

Welcome to Worship
St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



*First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026*

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

Pastor: SAM Paul Brooks - 419-722-8625

and Rev. Ken Pollitz

1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

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: Jerry McCullough

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

Your Servant Leaders:

Worship Leader: Rev, Ken Pollitz

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

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

Attendance Last Sunday: 10

Attendance Ash Wednesday: 10

Offering for Ash Wednesday: \$160.00

Offering Last Sunday: \$411.00

Direct Deposit: \$320.00

Mile of Pennies: \$5.00

Memorial Money: \$0.00

Food Pantry for March: We will be requesting Canned Meats of all kinds, boxed dinners such as Tuna Helper & Etc., Macaroni and Cheese.

Cookies for Kairos: It's that time of year again. You can get the cookies at Gordon's again, they are \$24.99 this year. Remember we are supposed to get Chocolate Chip Cookies, let us know if you are helping again. They need to be at the church on March 6th.

Worship Assistants

Order of Worship

First Sunday in Lent, February 22, 2026

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.*

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 #502** THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God, for seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: **ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Gracious God, for dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life we lift our voices:

***KYRIE**

1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

***CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **ALL: Amen.**

***GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

Refrain
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God. heav-en - ly King. al - might-y God and Fa - ther. we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Please join me in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life, leaving in the grave all that prevents us from loving you fully. Amen.

FIRST READING

(responsively)

ISAIAH 25:6-9

Reader: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

ALL: And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Reader: Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

ALL: It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

Reader: This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

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

PSALM READING

PSALM 104:27-30

Reader: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit,^[a] they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg 142 Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL READING**

(responsively)

JOHN 11:1-44(*condensed*)

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of John chapter 11. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany,

ALL: the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Leader So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus,

ALL: “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

Leader : But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death;

ALL: rather it is for God’s glory.”

Leader: After having heard that Lazarus was ill,

ALL: Jesus stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Leader: Jesus told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.”

ALL: The disciples said, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”

Leader: Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death,

ALL: Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. But let us go to him.”

Leader: Thomas said to his fellow disciples,

ALL: “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Leader: When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she met him,

ALL: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.

ALL: Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. Do you believe this?”

Leader: She said, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

ALL: After saying this she went back and called her sister Mary.

Leader: When Mary came, she said,

ALL: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Leader: Jesus saw her weeping and was greatly disturbed in spirit and said, “Where have you laid him?”

ALL: They said, “Lord, come and see.”

Leader: Jesus began to weep.

ALL: So, the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

Leader: He said, “Take away the stone.”

ALL: Martha said, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”

Leader: Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

ALL: They took away the stone and Jesus said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.”

Leader: When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

ALL: The dead man came out; his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth.

Leader: Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #494

FOR THE BREAD WHICH YOU HAVE BROKEN

***THE APOSTLE 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: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We pray today for John, Gary, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Don, Ashley, Brandt, Mary, Pat, Gordon, Vicki, Jim, Josh, Linda, Ruth, Steve, Karen, Lisa, Bertha, Eloise, Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Barb, Granger, Owen, Mike, Diana, Sean, Judy, Christina, Mike, Riley, Dennis, Anita, Amy, Nickie, Eli, Mr. Doherty, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Michael, and Cindy. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us

who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: For strained diplomatic relations between nations in the United States, Canada, and Cuba. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation who taught us to pray saying,

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

ALL: And also with you.

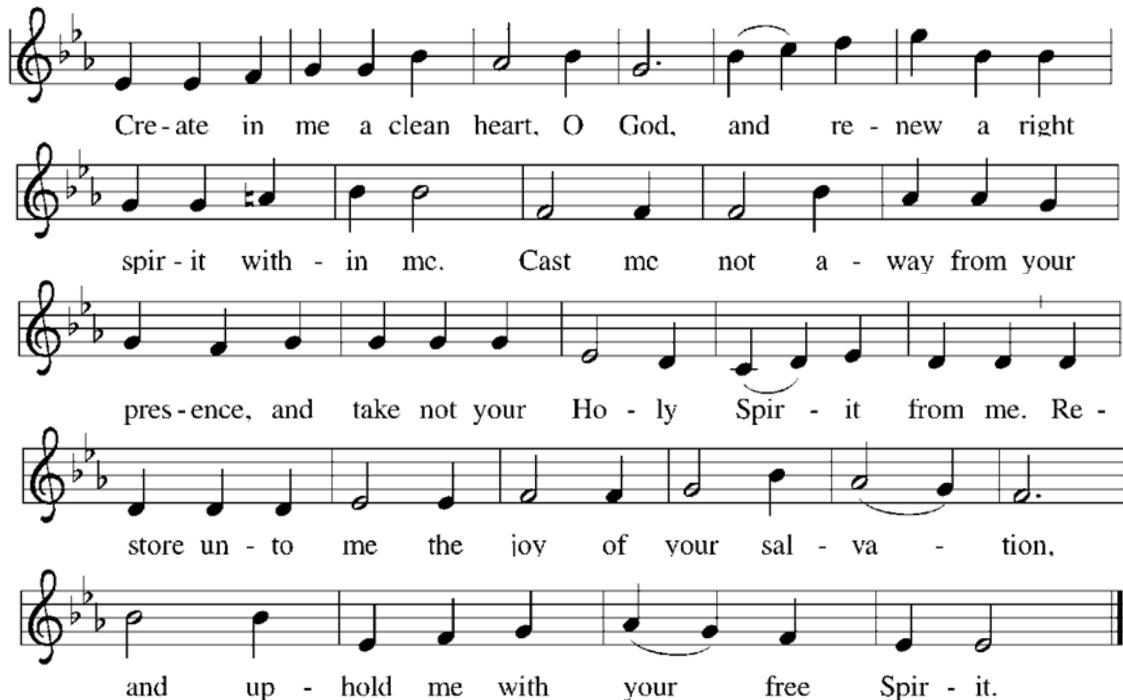
Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Trusting in the almighty power of our God, let us present our tithes and offerings to the God who can take them and mold them and turn them into amazing signs of love and mercy through us.

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

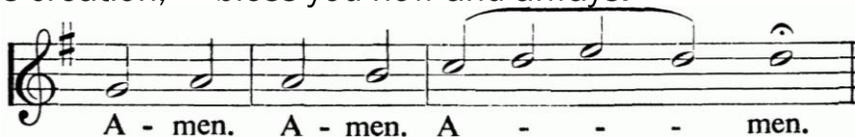
Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. In this season of Lent, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*BLESSING

Leader: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #335

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" TEXT: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877 MUSIC: Irish tune

"For the Bread Which You Have Broken" TEXT: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt. MUSIC: *Gross Catalisch Gesangbuch*, Nurnberg, 1637; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823-1895 TEXT © Robert F. Jeffreys Jr.

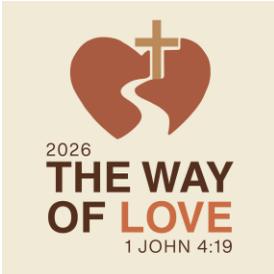
"Create in Me a Clean Heart" MUSIC: J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739 PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 MUSIC: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

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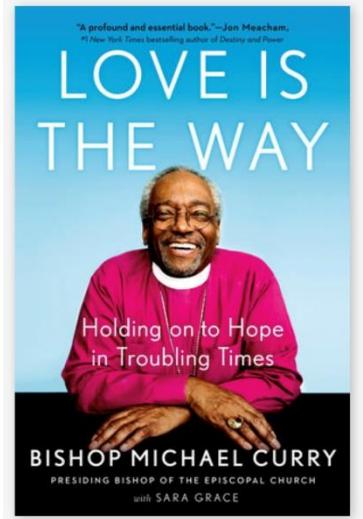
Smile, God loves you!

The Way of Love!



Welcome to **2026: The Way of Love!** As our scripture verse for this year reminds us, **“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19).** As we journey together with Jesus, we have the great opportunity to encourage each other to grow in both our appreciation for, and reflection of, the love of God.

A 12-session collection of devotions written by leaders from across Northwestern Ohio is available on the Synod website. These 15 to 20 minute devotions are ideal for when church council gathers, when committees or staff meet, or for use at any regular gathering. Each devotional highlights one of the questions addressed by the twelve chapters of our Book of the Year, ***Love is the Way: Holding on the Hope in Troubling Times*** by Bishop Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.



Wednesday Lent Bible Study

You are invited to join St. Luke’s Lutheran on the Wednesdays of Lent (beginning February 25) as we explore what love is, how it is manifested and what our part is in the world. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with discussion to follow. Hope to see you there!

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

Calendar of Events:

Sun. Mar. 1 – 8:00 A.M. Worship Service w/Holy Communion

Sun. Mar 1 – 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

Wed. Mar. 11 – 3:00 P.M. Church Council Meeting

Readers for January

Mar. 1 - David Sharninghouse

Mar. 8 - Lori McDaniel

Mar. 15 – Carol Cary

Mar. 22 – Linda Ross

Mar. 29 – Jerry McCullough

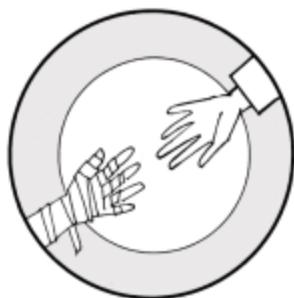
In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Sue Maki, Carol & David Cary, Betty Hornbeck, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Teri Zent, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Kris, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops & Ellery Paige Robinson. 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.

FYI: The new bathroom is finished, and it looks fabulous. Our new front doors will be done as soon as the weather gets a little warmer. They will be painted RED, like the ones we have now. We want to help our church grow. We can all help with this; you can do your part by inviting family and friends to come and join us on Sunday mornings. If we all just ask one person, it could make a big difference in our growth. God be with us and guide us in this task. Amen

Celebration of Life: For Paul Maki will take place on April 11, at 12:00 P.M. The family and friends will gather in our Parish Hall for a meal and remembrance of Paul. There is no set time limit.

FYI: Don't forget to Direct your Choice Dollars before March 31, 2026.

Easter Breakfast: We plan to have a Easter Breakfast again this year. More to come later.



Sharing GOD'S STORY @ home

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life."

—John 11:25

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As you read, ask yourself: What do each of these stories have in common?

Sunday	John 11:1-44	Jesus Raises Lazarus
Monday	John 11:45-57	Concern About Jesus' Actions
Tuesday	John 12:1-11	Jesus Anointed at Bethany
Wednesday	John 12:12-19	Jesus Enters Jerusalem
Thursday	John 12:20-36	Greeks Want to See Jesus
Friday	John 12:37-50	Many Are Scared to Admit Their Faith
Saturday	Isaiah 6:1-10	Isaiah's Prophecy about the People
Sunday	John 13:1-17	Jesus Serves

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.

Buy a variety of paper products and donate items to a nearby food pantry.

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