St John Lutheran Church

Amy Lytle, Synod Authorized Minister

November 8, 2026

The WEEKLY UPDATE

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us. Rooted in God's grace, we are a community growing in faith, called to love and serve our neighbors. We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us. 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 the **Shoup** family, as they lost their 8-year-old daughter Charlotte in a car accident, her mother Alexis was transferred to rehab to heal 72 broken bones

For **Kaitlyn**, 19-year-old granddaughter of retired teacher Gail Murray, friend of Peggy, severe health issues

For all of those in various stages of cancer treatments including **Karma Wisecarver**, **Lynn Hart, Scott Arnett**, **Sandy Mohler**, **Jenna McGuire**, **Tim Moore**, **John Rogers**, and **Jonathan Ripley**

Continued prayers for **Kyle Jackson, Jim Fogle**, **Jon Leist**, **Donna Canini**, **Charlotte Meyer**, and **Linda Miller**

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! We all face challenges from time to time…whether it be a health issue, loss of a loved one, family difficulties, financial hardship, anxiety, or fears. Please don't hesitate to reach out and ask for prayers or for support. We're all here to help in any way, or just to simply listen. Please feel free to reach out to Amy to let her know how she can help (614-208-3719 amyblytle@gmail.com). If you have a prayer request, Sue Mason can send an email to all members (614-260-1107 susiemase3@hotmail.com).



Mark your calendar for December 6 for lunch/euchre party following church. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

OFFICE HOURS Amy will be available in the church office from 10 am to 2 pm on Wednesday, November 18



Scripture for today November 8, 2026
Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13





REMINDER: Thank you to everyone participating in this year's "**Bless A Bloom-Carroll Child at Christmas**" initiative. Here are a few reminders: **ALL DONATIONS ARE DUE AT THE CHURCH BY NOVEMBER 15**. Our MEF Fund will also help support this project. You can spend up to $150 per child, with the church reimbursing you up to $100. That means your out-of-pocket expense will be no more than $50 per child. Simply give your receipts to Alan Fisher and he will take care of the reimbursements. Thank you for your generosity and for brightening the Christmas season for a Bloom-Carroll Child!

The Inside Story by Sally Acton

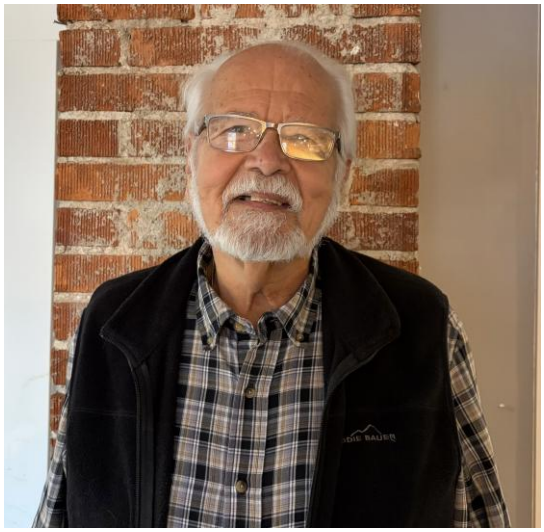
Today's hymn of the day, "**Praise and Thanksgiving**", was written in June 1961 by Albert Bayly. He wrote the hymn to fill a specific gap: he wanted a harvest thanksgiving song that did not just celebrate an abundance of crops but reminded worshippers that true gratitude to God requires sharing those blessings with others. The lyrics emphasize that people can truly thank God only if they are willing to do His will by helping and supporting those in need.

Please remember to place your food donations for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. During November, we're also inviting everyone to consider making a cash donation. Your dollars can go even further through the Food Pantry, which has greater purchasing power when buying food in bulk. If you'd like to help in this way, you'll find a donation container underneath the donation chart. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference. Thank you for continuing to care for and support our neighbors in need! **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.

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 Jon 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 Weekly Update.

We are pleased to welcome Wanda Mann, director of the Bloom-Carroll Food Pantry, on Sunday, November 22. In appreciation for our quarterly MEF food donations, Wanda will share how our generosity makes a difference and the impact it has on the pantry and the families it serves. Join us after the service for some light refreshments and an opportunity to visit with Wanda and learn more about this important ministry.

GALS AND GUYS will meet at **O'Huid's Gaelic Pub**, 167 W Main St, Lancaster, on **Tuesday, November 10, at 12 noon.** If possible, please let Charlotte know if you plan to attend.



Someone You Ought to Know

Recently, **Bill Griffin** and I had an opportunity to get to know each other. His bass voice has been recognized throughout the years, creating jobs and opportunities. His résumé, experiences, and accomplishments could fill pages!

Bill was raised in Paterson, New Jersey, an industrial mill city. He was always involved in the church because his father was an Episcopal priest. Bill helped his father at church during special times of the year.

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Bill met his wife, Sandi, while attending William Paterson University. As it turned out, they had attended the same nursery school and shared the same unpleasant experience of not wanting to go to class! Bill majored in education and later became licensed as a school guidance counselor. One of his first jobs in college was working for "Mr. Tiffany" at an echelon funeral home. He worked at the door wearing a bellhop uniform.

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 has been a mantra for Bill. He has listened for and heard the voice of God directing him throughout the years, beginning in 1955–1956.

Bill was called to ministry in the early 1960s. An overwhelming feeling came over him as he read 1 John while Christmas carolers sang in the halls of a local hospital. On another occasion, he recognized a vision from God while visiting an art gallery. The vision showed him as a college president, along with a white picket fence and Percheron horses.

The vision manifested itself, at least in part. Bill applied for a director of adult education position at Ohio University's Zanesville branch. The university responded by sending him a letter addressed to "Director!" He was hired, and Bill and Sandi moved to Ohio.

One Good Friday, while attending Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, Bill witnessed a reenactment of Jesus being pushed by two Roman soldiers. This experience set the stage for him to hear God's words: "Serve my church." Bill was also given another message from God: "Bloom where you are planted."

Sandi earned a degree in social work from The Ohio State University and worked as a nursing home inspector for the state. Bill earned his master's degree in counseling by attending night school for six years. He financed this educational opportunity by working as a post office superintendent.

Thirty-five years ago, the Christian Counseling Center opened in Pickerington. Today, well into his 90s, Bill continues to work three days a week!

Bill and Sandi visited Israel several times. One trip was especially meaningful as they celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at Cana of Galilee. Twenty friends accompanied them, and they shared communion on the Mount of Beatitudes.

A mission trip to Haiti was cut short when the government was being overthrown. They caught the last flight out. During their long wait, shots were being fired, and dogs in the compound were barking wildly.

As an ordained minister, Bill has offered the morning prayer at the Palm Sunday Catholic prayer service for twenty years. He has also portrayed St. Nicholas, giving the blessing at the Pickerington Christmas tree lighting for more than 50 years!

Bill stays busy caring for his goat, Joel, and his dog on his nine-acre farm. At one time, Sandi and Bill had Nubian, Angora, and French Alpine goats, as well as llamas, alpacas, dogs, and cats.

Bill's hobbies include listening to Baroque and Renaissance music. He worked at the radio station at Ohio University-Zanesville, where he played sacred music. This involvement has evolved into more than 40 years of broadcasting!

You can listen to Bill on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on 104.9 FM, 101.9 FM, and 1320 AM.

We are fortunate to have this gifted man as part of our congregation. Bill began attending St. John last October, seeking a return to his roots in a liturgical church.

Pam Jarvis