

APRIL 12



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Second 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 **Bill Meyer**, who is back at the Springs at Wyandot Trail in Lancaster, now under Hospice care

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 **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.



Thanks to everyone who helped with our Easter breakfast, especially those who prepared, served, or contributed food. A special thank you to Jon Leist who organized everything. We were blessed to have 35 people attend, with 56 people attending our church service following breakfast. It was wonderful to share this special day.

He is risen, indeed!

Alleluia!



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Amy Anderson

April 9

Linda Wolf

April 9

Kalee Anderson

April 18



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



Today's Opening Hymn, "Now the Green Blade Rises", draws its imagery from the resurrection of Jesus Christ, comparing it to the rebirth of spring after a long winter. It was written by John Crum in 1928. The hymn's central theme is the power of Christ's resurrection to bring new life and hope, just as green blades emerge from the earth in the spring.



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. **All donations will be taken to the Food Pantry this week.**

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:	4/5/2026	
Budget (yearly)	60,180.40	
Budget YTD	17,359.73	
Offerings - Received	17,342.86	
YTD Over(+)/Under(-)	-16.87	-0.10%

2026 Average Sunday Attendance Watch		
2025 Avg = 35	Q1-26 = 32,	Apr =56 (Easter Sunday)

Worship Leader

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
4/19/2026	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	56									38
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

Bulletin: Sunday, April 12, 2026

Second 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 379) *Now the Green Blade Rises*

- 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again;
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
- 4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

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.

**Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not
seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's
blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

A reading from Acts, Chapter 2.

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- ² **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
upon those who are noble among the people.**
- ³ But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- ⁴ **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
- ⁵ O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
- ⁶ **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
- ⁷ I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
- ⁸ **I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
- ⁹ My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ **For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
- ¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.

A reading from 1 Peter, Chapter 1.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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 20:19-31

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 20.

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.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Happy are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

MESSAGE: GOD’S 3 Ps

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 393) *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

- 1 A hymn of glory let us sing!
New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ, by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 The holy apostolic band
Upon the Mount of Olives stand, Alleluia! Alleluia!
And with his faithful foll'wers see their Lord ascend in majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 To whom the shining angels cry,
"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia! Alleluia!
"This is the Savior!" thus they say,
"This is his glorious triumph day!"
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 "You see him now, ascending high
Up to the portals of the sky." Alleluia! Alleluia!
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord: Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

CREED

Let us confess our Christian 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.**

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

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: Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 2: Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 3: God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Amy: Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 4: Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reader 5: Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. 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 together, giving thanks to our 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.**

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 660) *Lift High the Cross*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed! 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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