



MAY 24

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Day of Pentecost.** 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 **Jenna McGuire**, 31-year-old grandniece of Don & Neva Hornbeck, diagnosed with breast cancer

For **Megan Schmitz**, a former student of Sally Acton, recovering from brain surgery and now treatments

For **Eddie Ewing**, a local gospel singer who sings at our church gospel sings, for his upcoming treatments

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

Continued prayers for **Charlotte Meyer, 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.

Today we celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**, which derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. We celebrate that we are given the power of the Holy Spirit to be sent out to invite all to experience the welcoming and redeeming love of God.

UPCOMING

BIRTHDAYS

Ammy Rinehart	May 23
Donna Canini	May 24
Linda Knicely	May 28
Nancy Mintel	June 3



Memorial Day is a federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May, dedicated to honoring and mourning military personnel who died in the line of duty. Originally known as "Decoration Day," it was established to honor soldiers who died during the American Civil War, but it has since expanded to honor all American service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars.





THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



The Hymn of the Day, “**Holy Spirit, Truth Divine**”, generally refers to a cherished 19th century Christian hymn that serves as a prayer for spiritual guidance. It highlights the Holy Spirit as the inward light, love, power, and comforter. This hymn was written by Samuel Longfellow, a Unitarian minister and the younger brother of the renowned American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The hymn is structured to praise and invoke the different attributes of the Holy Spirit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25	Bake Sale at Wagnalls
May 31	Church Potluck
June 7	Anna Bartos grad celeb.
June 13	Gospel Sing here
June 21	Fathers Day “donuts”
June 28	Council Meeting

CHURCH POTLUCK May 31 Be sure to attend the potluck immediately following our church service. We will be brainstorming ideas to build community awareness of St. John. Sloppy joes and shredded chicken sandwiches will be provided; please bring a side dish/ dessert to share.



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.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION !! Anna Bartos will graduate



Sunday at 5 PM – 8 PM
**Anna Bartos’
Graduation Party:
Help Us
Celebrate!**

from Canal Winchester High School on May 23rd. She has been accepted to Chapman University in Orange County, California to pursue a degree in dance. This university is one of the top 5 schools in the nation for their dance program. We are very proud of Anna on this wonderful accomplishment!

Everyone is invited to attend her graduation celebration on
*** **May 24th from 5 PM to 8 PM at McGill Park** ***
6725 Lithopolis Winchester Rd, Canal Winchester.
Food will be provided.

NOTE: There will also be a celebration after church in the Narthex on **Sunday, June 7th**, immediately after church.

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.

Sunday, May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

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 our sins are forgiven and we are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are ours forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG (ELW 396) *Spirit of Gentleness*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
And you goaded your people with a law and a land;
And when they were blinded with idols and lies,
Then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
Then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
And down in the city you called once again,
When you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.
Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
Stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

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. 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

Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

**O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 2.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house

where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above

and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
shall be saved.' "

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴ How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.
²⁷ **All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸ You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

³⁰ You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
³¹ **May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

- ³² You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.
- ³³ **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**
- ³⁴ May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
- ^{35b} **Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12.

^{3b} No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The holy gospel according to John, the 20th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 398) *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

- 1 Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Breath of God and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.
- 2 Holy Spirit, love divine, Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle ev'ry high desire; purge me with your holy fire.
- 3 Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, fortify this will of mine;
By your will I strongly live, bravely bear, and nobly strive.
- 4 Holy Spirit, peace divine, still this restless heart of mine;
Speak to calm this tossing sea, stayed in your tranquility.
- 5 Holy Spirit, right divine, king within my conscience reign;
Be my guide, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us profess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us further proclaim the faith by which we live.

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: O God, you send the Holy Spirit to gather your church into one. Inspire all ministers of the gospel to speak prophetic and hope-filled words to all whom they encounter. Bless the work of interreligious dialogue. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: You send the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Protect all living things, bring forth clean water and abundant food, and grant us wonder as we contemplate all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: You send the Holy Spirit to break down the barriers of communication among nations. Bestow peace in war-torn areas, guide all in government and society to work for justice, and guard those serving in the armed forces, especially this weekend as we remember those who died in service to their country. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: You send the Holy Spirit to accompany those who feel abandoned. Provide food for those who hunger and drink for those who thirst, soothe those who are anxious or bereaved, comfort those who are sick or suffering, and answer all who call upon your name. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: You send the Holy Spirit to strengthen us when we are weak or tired. Help us to see clearly the wonderful gifts you have given each of us. Inspire us to use these to glorify you in the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer

Reader 5: You send the Holy Spirit through the gift of baptism. Bless both those preparing for or affirming their baptism. May they be encouraged by this community of faith as they live out their baptismal promises. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: You send the Holy Spirit to console us in our grief. We give you thanks for our ancestors in the faith whose witness to your mighty works continues to inspire our lives. 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.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray, giving thanks for the lifegiving word of God.

**O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of
your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us
to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world
to your feast; 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.**

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

As we go forth into the world, receive God's blessing:
May 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 (ELW 888)

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies: America the Beautiful

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and ev'ry gain divine.

3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

DISMISSAL

And now, strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast to that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.
Honor all people.
Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

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

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