

# FORERUNNER



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## From the Pastor....

In 2017, I celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. The actual date was October 10<sup>th</sup>, but we celebrated the week before Thanksgiving so my parents and Megan's parents could be present. I had originally thought it would be a simple affair, a time to mark the occasion when my parents were in town, but it turned into something much nicer than I had anticipated or imagined. Thank you again to Diane Gerkenmeyer for her kind words and all the people who worked behind the scenes to make that such a special day.

I am brining this up again, six months later, because in November we were given a gift and told it was to do something special – maybe a family trip. And, at the beginning of June we are going to Washington D.C. (Or we went to Washington D.C. depending on the speed of the U.S. Postal Service and when you get to read the newsletter). The boys and I have never been, so we are looking forward to touring as many sights as we can see in four and a half days. Megan didn't get a chance to see Arlington Cemetery on her previous visits, so that is on our list too. We have tickets to tour the White House, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (requested by the boys) and Capitol Hill among other things.



I wanted to say thank you again to everyone who contributed to our gift. We will certainly enjoy the time away, but remember your thoughtfulness and generosity that made the trip possible. I have said before and I will say it again; I am honored to be your pastor and I am very grateful for the love and kindness of my St. John family.

## Faith Practice #3 Readings for the remainder of summer...

We will take a break from our weekend questions over the summer, but if you would like to keep reading, you finish the book of Acts; chapters 22-28. We read these chapters about Paul's arrest, imprisonment, and witness before various kings and rulers at the beginning of the Prison Letters selection late last summer but they would be good review. In the fall we begin reading through the Book of Nehemiah. If you would like to get a head start, there are study materials on the Northwestern Ohio Synod website. <http://nwos-elca.church>

*If you would like to submit a question for "Ask the Pastor", Biblical, theological, church related, anything you have been dying to ask a pastor, you can hand me a note, ask me after church, send an e-mail, or sneak into the church after dark and anonymously slide a sealed envelope under my office door. If I answer your question in print, I will not include your name unless you explicitly ask me to.*



# SUMMER SCHEDULE



**Summer Worship Hours**  
**begin June 2nd.**  
**Saturday 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday 9:00 AM**



## Worship Helpers needed!

We are running low on volunteers to assist in worship!  
 Where would you like to help?

We need ushers, lectors, communion servers, greeters and audio/video techs.

Do you like kids?

You could help with children's moments on Sunday mornings!  
 Do you like computers? Sign up to help upstairs with the computer and sound system.

Like working behind the scenes?

How about setting up communion this week?

Whatever your gift, there is a place for you!

No experience needed!

Just see Pastor, Worship Life, or LisaAnne in the office!



## Welcome to the Family!

Please take a moment and welcome the following new members to the St. John congregation family!

**Ben and Katie Sommers**

**Ben Sommers, II**

**Mark and Lucy Witt**

**Jason, Stephanie,**

**Owen and Everett Tank**

**Allen and Judith Yockey**

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**Summer Worship Schedule**

**Saturday at 5:00 pm**

**Sunday Worship 9:00 am**

**Deadline for the  
 July 2017 newsletter is**

**June 18th**

**Please send articles and/or  
 information to**

office@stjohnwilliston.org.



**"Creating and nurturing life  
 changing relationships based  
 on the love of God in  
 Jesus Christ,  
 so that we may grow in faith,  
 serve God and  
 serve our neighbor."**



*LisaAnne Gregg  
 Office*

*Administrator  
 9am—3pm*

*Mon. thru Fri.*





### **Thank You..**

Thank you so much for the wonderful service for Altaliena's baptism. We are excited to see her grow in faith as a child of God, in a great community. Thank you for the toddler bible and bag. Thank you, Again.

**Natalie, Kevin and Ataliena Symanski**

### **Thanksgiving..**

In Thanksgiving for all the birthday cards from Williston for my 80th birthday. "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus.."

**Judy Diener**

### **Many hands make light work....**

Thank you to the Forerunner Mailing Group who prepares the newsletter for mailing every month. Those who helped with last month's mailing were:

Linda Schlievert, Terry Gast, Marilyn Sandrock, Carolyn Lasseter, Betty Roecker, Allen Harder and Bill Kneirim.



### ***Serving God and our Community....***

Thank you to everyone that helped at the Genoa Food Pantry on May 19. We could not do it without all of our great volunteers!

Diane Hartman, Carol Vargo,  
Ben & Katie Sommers,  
Linda Schlievert, Carole Beamer  
Karry & Alea Loch, Beverly Harder  
Ben, Kim, Anna & Benjamin Sommers  
Marilyn Sandrock, Carolyn Lasseter  
Keith & Beverly Norwalk,  
Meghan Glenn  
Gene Bihn, Jan Sheahan,  
Emma Melter  
Delaney Hablitzel, Gene & Barb Myers  
Becky Tank, Cindy Hartman

Thank you to Carolyn Lasseter, Marilyn Sandrock, Gene Bihn, Becky Tank & Barb & Gene Myers for picking up groceries at Aldi & stocking the food pantry.

October 20th will be the next time we serve the food pantry.

**Cindy Hartman**



# Women of the ELCA

Only when we *give joyfully,*  
without hesitation or thought of gain,  
**can we truly know what love means.**



Our own Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton tells a story about something that happened when she was a pastor serving a congregation, and I'm delighted to retell it.

One Sunday, the ushers were solemnly taking up the collection as usual, and the people were glumly doing their duty and putting their offerings in the plate as usual.

A little girl in the assembly, seeing what was going on, nudged her dad and pleaded (and pleaded and pleaded) until he gave in and dug into his wallet and handed her a bill so she could make an offering, too.

## **Wait for me! Here's mine!**

The little girl ran up the aisle after the ushers, waving the bill in the air, calling, "Wait for me, wait for me! Here's mine! I want to put some in!" And as she dropped the money in the plate, she beamed with joy and then danced her way back to her dad's side.

Later, at coffee hour, Bishop Eaton—I mean, Pastor Eaton—was chatting with a parishioner and said, "Wasn't that little girl beautiful? It would be so wonderful if everyone could give as joyfully."

And the parishioner said, "Well, it's easy for her—it's not her money!"

And Pastor Eaton replied: "No." And she paused—a pregnant pause—and then went on, "It's her father's."

## **Message about giving**

If you've ever met Bishop Eaton, you can envision the twinkle in her eye as she tells that story. Cute as the story is, it carries a real theological message about giving.

In the parish where I grew up, we sang a little acclamation as the ushers carried our offerings up the aisle every Sunday: "All things come of thee, O



## **JUNE**

*Prayer by Anna Madsen*

**ESTHER CIRCLE:** Tuesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.  
**Bible Study:** Beverly Harder  
**Hostesses:** Diane Hartman

**REBEKAH CIRCLE:** Tuesday, June 5 7:30 p.m.  
**Bible Study:** Mary Jean Schimmel

**DORCAS CIRCLE:** Thursday, June 7, Out to eat  
Meet at the church at 12 noon  
**Bible Study:** Group study

**WELCA Board Meeting**  
Monday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.

Lord, and of thine own have we given thee." That's the same message as Bishop Eaton's story.

## **Eagerly and joyfully**

Everything we have comes to us from our loving and generous God, just as that little girl's offering came from her loving and generous dad. Everything. When we give to Women of the ELCA, when we [contribute to Katie's Fund](#), when we make a designated gift through Women of the ELCA to Lutheran Disaster Response, we are simply using what God has already given us to support God's work.

That little girl asked eagerly and gave joyfully. Can you imagine how she felt as she ran to support God's work with all she had? Can you imagine how she thanked her dad for making it possible? Can you imagine doing the same?



## **Katie's Fund and Katie's Fund Current:**

Named for Katharina von Bora Luther, the wife of Martin Luther, our endowment and its corresponding current fund support leadership development, living theology, and global connections.



# CONFIRMED

## In Faith

The following young women affirmed their baptism and were confirmed in a special worship service on May 20th.

Mallory June Nelson

Kara Jean Quigg

Lauren Jennifer Martin

Lauren Marie LaRue

Aubrey Kay Lee

*Congratulations, Sisters in Christ!*

Loving Father,

I INVITE YOU INTO MY LIFE **TODAY**

& MAKE MYSELF **AVAILABLE** TO YOU.

HELP ME TO BECOME **the Best Version of Myself**

BY SEEKING YOUR WILL & BECOMING A LIVING EXAMPLE

OF YOUR **LOVE** IN THE **WORLD**.

Open my Heart TO THE AREAS OF MY LIFE THAT **NEED** Change.

IN ORDER FOR ME TO CARRY OUT THE **MISSION**

& EXPERIENCE THE **JOY** FOR MY LIFE.

**INSPIRE** ME TO LIVE THE **faith in** WAYS THAT ARE

**DYNAMIC** & **ENGAGING**.

SHOW ME HOW TO **BEST** GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF MY PARISH.

MAKE OUR COMMUNITY **HUNGRY** FOR BEST PRACTICES

AND **continuous** LEARNING

GIVE ME **COURAGE** WHEN I AM **AFRAID**.

**hope** WHEN I AM **DISCOURAGED**,

AND CLARITY IN TIMES OF **DECISION**.

**Teach** ME TO **ENJOY** UNCERTAINTY & LEAD YOUR CHURCH

TO BECOME **all you** **IMAGINED** IT WOULD BE

FOR THE **PEOPLE** OF OUR TIMES.

**Amen.**

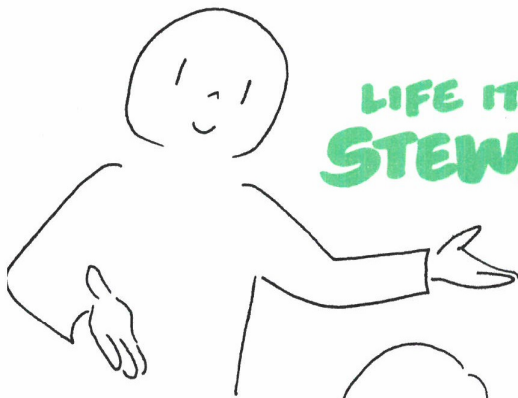


We welcome these children of God into the family of St. John through Holy Baptism.

Brooklyn Ann Wojciechowski (left) was baptized on April 14, 2018.  
Her parents are Thomas and Tracy Wojciechowski. Her sponsors are Caitlyn Shessler and Randy Grosjean.

Ataliena Joy Szymanski (right) was baptized on May 6, 2018.  
Her parents are Kevin and Natalie Szymanski. Her sponsors are Adam and Emily Swartz.

# June Stewardship Page



LIFE ITSELF IS A  
**STEWARDSHIP**

As Christians  
we know that  
our lives are  
sacred trusts.



We are the stewards  
of those lives; God  
depends on us to use  
them to accomplish  
God's purposes.

## June Verse

"You shall love the  
Lord your God  
with all your heart,  
and with all your  
soul, and with all  
your mind.'

This is the greatest  
and first  
commandment.

And a second is  
like it: 'You shall  
love your neighbor  
as yourself."

Matthew 22:37b-39

## June Prayer

*O God,*

*Bless our families, friends and fellow church members. Bind us  
together in your love so we may rejoice in the peace and  
blessings for all our days.*

*In Jesus Name we pray.*



# St. John Youth Group News

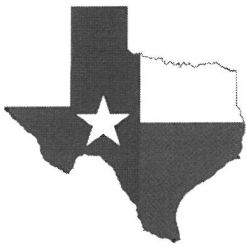
June, 2018

## ELCA National Youth Gathering

June 27-July 1

After all of the planning, fund-raising, and dreaming, it's finally time! At the end of the month, ten youth and four ad will travel to Houston, Texas for five days of service, learning, worship, and fun. Thank you to everyone who bought Chicken Paprikash dinners, Olive Branch Dinners, Easer Breakfasts, made 144 Fundraiser Donations, and supported us in other various ways too numerous to mention.

Please keep these young men and women in your prayers that week. Pray for safe travels, pray for the people we will meet and interact with, and pray that we all may have



a positive faith strengthening experience, gaining enthusiasm and excitement we can bring back home and apply to our lives.

We look forward to telling you about our trip when we get back to Ohio.



## Congratulations to our Confirmands

Congratulations to our Eighth Graders; Lauren L, Aubrey, Lauren M, Mallory, and Kara who affirmed their baptism on May 20th!

## Williston Encounter

If any older youth are available Wednesdays at noon, we would love to have join us for Williston Encounter. Sometimes help is needed in the kitchen or with activities, but we mostly need 'ambassadors'; people to welcome our guest and make them feel at home at St. John.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Kayaking July 30; location to be determined

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Upcoming Youth Activities/Events*

**June 6 - Williston Encounter**  
Maumee Bay Nature Center

**June 11-15 Vacation Bible School**  
*(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)*

**June 13 - Williston Encounter**  
Allen Township Fire Department

**June 20 - Williston Encounter**  
Jake the Snake

**June 27 - Williston Encounter**  
St. John Carnival

**June 27-July 1 - National Youth Gathering, Houston, TX**

**July 30 - Youth Group Kayaking**  
*Location TBD*

## Bulletin Board Pictures

*If you would like any of the pictures from the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office, and they have been there longer than a week, feel free to take them home. (Help make room for more!)*

## CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher. You don't want to start your 8th grade year with a deficit.

Youth/Parents: If you have an idea for an activity, please contact Pastor O'Brien and he will help you make it happen.



# STEPHEN Ministry

*God's love in action*



**Stephen Ministers are available by appointment and are trained to provide one-on-one emotional & spiritual care.**

## stephen MINISTRY

### God's Love in ACTION

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties—

- loss of a loved one
- spiritual crisis
- cancer
- hospitalization
- imprisonment
- disability
- discouragement
- divorce
- rehabilitation
- job loss
- loneliness
- many other challenges

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation—and why we have Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of caregiving training to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you—privately and confidentially—on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, support, and remind you of Christ's presence in your life.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself, a family member, or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or someone else you know—inside or outside our congregation—talk with one of our pastors or Stephen Leaders.

## PRAYERCHAIN



*"Whatever you ask for in prayer  
with faith,  
you will receive."  
Matthew 21:22*

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John.

If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003, cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing on. Thank you!



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## ELCA presiding bishop's pastoral message on situation in Gaza

Like so many here in our country and around the world, I am appalled and saddened by yesterday's escalation of Israeli military action against protesters in Gaza. Many reports indicate that at least 60 Palestinians, including six children, have died and more than 2,000 have been injured as a result of Israel's disproportionate use of force. Our church will support a planned medical mission from The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem to Gaza to assist the wounded.

I join Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of our partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), who today said:

*We mourn with the families of the dead and dying and pray for the recovery of the injured. We believe that violent actions against the Palestinian civilians will hinder the potential for peace and reconciliation efforts between Israel and Palestine and will only lead to more violence and bloodshed.*

I endorse his call "upon the Israeli government to show restraint and to pursue negotiations with Palestinian leaders rather than choosing violent action against unarmed protesters."

Yesterday's events should also be seen in the context of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. When that decision was announced late last year, I said:

*This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult.*

I also support the ELCJHL's long-standing position, affirmed by Bishop Azar today, that "any final status agreement will include Jerusalem as a shared city for Jews, Christians and Muslims with free access to holy sites for all and that it must serve as capital of both Palestine and Israel."

Always, but especially in this time of deep distress, I urge us all to join his call to "continue to pray, advocate and faithfully work towards a peaceful and just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

**What's distinctly Lutheran about our witness to the gospel? ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton talks about what it means to be a Lutheran in the 2018 Synod Assembly video.**

**Visit the video at <http://bit.ly/WeAreLutheran>**



Almost 80 percent of all the world's food is produced on small farms, where family members often work side by side. Growing food is just one of the many ways farmers care for God's creation and help share God's gifts with others so that all are fed. Yet half of the world's 815 million undernourished people live on farms themselves. Without access to adequate resources and training, farming families can often go hungry. And when the unexpected happens – drought, flooding, conflict and beyond – fewer farmers can make it through. Access to livestock, seeds, tools and training can change everything. Parents can earn income to save, kids can go to school, and their families can stay safe and secure in their homes. With support from ELCA World Hunger, communities around the world are working together to end hunger – for good.

ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge is a yearlong, youth driven fundraising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. Many youth and youth groups will raise funds ahead of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in June, and many will bring their offerings to the Gathering. At the Interactive Learning Space in the NRG Center, youth and adults will have the chance to participate in an unforgettable experience designed to immerse them in what it's like to be a small-holder farmer around the world. The goal of ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge is to raise \$500,000 or more in 2018 to equip communities around the world and in the United States with livestock, seeds, tools, training and other agriculture-related activities to turn a hungry season into a hopeful season. And now, thanks to generous friends of the ELCA, all gifts toward the Global Farm Challenge will be matched – dollar for dollar – up to \$515,000, so together we can raise more than \$1 million to create healthier families, stronger economies and a future filled with hope.



**A Message from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin**

In one of my past e-mail blasts, I mentioned praying the "Jesus Prayer" during my long-distance runs.

**"Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"**

This prayer has its Biblical roots in Mark 10:44-48, the Healing of Blind Bartimaeus. Jesus and His disciples are leaving Jericho, when a blind beggar, named Bartimaeus, begins to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus hears the cry of the blind man and grants Bartimaeus the mercy of healing. Blind eyes now see! **"Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"**

Exactly when the Jesus Prayer moved from the pages of Scripture to the petition of our hearts is unknown. Tradition tells us that the Jesus Prayer was used extensively in the monasteries of the Eastern (Orthodox) Church. In the late 1800's, an unknown Russian monk wrote a book called *The Way of the Pilgrim*. It's a great story about a monk who travels across Russia searching for a way to live out St. Paul's challenge to **"Pray without ceasing"** (1 Thessalonians 5:17). He travels to churches and monasteries. He meets with priests and abbots, but no one can help him. Finally, his journey takes him to one of the startsi, a wise and experienced spiritual elder. The elder introduces the pilgrim to the Jesus Prayer, and teaches him how to pray it, over, and over, and over, as a spiritual mantra. **"Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"**

The old starts instructs the inquisitive pilgrim, **"Sit down alone and in silence. Lower your head, shut your eyes, breathe in and out gently, and imagine yourself looking into your own heart. Carry your mind, that is, your thoughts, from your head to your heart. As you breathe out, say 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.' Say it moving your lips gently, or simply say it in your mind. Try to put all other thoughts aside. Be calm, be patient, and repeat the process very frequently."**

Dear Friends in Christ, give the Jesus Prayer a try. Set the timer on your phone for 3 minutes. As the prayer becomes more familiar you can add more time. Find a comfortable place to sit or kneel at home, at work, or in church. Slowly repeat in your mind and silently on your lips, **"Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"** Pray this simple prayer again and again. Allow the prayer to flow from your mind and lips to your heart (this will take practice, but it will eventually happen). Thoughts and distractions will come. That's ok. Just go back to repeating the prayer. **"Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!"** The more you practice this prayer, the less frequent the distractions will be. When your time is up, give thanks to God, and get on with your day.

*Did You Know?*

The NWOS has a Prayer Group on Facebook.



Currently, there are about 215 members and counting.

We welcome you to post your prayer requests on this group page remembering not to post a name without permission. Please add others to the group - As Martin Luther said "Pray and Let God Worry"

Let us come together in prayer.



**Grounded in Faith,  
Growing to Serve**

*"When each separate part works as it should,  
the whole body grows, and builds itself up through love." Ephesians 4:16*

*"As you breathe out, say 'Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me.' Say it moving your lips gently, or simply say it in your mind."*

Synod Assemblies

There were 11 synod assemblies held this past weekend. 6 of those assemblies elected a Bishop:

- Bishop Shelly Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod was elected to her 2nd term
- Bishop Jim Gonia of the Rocky Mountain Synod was elected to his 2nd term
- Bishop Ann Svenningsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod was elected to her 2nd term
- Bishop elect Patricia Davenport of the South-eastern Pennsylvania Synod was elected to her 1st term
- Bishop elect Sue Briner of the Southwestern Texas Synod was elected to her 1st term
- Bishop elect Viviane Thomas-Breitfield of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin was elected to her 1st term

Please keep these leaders and the synods they are called to serve in your prayers.



# Online Giving, an easy and secure way to give to the church

**Simple, Safe and Just a Click Away!**



**Online giving is now available at St. John.**

**Simply visit our web site at [www.stjohnwillistion.org](http://www.stjohnwillistion.org) and click on the “online giving” link at the top of the page.**

**You may give one time or set up reoccurring donations to automatically give from your checking or savings account.**

You may scan this QR code to visit our mobile giving site.



*Not online? See LisaAnne in the office to set up an account or fill in an “Authorization Form” and return it to the office.*

## The Luther Home of Mercy 90th Anniversary Auction and Dinner was a big SUCCESS!

A sold out crowd filled our gymnasium for food, fellowship and spirited bidding. Thank you for your support!



A full house of friends, family and supporters!



Auctioning off patio furniture is a tough job!

Many of  
**The Swingsters**  
perform for  
Luther Home  
with various  
groups through-  
out the year.  
Loren Kline (on  
bass) has  
supported our  
ministry with his  
musical talents  
for more than  
60 years.



## Luther Home of Mercy at Williston News



### *Thankful for Generations of Support*

*Luther Home of Mercy volunteers Kim and Anna Sommers (pictured L), pictured with JoElaine Schimming, represent the third and fourth generation from their family to be involved in our ministry. Kim's grandmother, Edna Sandrock, moved to Williston from Iowa to serve as live-in Direct Care Staff in the 1940s.*



# Williston Encounter is coming!

*We are looking for volunteers to help with this wonderful outreach! Here is who is needed:*

**Activity Helpers:** *We have scheduled activities, so you will not need to plan the activity, but we will need people to help and participate. This could mean anything from playing games with the kids to basic crowd control" to keep them from wandering off. We need at least two people to sign up, but we welcome as many people as want to help each week!*

**Bible Study Leaders:** *This is less intimidating than it sounds. It is simply telling a Bible Story or giving a short lesson and leading a prayer before our meal. We have a selection of Sunday School lessons available or you may use your own. Pastor will also be available for technical and or moral support!*

**Lunch Coordinators:** *The Lunch Coordinator is the person with a team responsible for serving the noon meal. This person purchases, prepares and cleans-up. Now, this does not mean one person does all the work. You are encouraged to form a team and solicit help from members, family and friends. We do have Williston Encounter funds available, so you may be reimbursed for your purchases.*

*Sign up to volunteer outside the Pastor's Office.*



**The fun begins on June 6th!**  
**Join us every Wednesday**  
**from NOON to 1:30 pm for lunch, stories,**  
**fun and activities.**

**Each week a new activity is planned**  
**for kids of all ages.**

**June 6** – Ohio Native Wildlife with Maumee Bay  
Nature Center!

**June 13** -Vacation Bible School Week!

**June 20** – Jake the Snake and his Reptile Friends!

**June 27**– Carnival Games!

**July 11**-Nature's Nursery-Caring for Critters

**July 18**– Painting with Mary!

**July 25**-Hot Dogs, Ice Cream and Wiffle Ball!

**Come for lunch! Stay for fun!**



**Vacation Bible School**  
**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**June 11-15, 2018**  
**9 AM-Noon**

**Register online at [www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)**  
**or by filling out a registration form.**





**St. John- Williston  
High Seas Expedition  
Vacation Bible School  
June 11-15, 2018**

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Home telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last school grade completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home congregation (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to child:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list any allergies the VBS staff should be aware of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Yarn Anyone?

## Stewardship in Action!

Shirley Berger has joined a Knit and Crochet Group at Pat Catan's Craft Store in Oregon.

They collect left over yarn or crocheted rectangles to join together to make baby and adult blankets for those in need.

Yarn, of any color, may be placed in the basket in the Narthex.

Rectangles, of any color, should be 7" x 9" and made from #4 weight, acrylic yarn.

A small (baby) blanket consists of 36 blocks and a larger blanket (adult size) consists of 49 blocks.

Once these beautiful blocks are crocheted together to form a blanket, they are donated to shelters or shipped to areas where there has been a flood, hurricane, fire, etc.

No monetary donations are accepted.

If you would like more information on this Christian Stewardship Ministry, please call Shirley Berger at 419-836-3311



## Father's Day Diaper Drive!

In honor of Father's Day, we are collecting diapers and baby items for Heartbeat of Ottawa County.

Those needs include:

Diapers: All sizes accepted but larger sizes are preferred. All brands.

Baby wipes.

Baby lotions, soaps and shampoos.

Layette items and baby clothes for the Heartbeat Boutique.

**Any items may be dropped off at the church office or may be left outside the office door after hours. They will be delivered to Heartbeat on June 18th. Thank you!**

*At Heartbeat we offer the opportunity to get beyond the unexpected to the solution. We are a life-affirming outreach to area women and men experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Offering unconditional love, active help,*



## Genoa Community Food Pantry

Needs for June  
Boxed Instant Rice,  
Ramen Noodles  
(no expired food, please!)

**EVERY  
BLOOD DONOR  
IS A HERO**



American  
Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

**Get in the LOOP and help us save lives!  
St. John Williston and Elliston Zion UMC have  
partnered to create a "Blood Drive Loop!"**

Blood drives at these churches are spaced out 52 or more days apart to enable those giving the gift of life to stay in a pattern or "loop" to give blood at the same two churches on an ongoing basis.

**Honor Your Father by Saving Lives!**

**Elliston Zion UMC Sunday, June 17**

**Noon to 5 PM (note the earlier time!)**

**Lunch and a gift to those who present to give the gift of life!**

Sign up today at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call LisaAnne at the church office (419-836-5514) to make an appointment.

**The need is constant! The gratification is instant!**

**YOU can save a life!!**



# **BAUMANN AUTO GROUP**

## **16TH ANNUAL BIG CHARITY RAFFLE**

*100% Of Vehicle Donated By Baumann Auto Group*

**WINNER WINS CHOICE OF**

**NEW CHEVROLET CAMARO**



**NEW FORD MUSTANG**



**NEW DODGE CHALLENGER**



## **100% Of Proceeds To Benefit**

- Liberty Center of Fremont - SCAT of Tiffin-
- Community Hospice Care Tiffin-
- ProMedica Hospice - Safe Harbor of Sandusky -
- Ruth Ann's House of Port Clinton - Parker's Purpose -
- CASA of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Co. -
- First Step of Seneca, Sandusky, Wood & Wyandot Co. -
- Back To The Wild - Easter Seals -
- NAMI of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot County -
- The Salvation Army of Ottawa County -
- Riders Unlimited - Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund -
- F.A.C.T. of Seneca Co. - Genoa Area Food Pantry -
- Oak House of Port Clinton - Arc of Ottawa Co.-
- Village House of Fremont -

**\$5.00 PER TICKET**

**100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY!**

**TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN  
THE PAST 15 YEARS \$913,832**

Tickets will be available at the church before and after various services and in the office Mon-Fri.





# THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.

2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

**JUNE 27-JULY 1 + HOUSTON, TX**

GATHERING@ELCA.ORG + 888-411-3522 + ELCA.ORG/GATHERING

FOR BY **GRACE** YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. - EPHESIANS 2:8

#ELCAYG2018

PRE-GATHERING EVENTS + JUNE 24-27

**myte** the **+Able**

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENT OF THE ELCA



**Houston Bound!**  
**Thank you for**  
**your support!**







## 7th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

*Proceeds to benefit St. John Good Samaritan Fund*

(Good Samaritan Fund assists with emergency requests from individuals and families of the community.)

**All Golfers Welcome and Needed!**

### **Foursome Team Scramble** **Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018**

**Chippewa Golf Club**

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

12:00pm—Registration

1:00pm—Shot Gun Start

\$65 per player  
18 Holes with cart  
Includes Meal

**PRIZES PRIZES**  
**PRIZES**



# FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



7th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/16/2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No



# Church Council Highlights

## Council Meeting HIGHLIGHTS- April 19, 2018

**Pastor's Report:** Average attendance for April was 206.0. Last year's average attendance was 207.2

Pastor had 7 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family visits, 3 committee group meetings: 1 community/youth/fellowship events, 3 professional/clergy activities, 7 classes/Bible studies & 1 baptism

Baptism: Presided at the baptism of Brooklyn Ann Wojciechowski, daughter of Tommy and Tracy Wojciechowski.

New Members: (technically a May activity) We had a new member class on May 7 and welcomed new members on the 12th and 13th.

Ben and Katie Sommers; Ben Sommers Jr., Jason, Stephanie, Everett and Owen Tank: Mark and Lucy Witt and Judy and Allen Yocky.

Youth Gathering: We are within \$400 of our fundraising goal. On behalf of the youth, MANY thanks to the congregation for their support in helping us prepare for this trip.

Williston Encounter: Williston Encounter begins June 6TH. The schedule is finalized and a volunteer signup sheet has been posted..

Confirmation: Confirmation is Sunday May 20th. Having completed all the classroom work, the required number of service points, sermon notes, and a successful exit interview, I recommend the following young women for the rite of Affirmation of Baptism, Aubrey Lee, Lauren Martin, Kara Quigg, Mallory Nelson, and Lauren LaRue. Motion was approved. Thanks to all the Adults that helped with the reviews.

**Christian Community Life:** reported we are selling tickets for the Baumann Auto Group Big Charity Raffle. Ticket are \$5.00 and 100% of the tickets we sell goes to Genoa Food Pantry. You could win a Camaro, Challenger or Mustang. Drawing will be October 13. Tickets will be available in the office and before various services between now and September 1.

St John's is in charge of the Food Pantry on May 19. We need people to help. Hours are from 9:00am to noon. We sent out about 125 Easter colored Pictures. We are all set for Moms and Dads Day. Planning to send popcorn to Vets in September. Three of the Wall of Honor posters on display in the basement of completely filled out and two more are ready to fill. If you have someone you would like to submit, contact Cheryl Berger [419.345.3941](tel:419.345.3941). August 11 -27 we will be collecting new and gently used equipment for Life Bridge. More to follow.

**Evangelism:** reported Final plans were made for the Genoa Homecoming parade. We will be in need of walkers, riders and wrapped candy.

A special meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday of August (August 9 at 7pm). We will be going over the inactive list and mail out letters to those with children of Sunday School age. LisaAnne has the post cards to send out to other inactive members.

A new member class was held on May 7th. Nine have signed up to become members. We are planning a community Christmas tree lighting..

**Parish Education:** reported at we now have Arnold the Pig! In conjunction with the Sunday Schools fund raiser this last year for the ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge, Arnold will continue the fundraising similar to Charlie the Cat. The youth will take the money raised to the gathering and ELCA will match the funds. The May Noisy Offering brought in \$121.44.

May 20 is the last day for Sunday school. Gift certificates will be given to the teachers.

A 6th grade catechism teacher is needed. VBS plans are going well

**Stewardship Committee:** reported no current update on the Pfeiffer House. No current update on the Golf outing. Stewardship page in the forerunner continuing.

Shirley Berger has been working with a group at Pat Catan's store in Oregon every Monday evening at 5:00pm. You can take your left over yarn to the store and place them in the barrels outside the classroom. For more information please contact Shirley Berger

**Worship Life:** reported committee has coverage of time off for Pastors vacation days. Summer worship time change will be the first weekend in June. Worship Life is still a member short.

**Property:** reported that the sanctuary windows will be re-glazed. Automatic light on/off have been installed in the restrooms. After a lengthy discussion the motion off time at ten minutes seemed an appropriate time.

**New Business:** Camera on the balcony is due to the motion of the balcony.

No committee meetings in June/July/August unless called by committee.

No Council meeting in July

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary





## Worship Assistants

### SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

#### Acolytes

- 2 Anna Sommers
- 9 Aidan O'Brien
- 16 Peyton Donnelly
- 23 Mallory Nelson
- 30 Aubrey Lee

#### Lectors

- 2 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 9 Shelley Snider
- 16 Amy Schloegl
- 23 Nancy Strohscher
- 30 Matt Milbrodt

#### Ushers

- 2 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 9 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis  
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow
- 16 Owen & Marty Schloegl, Dean and Mary Lowe
- 23 Ken & Pat Sievert Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 30 John & Helen Meyer, Gerald & Jeanette Lentz

#### Communion Servers

- 2 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 9 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Nancy Strohscher
- 16 Carol Vargo, Amy Schloegl, Wayne Bauman
- 23 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Nancy S.
- 30 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Matt Milbrodt

#### Communion Set-up

- 2 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 9 Joan Truman
- 16 Brenda Keeley
- 23 Carol Vargo
- 30 Ruth Petersen

#### Door Greeters

- 2 Dean and Mary Lowe
- 9 Jo Elaine Schimming
- 16 Jack Mathews
- 23 Carol Vargo
- 30 Joni Hillman

#### Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Traci Brown / JJ Milbrodt
- 9 Ron Gerkenmeyer / Amy Bihn
- 16 Phil and Matt Milbrodt
- 23 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 30 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

### SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship

#### Acolytes

- 3 Sophia Cashen
- 10 Evan Kessler
- 17 Tucker Fredericksen
- 24 Lauren LaRue

#### Lectors

- 3 Deanna Neuman
- 10 Sophia Cashen
- 17 Mike Mann
- 24 Marcia Morgan

#### Ushers

- 3 Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 10 Bob Kapp, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 17 Dan & Andy Kessler, Dan Nelson
- 24 Jeff Schimming, Bob Kapp, Tim Titgemeyer

#### Communion Servers

- 3 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 10 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vohelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 17 Roland Sandrock, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp
- 24 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen

#### Communion Set-up

- 3 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 10 Heather Cashen
- 17 Melissa Lammers
- 24 Diana Pfaff

#### Door Greeters

- 3 Deb Wehner
- 10 Carole Beamer
- 17 Melissa Lammers
- 24 Dave Neuman

#### Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 Alex Lammers
- 10 Andrew Titgemeyer
- 17 Joel Mann
- 24 Paul Beamer

*Thank you for  
serving the Lord!  
If you cannot  
make your  
assignment, please  
make  
arrangements for  
a replacement or  
let the office know  
as soon as  
possible.*





## Worship Assistants

### SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

#### Acolytes

7 Aidan O'Brien  
14 Lauren Martin  
21 Anna Sommers  
28 Mallory Nelson

#### Lectors

7 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
14 Shirley Berger  
21 Gene Bihn  
28 Doris Titgemeyer

#### Ushers

7 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Jim and Dilly Schimming  
14 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis  
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow  
21 Ken and Pat Sievert, Dean and Mary Lowe  
28 Gene & Amy Bihn, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

#### Communion Servers

7 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
14 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Wayne Bauman  
21 Carol Vargo, Diane Gerkenmeyer, Al Brown  
28 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Nancy Strohscher

#### Communion Set-up

7 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
14 Dilly Schimming  
21 Traci Brown  
28 Ruth Petersen

#### Door Greeters

7 Shelly Snider  
14 Joni Hillman  
21 Jo Elaine Schimming  
28 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer

#### Sound/Projector Techs

7 Traci Brown / JJ Milbrodt  
14 Phil and Matt Milbrodt  
21 Ron Gerkenmeyer / Amy Bihn  
28 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

### SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

#### Acolytes

1 Sophia Cashen  
8 Evan Kessler  
15 Tucker Fredericksen  
22 Sophia Cashen  
29 Lauren LaRue

#### Lectors

1 Christopher Pfaff  
8 Ann Mann  
15 Melissa Lammers  
22 Roland Sandrock  
29 Marcia Morgan

#### Ushers

1 Tim Titgemeyer Family  
8 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen  
15 Dan & Andy Kessler, Dan Nelson  
22 Jeff Schimming, Cebie & Tim Titgemeyer  
29 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Andy Kessler

#### Communion Servers

1 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer  
8 Heather Cashen, Ann Mann, Mike Mann  
15 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler  
22 Roland Sandrock, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp  
29 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen

#### Communion Set-up

1 Pam LaRue  
8 Heather Cashen  
15 Nancy Brittan  
22 Cebie Titgemeyer  
29 Diana Pfaff

#### Door Greeters

1 Marcia Morgan  
8 Melissa Lammers  
15 Linda Schlievert  
22 Karen Jeffers  
29 Deb Wehner

#### Sound/Projector Techs

1 Andy Kessler  
8 Alex Lammers  
15 Joel Mann  
22 Andy Titgemeyer  
29 Paul Beamer



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