

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
Church 740-574-8028 or email: stjoh1875@gmail.com

May 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Leader: People of St. John, what is our purpose?

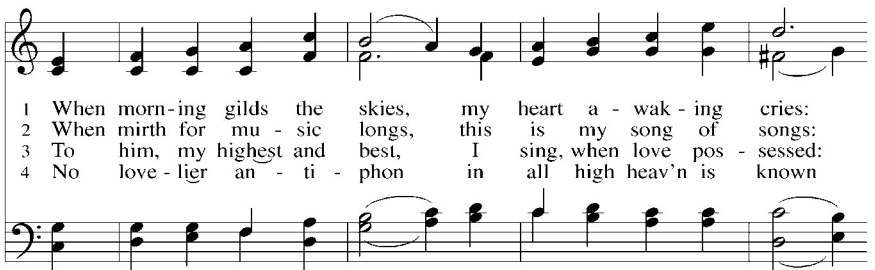
All: To live for the Lord who made us, to love as Jesus taught us, and
to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Prelude

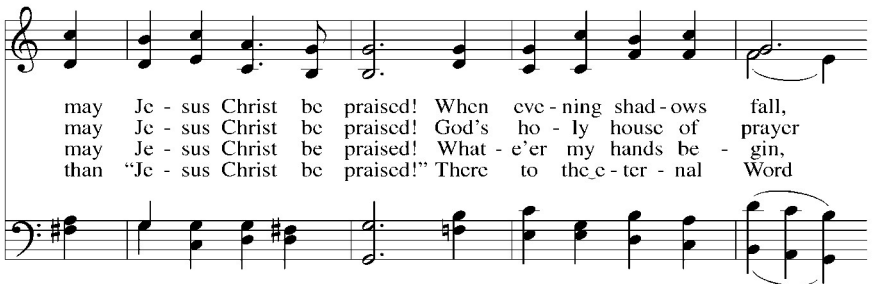
+ Entrance Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Sky

#546



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love pos - sessed:
4 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
may Je - sus Christ be praised! What - e'er my hands be - gin,
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the c - ter - nal Word



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
this bless - ing shall break in: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
the c - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!

5 Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

6 Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore,
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

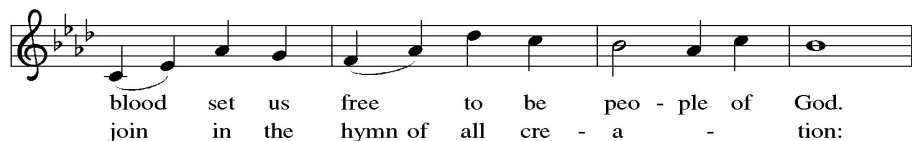
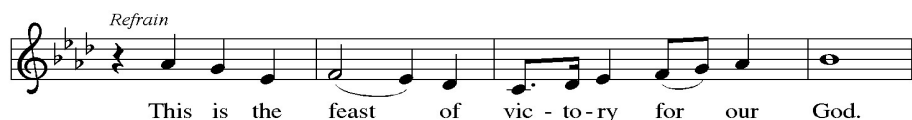
+ Apostolic Greeting

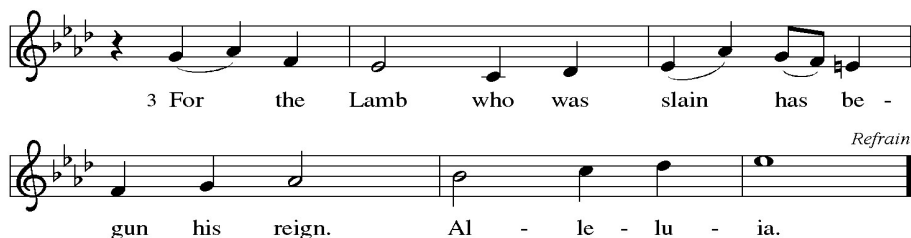
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

+Hymn of Praise

This is the feast





+ Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. . .**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Choir Anthem

Children's Sermon

Children will be dismissed to Children's Church following the Children's Sermon

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
 “The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
 and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
 but now you are God’s people;
 once you had not received mercy,
 but now you have received merc y.

+ Alleluia Verse

John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
 Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

+ The Gospel: John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Pastor Francis

Silence For Reflection

Affirmation of Baptism

Presentation

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers at the font. They may be joined by others from the assembly.

Those making affirmation are presented by a sponsor or another representative of the congregation:

P: I present name/s , who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

Reading of faith statements

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Families are invited forward for the blessing.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

Let us pray.

P: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her/his faith, guide her/his life, empower her/him in her/his serving, give her/him patience in suffering, and bring her/him to everlasting life.

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937

Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker

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+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P Let us pray.

P Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

P God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O Holy Spirit, We pray for our next pastor. We ask that you speed our meeting with one another, and that you make us ready to seek new adventures with a new shepherd at our side. Grant that we might make ready today to find the new tomorrow you desire for St. John Lutheran Church. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P 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.

C Amen.

+ The Peace

[shared among the congregation]

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you

R

Peace be with you.

Parish Announcements

Offering

+ Offertory

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord

1 Corinthians 10:16 & John 6:35

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ The Prayer

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves , our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious
love. Receive them for the sake of him who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

+ The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give away to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:17-20
Mark 14:22-24, 1Corinthians 11:23-26

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

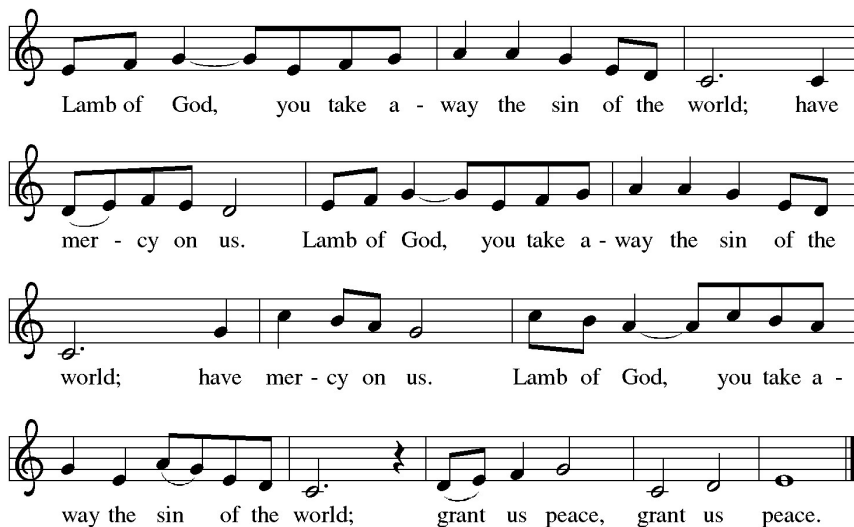
P In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

+The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C **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**



The Holy Communion

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

Music during the Communion:

Stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

+ Post-Communion Canticle

Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ Post Communion Prayer

Romans 5:5

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

+ The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
 +In the of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh; arr. R. Vaughan Williams

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+ Dismissal

P Go in peace.
 Children Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

+Stand as you are able

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SERVING TODAY

Organist
Worship Assistant
Lay Reader
Prayer Leader
Greeter
Acolyte
Altar Committee
Council President

Leigh Ann Henry
Vivian Riffel

Vicki Floyd, Vivian Riffel
Rick Williams

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. We are pleased you are here. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign our guest book in the entrance area. We hope you will join us again very soon.

THIS MORNING WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION. St John observes open communion. Christians of all Churches and all denominations are invited and encouraged to join us at our Lord's table. You may drink from either the Common Cup or individual cups. Grape juice is offered as an alternative for those who wish it. Young children who have not yet gone through Preparation for Communion may be brought forward for a blessing.

These are the words of Martin Luther from The Small Catechism.

The benefits of this sacrament are pointed out by the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** The words assure us that in the sacrament we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words, **given and shed for you for the remission of sins.** These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.

LET US PRAY FOR: Dale Ramey, Emily Smith, Peggy Butler, Roberta Sommer, Patricia Cavendish, Jim Skipworth, Galen Gleim, Grace Mootz, Marcella Mootz, Kay Staker, Kimberly Tolliver, Danica Clarkson, Bill Murphy, Linda Martin, Melaine Hawk, Nicholas Young, Jason Pierce, Beth Miller, Jane Staker, Rod Schneider, Ed Hughes, Brenda Moore, Donna Arnett, Ken Staker, Pastor Dennis King, Luke White, Jim Webb, Greg Piguette, Mary McQuay, Chris Parish, The Congregation of the Mountain Church in Asmushausen, Germany, the members of our armed forces, and those we hold privately in our hearts.

ANDREW TYLER DeGONZAGUE AND EMMETT JAY SALYERS have completed their two years of Catechism studies, have met all requirements, and therefore will affirm their Baptisms today in the Rite of Confirmation. This is an important event in the life of our church, and you are encouraged to join us after worship for a reception in their honor. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the Call Committee and Church Council as we search for a new pastor. May God bless and guide them in this journey.

CHOIR PRACTICE will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

THE BLANKET PROJECT GROUP will meet this Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. Come and join as we meet every Tuesday morning! Everyone is welcome.

YOU ARE INVITED to breakfast with the Graduates. Each graduate will have a table of picture and accomplishments. You will be able to stop by each table and congratulate them. We have a lot of graduates this year and this will help streamline parties for our congregation. We hope you can join them early on May 10 at 9:15a.m. May God continue to guide their steps in service to him and to others, wherever their paths might lead, and may Christ go with them into their bright new future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Vacation Bible school is just around the corner! Plans are already in place, and we need your help! The dates for this summer 's VBS will be June 22 through the 26th from 5:30 to 8:15 pm. Again this year we will be having a kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Our theme this year is Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God!

If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Vivian know! (740.464.1914) We are looking forward to another fun filled successful year of VBS with our children!

This Week at St. John

Today—*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**—*Holy Communion—Confirmation*

11:00 a.m. Lite Lunch in honor of our Confirmands

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Next Sunday—*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 a.m. **Worship**

Attendance

2026 Average: 69

2025 Average 62

Serving Next Sunday, May 10

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry

Lay Reader

Sam Tieman

Prayer Leader

Vicki Floyd

Greeter

Vicki Floyd

Acolytes

Altar Committee

Vicki Floyd, Vivian Riffel

Council President

Rick Williams

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS:

BAPTISMS: Freida Otworth, Grant Stevenson, Alex DeGonzague

ANNIVERSARIES: Derek & Jodi Keaton, Scott & Karyn Smith

IF WE MISSED ANYONE please let Vicki Bradley know so we can add you to the list.

Coming Events

Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 a.m. Confirmation
Sunday, May 3 at 11:00 a.m. Lite Lunch in honor of our Confirmands

Tuesday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sunday, May 10 at 9:15 a.m. Graduation Sunday

Tuesday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, May 17 at 11:00 a.m. Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Tuesday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m. Blanket Project

Sunday, June 22-26 at 5:30 p.m. –8:15 p.m. Vacation Bible School
Kid friendly light supper for children and families.

Blanket Project

**Will begin meeting again on Tuesday,
at 10:00 a.m.
Everyone is welcome to join.**

Confirmation

**Sunday, May 3 during worship.
A reception will follow worship.**

Honoring Our High School Graduates

Sunday, May 10

Join us for breakfast with the Graduates. Each graduate will have a table of picture and accomplishments. You will be able to stop by each table and congratulate them.

Vacation Bible School Rainforest Falls

June 22 –26

**Kid friendly light supper for children and families.
VBS Program June 28 during worship**

Vacation Bible School
Closing Program
Sunday, July 20 during worsh