echo in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**
- ¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”
- ¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.
- ¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.**
- ²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter.”
- ²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.**
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ **By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

A reading from Colossians, Chapter 3.

- ¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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: Matthew 28:1-10

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 28.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

EASTER MESSAGE: THE END

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 376) *Thine Is the Glory*

- 1 Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
- 2 Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conqu'rors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us confess our faith using 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: Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. 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 the risen Christ with each other.

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.

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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all
the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
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.**

WE OFFER OUR PRAISE

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 the witnesses to your resurrection
and 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 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 together.

**Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection
you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life,
and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as
witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your
glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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 369)

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!

- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, hasten on your way; Alleluia!
Offer praise with love replete, Alleluia!
At the paschal victim's feet. Alleluia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Alleluia!
Sinless in the sinner's stead. Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!
- 3 Christ, the victim undefiled, Alleluia!
God and sinners reconciled, Alleluia!
When contending death and life, Alleluia!
Met in strange and awesome strife. Alleluia!
- 4 Christians, on this holy day, Alleluia!
All your grateful homage pay; Alleluia!
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Alleluia!
Now he lives, no more to die. Alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news!

Christ is risen!!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING

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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