

MAY 10

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Sixth 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

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

For **Donna Canini**, her tests were completed for 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.

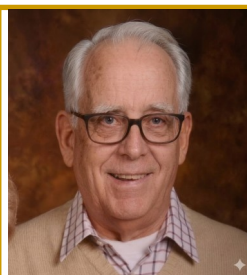


UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS



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



It is with deep sadness that we share that **Bill Meyer** passed away this past Friday. Bill had struggled with health issues for quite a while and he is now at peace. We give thanks for Bill's life, faith, and fellowship within our church family. Please keep Charlotte and the entire family in your prayers. A celebration of life will be held at a later date and details will be shared once available.

Dear Lord, we trust that Bill now rests in Your loving arms, where there is no more pain or sorrow, but everlasting joy. Help us to honor his memory by living with the same faith, kindness, and hope that Bill carried. May Your grace sustain us in this time of loss, and may Your light guide us forward. In Christ, death is not the end, but a doorway into everlasting life.



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



The Hymn of the Day, “We Plow the Fields and Scatter”, originated as a German poem written by Mattias Claudius in 1782. In 1861 Jane Campbell translated it into English. The song highlights that while humans plow and sow, it is God who provides the sunshine, rain, and growth, culminating in the famous chorus, “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above”. The hymn gained renewed popularity through its inclusion in the 1960s musical Godspell.

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.

OFFICE HOURS ARE BACK

Amy will be in the church office on 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.

OFFICE HOURS



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.

Potluck Sunday



Sunday, May 31

St John **Potluck** after church



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.



**Sunday, May 10, 2026
Sixth Sunday of Easter
ELW Service of the Word**

**GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS
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 408) *Come, Thou Almighty King*

- 1 Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father all-glorious, o'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
- 2 Come, thou incarnate Word, merciful, mighty Lord;
Our prayer attend. Come and thy people bless,
And give thy word success, and let thy righteousness
On us descend.
- 3 Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou who almighty art,
Rule now in ev'ry heart, never from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.
- 4 To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

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

**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

Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in
heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers
of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your
truth and 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: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 17.

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 66:8-20

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and
water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴ Those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of
rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 3.

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,

¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. 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 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 14.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 681)

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,
Who sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

2 You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
Much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread.

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

3 We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
But what you most would treasure—
Our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

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.**

Let us further profess our calling in the 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

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: God of new life, you call us through the waters of baptism to be in relationship with you and one another. Guide the church and its leaders to proclaim Christ's righteousness throughout the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: You create the world and all that is in it. Shelter budding plants and young animals, provide unpolluted habitats and clean water, and raise up stewards for the environment. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: You set civil servants in the places where we live. Instill truth and equity among judges and lawyers, gentleness and courage among first responders, and peace among leaders of towns and nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: You provide comfort in times of trouble. Heal those who are sick, shelter any who are unhoused, feed those undernourished, and accompany and console all who are lonely, bereaved, anxious, or ill. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: You are love and you desire that we love one another. As a mother hen cares for her chicks, bless all who provide motherly care in our lives, and inspire us to care for one another. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: God of new life, your steadfast love endures forever.
Inspire us by the example of the faithful departed, who clung to
your promises of life, forgiveness of sins, and salvation.
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.

WE SHARE THE PEACE

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

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made
all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from
chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your
wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert
journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

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

May the God of glory dwell in you richly,
Name you beloved,
And shine brightly on your path;
And the peace of our almighty God,
The Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 668) O Zion, Haste

- 1 O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,
To tell to all the world that God is light;
That he who made all nations is not willing
One soul should perish, lost in shades of night.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.
- 2 Publish to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation
That God, in whom they live and move, is love;
Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation
And died on earth that we might live above.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.
- 3 He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him,
Make known to ev'ry heart his saving grace;
Let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him,
Through your neglect, unfit to see his face.
Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace,
Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.

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.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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