

W elcome to W orship

**St. John's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**



**Rally Day September 7, 2025**

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

[SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)

Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

and Rev. Ken Pollitz

**13th Sunday of Pentecost**

**September 7, 2025**

**Welcome:** Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

**Serving at Worship Today:**

READER: David Sharninghouse

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

**Your Servant Leaders:**

Worship Leader: SAM Paul Brooks

*Worship  
Assistants*

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.  
419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Yehiel Curry

**St. John's email address:** [SJLCMcComb@gmail.com](mailto:SJLCMcComb@gmail.com)

**St. John's Facebook page:** <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

**Attendance Last Sunday: 13**

**Offering Last Sunday: \$350.00**

**Direct Deposit: \$20.00**

**Mile of Pennies: \$20.00**

**Flood Relief: 50.00**

**Food Pantry for September:** September needs are peaches, pears and boxed cereals. Thank you to everyone that helped with the August donations.

**FYI:** Today, September 7 we will begin a new 8 session Bible Study for our Adult Sunday School Class, the title is "Life Under the Sun". It is about the book of Ecclesiastes. We have ordered 8 study books, and we hope we can use all of them, please join us right after church on Sunday, September 7.

# Order of Worship

Rally Day Sunday, September 7, 2025

*God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.*

*\*please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

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## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

*Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to love like Jesus."*

### THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN #689

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please take a moment for silent confession.*

Leader: Merciful and loving God,

**ALL: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Leader: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**ALL: Amen.**

## \* KYRIE

Leader: In Peace let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

## \* CANTICLE OF PRAISE

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and  
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

**ALL**: Grand designer of all things, the light and darkness, the dome in the midst of waters, the sky and dry land, the vegetation, the seasons, the swarms of living creatures, birds and great sea monsters, creeping things and wild animals, and us; all these were brought into being with a word on your lips. And it was good. Amen.

## PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 8:1-9

Reader: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**ALL: You have set your glory above the heavens.**

Reader: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

**ALL: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**

Reader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

**ALL: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

Reader: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



## \*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:1-5

Reader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Reader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Reader: The gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS 1:1-2:4a

Leader: When God began to create the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.



<sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.



<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” <sup>29</sup> God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup> On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

<sup>4</sup> These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Leader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

(SEE PAGE 14)

**GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS**

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**ALL:** 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**

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. Hear our prayers for those close to our hearts - Jo, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Mary, Pat, Kelli, Gordon, Ellery, Ari, Josh, Karen, Lisa, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Rick, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Karen, Riley, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Riley, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Laura, Michael, and Cindy. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

## **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

*Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.*

## **INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS**

Leader: The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise for the gifts we have received.

## **\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL:** Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL:** And also with you.

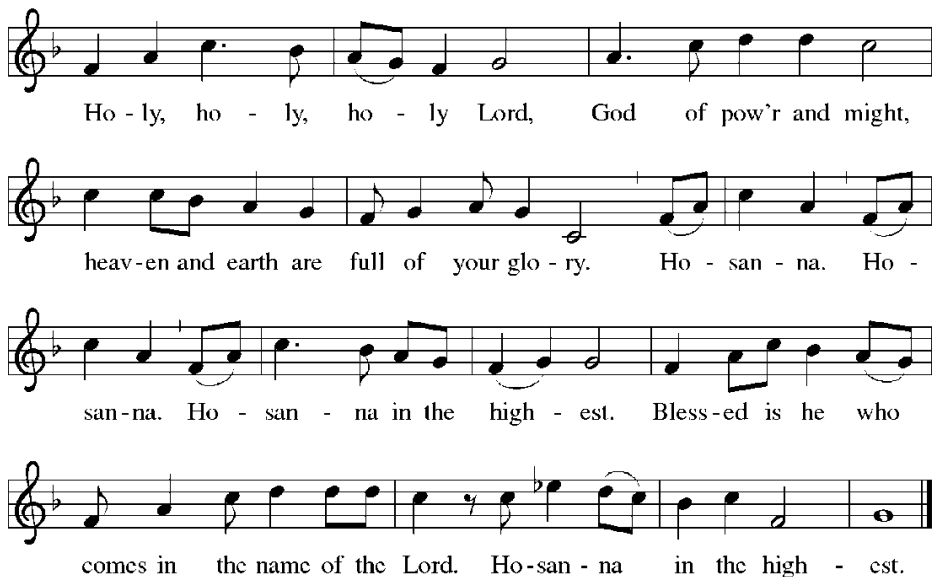
Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL:** We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL:** it is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **\*THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

To you, O God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

## **\*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: 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 INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: Come to the Lord's Table and taste the goodness of the Lord.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

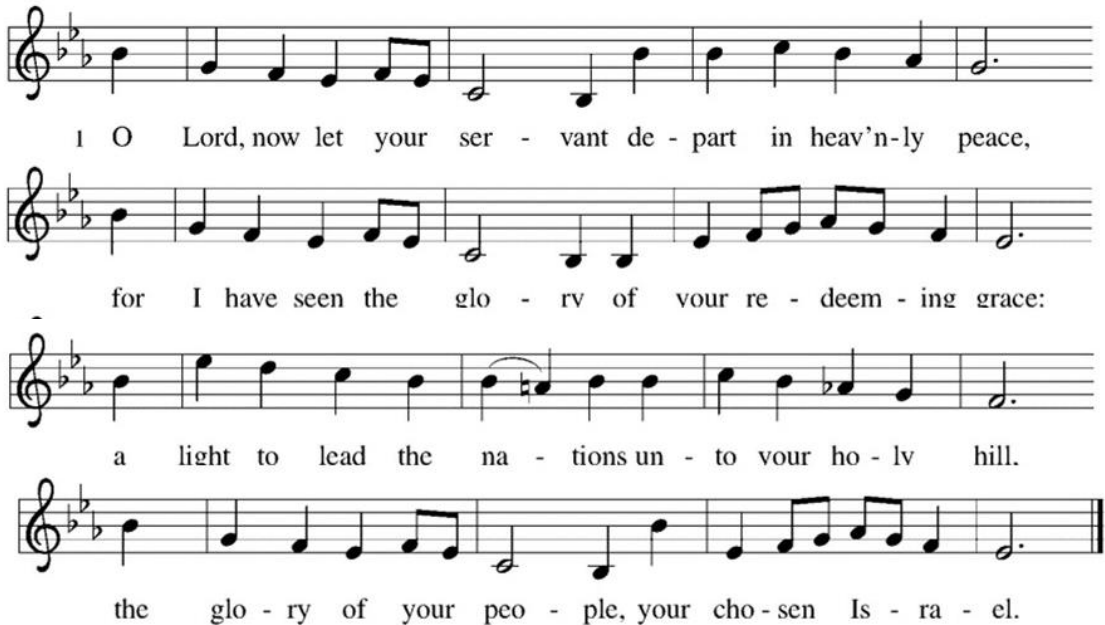
Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

**ALL: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

(VERSE 1)

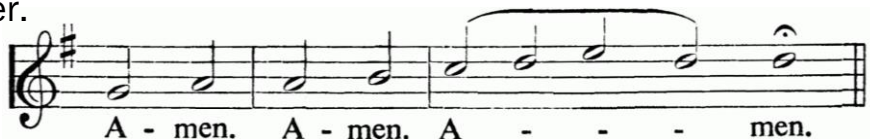


I O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.  
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

## \*BLESSING

Leader: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

## \*The Amen



A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

## \*SENDING HYMN #798

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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### TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant"* TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (#313)

*"Will You Come and Follow Me"* Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: Scottish traditional TEXT © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Music:

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# Have a blessed Rally Day.



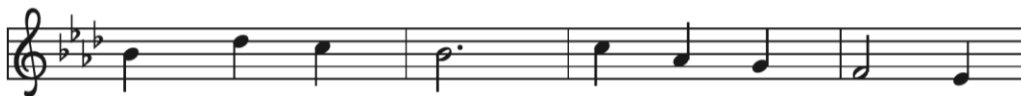
# God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

**Calendar of Events:**

Wed. Sept. 10 5:30 P.M. Church Council Meeting

Sun. Sept. 14 - 8:00 A.M. Worship Service

Sun. Sept. 14 - 9:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School

Sun. Sept. 21 - 12:30 P.M. Church Picnic at the home of David Sharninghouse

**Readers for September:**

Sept. 7 - David Sharninghouse

Sept. 14 - Lori McDaniel

Sept. 21 - Carol Cary

Sept. 28 - Linda Ross

**In Our Prayers:** John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers & Vicki Lee Thompson, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops. Please pray for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

**Prayers for the people affected by all the recent flooding:** We need to continually pray for these people, so they can receive the help they need. People have lost everything they own, their homes, car, clothes, everything. There have been so many areas hit hard with flooding that we have contributed \$200.00 from St. John's to the flood relief. We offer the same opportunity to our congregation to do the same. Write on the memo line of your check to St. John's, the amount to go to Flood Relief. We will continue to collect your monies until September 28, then we will send it for you or you can send it yourself. There are forms at the back for you.

On September 7<sup>th</sup> we will also start a new lectionary called "Narrative Lectionary", it is a 4-year lectionary instead of a 3 year. Ken has used this lectionary for years.

It's almost time to make cookies for Kyros again, more information to come. Will post more information when I receive it.



8-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

# LIFE UNDER THE SUN

The Unexpectedly Good  
News of Ecclesiastes

HANNAH ANDERSON

# **Sermon Notes**

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.



# Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good.

—Genesis 1:31

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

*As you read the stories for the week, ask yourself: **What is God doing in each story?***

|           |                          |                           |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sunday    | Genesis 1:1–2:4a         | God's Good Creation       |
| Monday    | Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25 | Creation of Adam and Eve  |
| Tuesday   | Genesis 3:8-19           | Sin Enters God's Creation |
| Wednesday | Genesis 12:1-9           | God Calls Abram           |
| Thursday  | Genesis 15:1-6           | God Makes a Covenant      |
| Friday    | Genesis 17:15-21         | Abram Becomes Abraham     |
| Saturday  | Genesis 18:1-15          | God Promises a Child      |
| Sunday    | Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14  | Abraham and Isaac         |

*If your household includes younger children, use a child-friendly Bible. You might find that the children's Bible you are using may not include the very story assigned for the DAILY BIBLE READINGS. Read to your kids anyway. Just pick a story!*

## SERVICE CHALLENGE

*SERVICE is how we enact God's great love for the entire world.*

Write a list together of each person's favorite soup and crackers. When you are out shopping, pick up these items and donate them at a local food pantry.

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