

# FORERUNNER

Volume 0639 Issue 264  
April 2018



## Inside this issue:

Words of Thanks	2
Memorials and Sympathy	3
Circle News/WELCA	4
From the Bishop	5
Stewardship Page	6
Easter Flowers	7
Missions	8
Faith Practice #3 Readings	9
Scholarships	10
Online Giving	11
Online Giving Form	12
St. John Youth Page	13
Lutheran Ministries Info Page	14
Vacation Bible School	15
VBS Registration	16
Stephen Ministries	17
Council Highlights	18
Finance	19
April CELEBRATIONS!	20
April Worship Assistants	21
May Worship Assistants	22
April Calendar	23

## ASK THE PASTOR

### "Love the Sinner and Hate the Sin"

Someone asked me about the saying "Love the sinner and hate the sin"; is that in the Bible, how do we do that, are we supposed to do that? While I was working on a response I came across an article from Living Lutheran (from June 2015) about adages, proverbs, sayings that help us simplify the complexity of life. I posted the answer to that question already (September 2016) But I would like to share the article's responses to some other popular adages. The author's name is posted at the end.

"Part of God's plan"

When someone experiences a loss or crisis, perhaps no religious platitude is uttered more often than some variation of "This is part of God's plan." It usually comes from a human desire to believe that, despite the pain and feeling that life is spinning out of control, God is totally in charge — but in ways no one can really understand or explain. But saying it usually doesn't help.

A sad consequence of this thinking is that it ultimately lifts up a picture of an omnipotent God who is arbitrary and often cruel. Somehow the experience of losing someone in a car accident, a serious illness or any one of thousands of other sad scenarios is just part of God acting as grand puppeteer and manipulating the world. Although no one can tell us what the final good will be, we are supposed to receive consolation knowing that our misfortune is really a good thing.

Contrast that with the God we meet in Jesus. Rather than manipulating our circumstances to accomplish some nebulous plan, the God we meet in Jesus enters into our circumstances (even the out of control ones). This God suffers with us and for us to bring us life, even in the face of death itself. Scripture tells us: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Some may encourage us to cling to a God who is in charge even when it feels like life is out of control. But the God we meet in Jesus offers persistent and costly love, present with us in all things and suffering with us and even on our behalf.

— David D. Daubert

***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.***



### **Thank You**

Thank you very much for the prayers and cards for the last month. A very special thank you to Pastor O'Brien for his home visits and serving communion. A thank you to the Women of the Church who provided desserts and served at the luncheon. A very special thank you to the Dorcas Circle for their numerous cards, cookies, visits and flowers.

### **The Family of Mary Mathews**

### **Working as a Team!**

Thank you to the great Forerunner Mailing Group who worked so hard to make sure the last Forerunner was ready to go!

Linda Schlievert  
Betty Roecker  
Carolyn Lasseter  
Marilyn Sandrock  
Allen Harder  
Terry Gast  
Audrey Milbrodt

### **St. John family,**

Our thanks to you for prayers, cards and food at the time of Clyde's illness and passing. Thanks to Pastor O'Brien for visits to the ICU with comforting prayers when we called and an especially fitting memorial service. Thanks to the women of the church for setting up, serving and cleaning up the funeral luncheon. All your love and kindness will not be forgotten.

**Mary Schimming, Loren  
and Jean Sandrock, Deborah  
Amboski, Karl and Roberta Orians**

### **Thank You for Prayers**

Thank you to the members of the Prayer Chain requesting special petitions for Clyde Sandrock. This disease moved so fast. I had never heard of C-Diff previously! Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated.

**Mary Schimming**

### **Pancake Dinner**

The Shrove Tuesday dinner was not quite as busy as in the past but we still enjoyed the fellowship. Thank you to those who donated time and food. It was very thoughtful. Thank you so much to the following workers:

Madelayne Saionzkowski  
Carol Vargo  
Alice Witt  
Phyllis Haefl  
Jim Vogelbacher  
Roland Sandrock  
Caleb Johnson  
Clarence and Wilma Smithers  
Deb and Lee Wehner  
Kennedy Donnelly  
Peyton Donnelly  
Tracy Donnelly  
Ann Mann  
Lindsey Cashen  
Sophia Cashen  
Mallory Nelson  
Lauren LaRue  
Aidan O'Brien  
Aubrey Lee  
Kris Lee  
Marilyn Sandrock  
Carolyn Lasseter  
Cheryl Berger

And anyone else I may have missed. You all made it an easy task. We even had a new chef trying out his flipping skills! Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed the dinner!

**Cheryl Berger**

### **The Forerunner**

is published monthly  
by St. John Lutheran Church  
Williston, Ohio  
21140 W. Toledo Street  
Corner of Main and Toledo St.

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien  
Home Telephone:  
419-972-4003

pastorobrien  
@stjohnwilliston.org

### **Worship Schedule**

**Saturday at 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday School 8:30 am**  
**Sunday Worship 9:45 am**

**Deadline for the  
May 2017 newsletter is  
April 23rd**

**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."**



Church  
Office  
Hours

LisaAnne Gregg  
Office Administrator  
Open office hours  
9am—3pm  
Mon. thru Fri.



# *Memorials and Gifts* **IN LOVING MEMORY**

**In Memory of Pat Delventhal**

Richard and Lenore Harmeyer

**In Memory of Doris Arndt**

Diane Dickinson

Janice Sheahan

**In Memory of Kris Johnson**

Richard and Lenore Harmeyer

Phil and Aubrey Milbrodt

Henry and Carol Krukemyer

Allen and Beverly Harder

**In Memory of Rolland Hansen**

Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

Teresa Powell

Ralph Hansen

Phil and Audrey Milbrodt

Janice Sheahan

**In Memory of Mary Mathews**

Dave and MaryAnn Glowczewski

Jane Swartz

Carole Beamer

Dale Klavinger

Rich & Joni Hillman

Mr & Mrs John Sebesta

Diane Sebesta

Doris Titgemeyer

Robert and Karen Larey

Diane Dickinson

Phil and Audrey Milbrodt

Henry and Carol Krukemyer

Janice Sheahan

Evalyn Witty

Cal & Marvel Nelson

**In Memory of Clyde Sandrock**

Marilyn Sandrock,

Carolyn Lasseter

Edna Sandrock

Gertrude Eckerman

Karl and Roberta Orians

Rob and Kristen Orians

Tracy Orians

Steve and Nancy Sabin

Arline Sabin

Bill and Julie Skilliter

Rich and Joni Hillman

Joe and Jill Worley

Phil and Audrey Milbrodt

Ray and Judy Robaszkiwitz

Gary Johnson and boys

Tom and Shelly Sheanwald

Christine Hamilton

Nathan and Ashley Egbert

John and Lori Orians and Family

JoElaine and Jeff Schimming

Ken and Patsy Sievert

Donald and Margaret Berger

Jim and Barbara Sanford

Loren Nowak

Denise and Lionel Norwell

Dean and Mary Lowe

Mary Harmeyer

Beth Johnson

Kevin and Charlotte Schimming and family

Ken Mapes

Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

Kevin and Kathy Fox

EJ and Suzette Croll

Ron and Shirley Lajti

Elaine Gardner and Allison Woods

Fred and Cindy Huss

Ron and Pam Farmer

Ed and Carolyn Bowlander

Ron and Liz Cashen

Darryl and Diane Traver

Ted and Patricia Ehrman

Thomas and Eileen Walterbach

Bob and Diane Kapp

John and Helen Meyer

Alan and Kaylene Nissen

Tom and Luann Schuffenecker

Jim and Dilly Schimming

Carolyn Sleek

John Harmeyer

MaryLou and Sherry Hansen

Mike and Carol Despones

Donna Mathews

Madelayne Saionzkowski

Tom and Joan Truman

Larry and Nancy Strohscher

Edna Rideout

Craig and Shawn Traver

Ken and Annamarie Rideout

Phyllis Parks

Tops 163 Club of Toledo

Lowell and Diane Hartman

Diane Dickinson

Ben & Kimberly Sommers and family

Gene and Amy Bihn

Richard and Shirley Crosskill

Audrey Bennett

Bernie Blausey

Ruth Petersen

Elaine Gruetter

Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson

Richard and Jane Phillips

Carole Beamer

Roland and Janice Sandrock

Ag Credit

Bob and Theresa Skilliter

Ina David

Doris Titgemeyer

Michael and Betty Csehi

Henry and Carol Krukemyer

Gertrude Henningsen

Allen and Beverly Harder

Margaret Swartz

Carol Vargo

Virgil and Betty Roecker

Janice Sheahan

Marlene and Butch Shoalts

Robert and Jane Skilliter III

Mary Schimming

Gerald Schimming family

Anita Montague family

Evalyn Witty

**In Memory of Michelle Benadum**

Lowell & Diane Hartman

Gary & LisaAnne Gregg

*\*if your name has been inadvertently omitted, please let the office know.*





**APRIL -The Prodigal Son**  
Luke 15:11-20

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tues. April 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study: Margaret Berger  
Hostesses: Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Janice Sheahan

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tues. April 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Bible Study: Carol Ambrose

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thurs. April 5, 1:30 p.m.  
Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting April 9, 7:00 p.m.



***“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!



**NEWS BRIEFS from WELCA**

**Women and justice social statement:  
What are you being called to say?**

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ released a draft social statement and wants your feedback. Consider responding on your own, forming a discussion group or attending a synodical hearing. You can find the draft social statement, its response form and related resources at [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://ELCA.org/womenandjustice). Responses are due by Sept. 30, 2018. The Holy Spirit speaks through this process of communal discernment: What are you being called to say?

**Faithful Friends make a difference!**

Have you heard about the Faithful Friends of Women of the ELCA? These especially dedicated women make a difference in the life of our community of women created in the image of God by giving regularly, every month— automatically! In fiscal year 2017, our Faithful Friends gave a total of \$12,268 to our church-wide organization by automatic withdrawal from either a checking account or a credit card. This is by far the easiest, most effective way to give generously to Women of the ELCA. Will you join these 66 Faithful Friends? It's easy to do. Sign up with a credit card online at [welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline](http://welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline) or download the form at [welca.org/faithfulfriends](http://welca.org/faithfulfriends). You can choose to give any monthly amount from \$10 on up. Thank you!

**Save our children; observe Rachel's Day**

Rachel's Day is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. At the 1996 Women of the ELCA triennial convention, voting members passed a memorial to encourage congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May as Rachel's Day, though it can be observed any time of the year. With the school shooting in Florida, this resource is especially timely. Rachel's Day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. Women of the ELCA offers a free downloadable Rachel's Day resource with information about how you can work within your community and congregation to combat gun violence. Consider using Rachel's Day resource at your church or in your community. The Rachel's Day resource includes a litany for use in a special Rachel's Day service. Find the resource at [welca.org/resources](http://welca.org/resources).

Taken from WELCA Interchange  
Download Interchange with clickable links by visiting the  
“Publications” tab at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).





## Women of the ELCA-North Central Conference Spring Gathering

"A Year of Prayer" "Lord, Teach Me to Pray"



Saturday, April 28th

St. Paul's New Rochester

14545 New Rochester Rd. Pemberville, Ohio

Registration begins at 8:30 \* Program begins at 9:00

Cost is \$10.00 includes lunch

Vicar Janelle Hennage will be the Speaker.

She is currently an intern at Bethlehem-Pemberville

Our offering will go to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo-Kitchen Project.

Women of the ELCA In Kind Offering: SOCKS for men, women and children to be donated to the Cherry Street Mission.

Questions: Sharon Moenter 419-873-5117 Registration forms available in the office.

### FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

**"Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So, I prayed to the God of heaven. Then I said to the king, "If**

**it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it." The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So, it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date" (Nehemiah 2:4-6).**

In Nehemiah chapter 2, King Artaxerxes grants Nehemiah permission to travel to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls. Notice two things in the passage above:

1. Nehemiah prays a prayer.
2. Nehemiah puts forth a plan.

When we first meet Nehemiah in chapter 1:1, it is during the month of Chislev. When Nehemiah appears before King Artaxerxes in chapter 2:1, it is the month of Nisan... four months later. So, what is Nehemiah doing for four months? Nehemiah is praying and planning.

Nehemiah points us to an important truth about leadership: in addition to a season of prayer there must also be a season of preparation. God honors a plan, and in four months' time Nehemiah prayerfully developed a plan. Great leaders are both "pray-ers" and planners. Great leaders seek God's will and then do the necessary homework.

I remember attending a Long-Range Team meeting a few years back. We had an assortment of ideas, but nothing was coming together. As I walked out to the car, the chairperson of the team, a man who had built a multi-million-dollar business from the ground up asked me, "So, what's your plan pastor? Where are you leading us?" I confessed, "I really don't know." He looked me in the eye and said, "You're our leader and we'll follow you, but you need to know where we're going." Those words were hard to hear, but I needed to hear them.

There is no substitute for the discipline of daily prayer and there is no substitute for a well thought out plan. So, tell me dear leader, how is your discipline of daily prayer and how are you coming with your God given plan?

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



Northwestern Ohio Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# April Stewardship Page

*Being a Generous Giver is a Spiritual Response to God's Goodness.*



A Christian steward serves GOD  
out of love and gratitude for these gifts  
knowing that it's **NOT** how much we have but  
what we **DO** with **WHAT WE HAVE**  
that is important.



Freely you have received;  
freely give.  
Matt. 10:8



## April Stewardship Verse

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there  
may be food in my house. And thereby put me to  
the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not  
open the windows of heaven for you and pour down  
for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Malachi 3:10



## April Stewardship Prayer

Lord, we know that all  
we have comes from you.  
Teach us to share  
willingly our time,  
talents, prayers and  
resources with a joyful  
and loving heart.

AMEN



***Thank You for Sharing***  
*Thank you for sharing your Easter flowers with  
the congregation during our Easter Worship.  
You may pick up your flowers following Easter  
Sunday service or this week Tues-Fri.  
from 9 to 3 PM.  
The office is closed on Monday.*



## In Loving Memory

Our Parents

Our parents-Ray & Lois Wehner,  
Ollie and MaryAnn Gruben

Emory Lasseter, Ralph Sandrock, Rob & Clara Lasseter,  
Frederick & Karen Sandrock and Jennifer Johnson

Our Parents and our Sisters

Jack Radon and John & Beth Radon

John, Maxine and Tom Blum

Paul Fredericksen, Sr. Joe & Laura Vincent,  
Andrew and Marie Fredericksen

Wade and Audrey Wolf, Arnold and Earl Johnson

Wade and Audrey Wolf and Earl Johnson

Kenneth Schimming

Ralph Sandrock, Frederick and Karen Sandrock and Jennifer Johnson

Evelyn Helwig and Paul Keener

John and Althea Wilhelm

Loved Ones

Carl Titgemeyer and Carl & Ella Kopfman

Marge Blausey

Lawrence Gruetter

Dan Beamer

Loved Ones

Clarence and Helen Schlievert

Patricia Delventhal

Dan Beamer and Helen Schlievert

Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Patricia Delventhal

Loved Ones

My Son, Bob Begell and My Mom, Rose Fleitz

## In Honor and Celebration

Christ Rising from the death

Bob and Diane Kapp

Our Grandchildren

Our friend, Carol Tank

God's many blessings

## By

Richard and Shirley Crosskill

Lee and Debbie Wehner

Carolyn Lasseter, Marilyn Sandrock and Edna Sandrock

Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

Susan Kozina

Jim Blum

Paul and Laura Fredericksen

Bob and Diane Kapp

Brad and Melissa Pope and family

JoElaine Schimming and family

Edna Sandrock

Jean and Leroy Fowler

Marlene Burke

Clarence and Wilma Smithers

Doris Titgemeyer

Bernard Blausey

Elaine Gruetter

Carole Beamer

Grace Johnson

Linda Schlievert

Kent Delventhal

Paul Beamer

Mike and Ann Mann

Jon and Brenda Keeley

Tony, Holly and Lily Sondergeld

Larry and Nancy Strohscher

LisaAnne Gregg

Ruth Petersen

Brad and Melissa Pope and family

Bob and Diane Kapp

Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Dickenson





St. John Family and Friends-

I am excited to share with the congregation that I will be attending a foreign service trip to Columbia this June! On this trip, a group of my classmates and I will be traveling to an impoverished village to build a basket ball court for the community. These concrete courts serve both as a play area and a permanent town square to otherwise dirt villages. Traveling to Columbia for this once in a lifetime opportunity requires that I raise \$2300 in total. Would you consider supporting me in this project? It is a unique chance to help God's poorest children and spread his message of love. If you are interested, please make a check out to Courts For Kids. Any donation is tax-deductible and 100% of what you give will go directly to my trip.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Andrew Titgemeyer

*Checks made out to COURTS FOR KIDS may be sent directly to Andrew or dropped off at the church office.*



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

**Get in the**  
**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.

The next blood drive in the loop is:

**The SPRING FLOWERS Blood Drive**  
**St. John Williston**  
**Sunday, April 8, 2018 1 PM to 6PM**  
**Lunch and a flower to those who donate!**

Sign up today at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call LisaAnne at the church office (419-836-5514) to sign up for either drive. Volunteers are needed to help serve at this event.

***The need is constant! The gratification is instant!***  
***YOU can save a life!!***

# Faith Practice #3 Readings

## ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



### Week of April 2

#### Acts 14

Paul and Barabas are forced to flee to Lystra and Derbe. In Lystra, Paul cures a lame man. Excited crowds declare that Paul and Barabas are Greek gods visiting the earth. Jews from Iconium and Antioch follow Paul, and persecute him.

### Week of April 9

#### Acts 15

Jews from Judea teach that circumcision is necessary for Christians. Paul and Barnabas dispute this. A council in Jerusalem debates the issue, and letters are sent to the churches of Antioch, Syria and Cilicia, saying that circumcision is not necessary, but only abstinence from idolatry, blood, things strangled, and sexual immorality.

### Week of April 16

#### Acts 16

Paul has a vision of a man inviting him to Macedonia, so Paul and his team travel to Phillipi (the foremost city of Macedonia) and stay with a devout women called Lydia. Paul casts a demon from a slave girl and arrested, beaten, and imprisoned. At night, the chains fall from them. The jailer is about to kill himself, thinking his prisoners have escaped, but Paul and Silas reveal themselves to him. The jailer and his family are then baptized.

### Week of April 22

#### Acts 17

Paul converts Jews in Thessalonica. Some envious Jews instigate a riot. Jews from Thessalonica follow Paul to Berea and force him to depart, however. Paul preaches in the synagogues of Athens. Paul also preaches to Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. Paul mentions an altar in Athens to 'the unknown god', and preaches the god that he knows.

### Week of April 29

#### Acts 18

Paul arrives in Corinth and stays with the tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla. Paul preaches to both Jews and Greeks. Paul receives encouragement in a vision to stay, and remains in Corinth for one and a half years. The Jews of Corinth attempt unsuccessfully to convict Paul before the civil authorities.





Scholarships for continuing education are available from St. John Lutheran Church. Applications may be picked up from the church office and are also available on the church's website. **The application deadline for all scholarships is April 23 2016.** You may return the completed forms to the church office any time before that date. **If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Pastor O'Brien, Carol Jensen, Deanna Neuman, and Al Brown.**

Below is a brief summary of the scholarships available. The scholarship committee recommends that anyone that has graduated high school within the last five years take a close look at the application requirements. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.

#### **TANK SCHOLARSHIP**

- This scholarship was established in 1997 and is provided through the generosity of Carol Tank and the late Robert Tank.
- In order to be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must be an active voting member of St. John Lutheran Church for at least three years before the start of the college semester that the applicant is applying for this scholarship.
- The applicant must attend a four year accredited college or university.
- The scholarship is a one year scholarship for \$500 that can be applied for by the applicant for their first or second year.
- A second scholarship is available for those attending Capital University.

#### **ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP (Lutheran Partners)**

- The purpose of this scholarship fund is to aid in the education of our students who will be attending an ELCA related college.
- The applicant must be a voting member of St. John Lutheran Church.
- The grant will be \$500 for each qualified student contingent upon the dollars available in the scholarship fund.

#### **YOUNKER SCHOLARSHIP**

- This scholarship began in 2006 and is made available by an annual contribution from the Younger Scholarship Fund and is solely dependent on that annual contribution for the scholarship program to continue.
- The student must be a confirmed church member who is actively involved in the life of the Church and who demonstrates their faith.
- Recipient will be a recent high school graduate. Recent defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- The student will attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.

#### **EARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

- This scholarship was established in January 2016 from a portion of Earl's estate bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church during their high school years.
- Scholarship value will be up to \$1,000 and determined by the applicant's church worship attendance as well as church and community activities.
- The applicant must attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.
- Applicants must be a recent high school graduate. Recent shall be defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- Recipients can apply more than once, but can only receive the scholarship once.
- Scholarship recipient and value will be determined by the St. John scholarship committee.

#### **PHYLLIS PARKS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP**

The Phyllis Parks Scholarship Fund was established in August, 2016 from the estate of Martin Parks bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.

- The maximum individual scholarship will be \$1,000.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church.
- Special preference will be given to the applicant's church worship attendance.

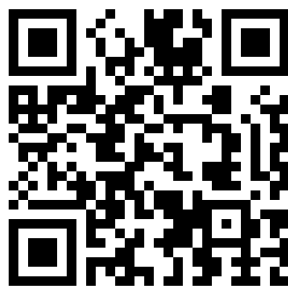


## **Online giving is now available at St. John.**

**Simply visit our web site at  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.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.*

***Thank you for being a blessing to St. John!***

# ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org) (419)836-5144 email: [office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org)



<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		<b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		<b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>		<b>FUNDS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees  <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b></div>	
				<b>AMOUNTS:</b> \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)			Routing Number: _____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b>  Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> </div>	
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
<b>CREDIT / DEBIT CARD</b>	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.				
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____					

*If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.  
 We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.  
 Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.*



# St. John Youth Group News

April, 2018

## German Dinner...

**Saturday, April 21** following worship will be our last big fundraiser before the trip to Huston. We will be serving chicken paprikash, cabbage rolls, green beans, salad, bread, and cake. We will need help preparing for this fundraiser on the following dates...



**April 14 (Saturday)** at 9:00a we will be making cabbage rolls

**April 19 (Thursday)** at 6:30p we will be making noodles

**April 21 (Saturday)** we will need help prior to the dinner. We need 9 sheet cakes (chocolate or white) for dinner. All of the youth are asked to bring a cake.



## ...and Dessert Auction

On April 21, following the dinner, we will also have a dessert auction. We are seeking volunteers to bring a dessert that we can auction off after the dinner.

## Youth Band

We have had two practices and our noises are starting to sound like a song! If you are interested in joining, contact Pastor O'Brien or Tami Tailford for more information or to get a copy of the music.



## Email/Text Reminders

If you would like to be reminded of youth events through email or text, join St. John Youth on Remind... Text @32g677 to 81010 or (419) 679-4578. For reminders by email, go to <https://www.remind.com/>

## Get a Shirt!

I have 2 adult L shirts and 2 XL shirts. If you can wear one of those sizes and want a shirt, contact Pastor O'Brien. He really wants to get them out of his office.

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Upcoming Youth Activities/Events*

### March 31, 11:00 - Easter Egg Hunt

*(Help is needed filling and hiding eggs. Look for a sign-up at the church.)*

### April 1, 8:30 - Easter Breakfast

*(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)*

### April 1 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

### April 14, 9:00 - Cabbage Rolls

*We will be making cabbage rolls for our German Dinner.*

### April 19, 6:30 - Noodle Making

*We will be making noodles for our German Dinner .*

### April 21 - German Dinner

*This will be our final fundraising event for our trip to the Youth Gathering in June. We need EVERYONE's help at this event.*

### 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!)*

*If you HAVE any pictures from our Youth Group activates, please send them to Pastor O'Brien*

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: May 20, 2018**

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





Do you have a basket taking up space in your home? We would be happy to put it to good use! We are currently seeking donations of baskets that can be used to compile goodies for our spring auction.

Drop off is M-F from 8:00-4:00 at our main office, 5810 N. Main St., Williston.

Questions? Call Megan at 419-972-4436.



### **Annual Meeting Report From Gene and Amy Bihn**

The Lutheran Mutual Ministries Annual Meeting was held on March 12 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg. After a welcome by Rev. Chuck Campbell and invocation by Rev. Terry Cripe, we enjoyed dinner and music played by our own Nancy Strohscher.

Soloist Nadine Pfaff from Luther Home of Mercy and Soloist Sue Ellen Davis from the Cardinal House shared their gift of music with us.

Recognitions, nominations and the business meeting was held and then the new CEO and President, Terry Rodriquez gave her report.

The featured speaker was James M. Hoops, representative from the Ohio House. He shared stories about in time in Athletes in Action. As a basketball player, he was in many countries to spread the word of God. He reminded us to ask for forgiveness and that God has a forgiving heart. Though there may be struggles with funding and uncertainties, we need to have a positive attitude. We can choose to react in a positive way.

We joined together to sing the hymn "Be Thou My Vision."

We concluded the meeting with the benediction by Bishop Rev. Daniel Beaudoin.

*June 11 - June 15,  
2018*



*9:00 a.m. to  
Noon*

# *Vacation Bible School*

*Come Aboard and Discover....*

**New Friends!**

**Amazing Crafts!**

**Wild Games!**

**Lip-Smacking Snacks!**

**Swashbuckling Bible Adventures!**

**Incredible Music!**

**Adventure & Activities!**

**June 11-15, 2018**

**9AM to Noon**

***St. John Lutheran Church***

**21140 W. Toledo Street (SR 579) Williston, Ohio 419-836-5514**

**You may register in person or online at [www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)**



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



**WE'RE  
HERE.**

**WE LISTEN.**

Going through  
a difficult time?

**Stephen Ministry**

A LISTENING EAR IN TIME OF NEED

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

We all experience challenges in life; times when it would be of benefit to have the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care needed when a crisis or difficulty occurs such as:

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization
- Separation or divorce
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Unemployment or job loss
- Terminal illness
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage or infertility
- Chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- And more.....



Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by our Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, individual Christian care to people going through tough times. Stephen Ministers reach out with God's love to offer a time of listening, support, prayer and encouragement.

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-on-one care of a Stephen Minister?

Do you know someone else who could benefit from a Stephen Minister?

Are you interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry? Or are you interested in possibly becoming a Stephen Minister?

Would you like to contact one of our Stephen Ministers or would you like more information? Just call Pastor O'Brien or the office (419) 836-5514.



# Church Council Highlights

## **Council Meeting Highlights- March 15, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Devotions led by Pastor from the book Daily Devotional Book.

**Pastor's Report:** Average attendance for February 2018 was 170. Last year's average attendance was 175.

Pastor had 16 hospital/homebound/individual or family meetings

3 committee/group meetings: 3 community/youth/fellowship events

4 professional/clergy activities: 7 classes/Bible studies

2 funerals: 5 special worship services

Presided at the funeral of Mary Matthews of the 7th and the funeral of Roland Hansen on the 10th.

We have raised over \$14,500 toward our current fund raising goal of \$17,000. The Olive Branch Spaghetti Dinner raised \$1,400. thank you very much to the congregation for their support. There will be one more fundraising dinner, probably in April, and there are still plenty of envelopes available for contributions to the "144 Fundraiser" as well.

Holy Week Schedule: Maundy Thursday Worship, March 29 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Worship, March 30th at 7:00pm

Easter Egg Hunt, March 31st at 11:00am

Easter Worship, March 31/April 1

Easter Breakfast, April 1st at 8:30am

Confirmation will be Sunday May 20. Pastor is seeking three volunteers to do "Confirmation Exit Interviews: on Monday May 14 at 6:00.

Deanna Newman will be one of the volunteers.

**Financial Secretary Report:** reported the actual giving to date is over budget but the prior year comparison show slightly down due to the five Sundays last year in January. This will average out over time.

**Christian Community Life:** reported the Pancake Dinner raised \$490 for the Pfeiffer House.

\$230. 00 was collected for Girl Scout Cookies to send to the troops

Sunday School students are currently coloring pages to go to the Sunshine Friends and Lutheran Home of Mercy Residents for Easter.

Ideas for Moms and Dads Day are being considered. A clothing and House ware drive will be held sometime in August to go to Life Bridge Center. Life Bridge Center helps organization as Cherry Street Mission, Sparrows Nest etc. More information will come at a later time.

A collection will be help during the Scout popcorn sale to send popcorn to the Troops.

**Evangelism:** reported seeing a number of new faces in the church and discussed having a new membership class. Evangelism will be contacting Lisa Anne for a copy of the members who have not attended in 2017 and before for contact to return to church.

**Parish Education:** reported that Tammy Mazur is putting the finishing touches on the Easter Egg Hunt on March 31th at 11am and the Easter Breakfast at 8:30 on Easter morning.

The theme for Vacation Bible School has been decided, it will be High Seas Expedition. VBS will be held June 11 -15.

A noisy offering was collected on Sunday March 4 and raised \$108.16 and on Saturday March 10 which raised \$84.03. The next noisy offering will be on April 7, May 5 and May 6.

**Stewardship Committee:** reported that the committee along with several council members toured the Pfeiffer House on February 25th. A Giving Work Day for St John Lutheran will be held on May 8.

Living room and Dinning will be our current priorities. We are being asked to patch holes and lines, paint the walls and clear coat over the wood trim. The Luther home will pick out new carpet for the living room so the old carpet needs to be removed. Dining room will require a new ceiling light. Other downstairs room also require patched and painted so depending of the amount of volunteers we have the more we can do.

**Worship Life:** reported concerns about lack volunteers for Lenten Services and asked for suggestions. Next year there will be an effort to complete the needs before the season begins.

The organ needs repair and Beckie Goldstein will be coordinating the repairs. The camera and screen on the organ was damaged and will be replaced.

Worship Life is still be member short will wait to hear from Rick Buhrow.

**Property:** reported that a quote is being requested to paint and re-glaze the sanitary windows.

A contract is being issued to WoJo's for the boilers and HVAC. A group is being formed for the Roof Project.

**New Business:** raised concerns for the damage/use of the Church Property. Equipment missing/damaged, burners left on, paint on cupboards, refrigerators turned on so high everything was frozen.

Much discussion. Christian Community Life will post in bulletins and forerunner.

**Next Committee Meeting is on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**

# Finance Report

## St. John Lutheran Church Statement of Income and Expense As of: February 28, 2018

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
<b>Income: *</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>20,484</b>	<b>20,789</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>40,967</b>	<b>41,314</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>43,846</b>	<b>-6%</b>
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS included.									
<b>Expenses:</b>									
<b>Benevolence</b>	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	5,916	5,916	100%		
<b>Board/Ministries</b>	14,100	1,172	1,471	126%	2,441	2,474	101%		
<b>Staff Salaries</b>	96,999	8,083	7,690	95%	16,167	15,350	95%		
<b>Staff Benefits</b>	53,807	4,492	4,435	99%	9,001	8,421	94%		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	74,100	5,081	5,923	117%	14,957	14,988	100%		
<b>Expense Totals</b>	<b>277,006</b>	<b>21,786</b>	<b>22,477</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>48,482</b>	<b>47,149</b>	<b>97%</b>		
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>(1,302)</b>	<b>(1,688)</b>		<b>(7,515)</b>	<b>(5,835)</b>			

### 2018 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	12,199
Activity Center Savings	269,367
Memorials	67,795
Music Fund	3,173
Endowment Fund	111,068
Roof Fund	38,880
Scholarship Tank	7,625
Scholarship Younger	1,250
Scholarship Johnson	35,950
Scholarship Parks	36,475
Other	45,657
Savings	30,109
<b>Total</b>	<b>659,548</b>

(Other includes Youth, Good Samaritan, Scholarship, etc.)





## Worship Assistants

### SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

#### Acolytes

7 Aidan O'Brien  
14 Payton Donnelly  
21 Lauren Martin  
28 Anna Sommers

#### Lectors

7 Diane Gerkenismeyer  
14 Tracy Orians  
21 Beth Johnson  
28 Nancy Strohscher

#### Ushers

7 Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer  
Jim and Dilly Schimming  
14 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis  
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow  
21 David Lee Family  
28 John and Helen Meyer, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

#### Communion Servers

7 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer  
14 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Nancy Strohscher  
21 Carol Vargo, Amy Schloegl, Wayne Bauman  
28 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Beth Johnson

#### Communion Set-up

7 Diane Gerkenismeyer  
14 Joan Truman  
21 Brenda Keeley  
28 Carol Vargo

#### Door Greeters

7 JoElaine Schimming  
14 Carol Vargo  
21 Linda Bauman  
28 Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer

#### Sound/Projector Techs

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

### SUNDAY 9:45 Worship

#### Acolytes

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

#### Lectors

1 Mike Mann  
8 Jill Kao  
15 Tim Titgemeyer  
22 Marcia Morgan  
29 Christopher Pfaff

#### Ushers

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

#### Communion Servers

1 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Jill Kao  
8 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vohelbacher, Jean Fowler  
15 Carole Beamer, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp  
22 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Marcia Morgan  
29 Rol Sandrock, Tim Titgemeyer, Karolyn Jansen

#### Communion Set-up

1 Pam LaRue  
8 Heather Cashen  
15 Diana Pfaff  
22 Janice Sandrock  
29 Cebie Titgemeyer

#### Door Greeters

1 Marcia Morgan  
8 Melissa Lammers  
15 Linda Schlievert  
22 Dave Neuman  
29 Cebie Titgemeyer

#### Sound/Projector Techs

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

#### Children's Moments

1 Bells  
8 Stef Neuman  
15 Alex Lammers  
22 Puppets  
29 Caira Goldstein

*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

5 Aidan O'Brien  
12 Payton Donnelly  
19 Mallory Nelson  
26 Aubrey Lee

#### Lectors

5 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
12 Shirley Berger  
19 Gene Bihn  
26 Doris Titgemeyer

#### Ushers

5 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Jim and Dilly Schimming  
12 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis  
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow  
19 Owen and Marty Schloegl, Dean and Mary Lowe  
26 Ken and Pat Sievert, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

#### Communion Servers

5 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
12 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Wayne Bauman  
19 Carol Vargo, Amy Schloegl, Beth Johnson  
26 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Nancy Strohscher

#### Communion Set-up

5 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
12 Dilly Schimming  
19 Ruth Petersen  
26 Traci Brown

#### Door Greeters

5 Kris Lee  
12 Joni Hillman  
19 Linda Bauman  
26 Jack Mathews

#### Sound/Projector Techs

5 Traci Brown / JJ Milbrodt  
12 Phil and Matt Milbrodt  
19 Ron Gerkenmeyer / Amy Bihn  
26 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

### SUNDAY 9:45 Worship

#### Acolytes

6 Sophia Cashen  
13 Evan Kessler  
20 Tucker Fredericksen  
27 Lauren LaRue

#### Lectors

6 Cebie Titgemeyer  
13 Ann Mann  
20 Melissa Lammers  
27 Roland Sandrock

#### Ushers

6 Tim Titgemeyer Family  
13 Bob Kapp, Heather and Lindsey Cashen  
20 Dan Kessler, Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson  
27 Jeff Schimming, Bob Kapp, Tim Titgemeyer

#### Communion Servers

6 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer  
13 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler  
20 Roland Sandrock, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp  
27 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen

#### Communion Set-up

6 Pam LaRue  
13 Heather Cashen  
20 Nancy Brittian  
27 Diana Pfaff

#### Door Greeters

6 Marcia Morgan  
13 Melissa Lammers  
20 Linda Schlievert  
27 Karen Jeffers

#### Sound/Projector Techs

6 Alex Lammers  
13 Andrew Titgemeyer  
20 Joel Mann  
27 Andy Kessler

#### Children's Moments

6 Bells  
13 Stef Neuman  
20 Caira Goldstein  
27 Puppets

*Thank you for  
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