

Let our
hearts be full
of thanks
and giving

FORERUNNER

Ask the Pastor

"Did Jesus make mistakes?"

This was asked by one of our younger members. The actual the question was, "Was Jesus perfect?" In the case of Jesus, I think of "perfect" to mean "without sin", but I think the issue of "making mistakes" was at the heart of this question; so I'm going to answer both questions...

First I want to affirm that scripture is pretty clear that Jesus was without sin. The author of Hebrews, writing about Jesus saying, *"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin."* (Hebrews 4:15) Peter writes in metaphor about Jesus's saving blood, *"like that of a lamb without defect or blemish"* (1 Peter 1:18). There is similar imagery throughout Revelation as well. (However, there are other passages such as Jesus in Matthew calling us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48), so maybe "perfect" is something deeper than being sinless.)

Anyway, to address what I perceive to be the "heart" of the question, "Did Jesus make mistakes?" I think the answer is, "yes, he surly did."

That may sound surprising, but do we really think that when Jesus was a little kid, he never spilled his Kool-Aid on the kitchen table? That he never made a mistake on his math homework? Or he always measured exactly right on a construction project? He probably did all those things and dozens of other silly mistakes we all make.

I think it's important to note there is a big difference between committing a sin and making a mistake. We believe Jesus was fully human, therefore Jesus made mistakes; just like us.

I like the proverb, I don't know the source; "Your best teacher is your last mistake." Making mistakes is part of the learning process... if we are mature enough to learn the lessons they teach. After the incident of boy Jesus being left in the temple, Luke tells us *"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"* (Luke 2:52). I take that to mean, he learned. There were things Jesus didn't know. He 'grew in wisdom and stature' by learning things from his parents, leaning things from his teachers, learning things from the scholars in the temple, and anywhere else he could learn. And just like us, part of the learning process is making mistakes.

The take-away for us is, when we make mistakes, or have to admit that we were wrong, or not listening, or don't understand, or don't know the answer, we are not admitting weakness. We are celebrating our humanity. Like Jesus, when we are open to being wrong, we are on the path to learning.

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.

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STEPHEN MINISTRY

HELPING THE CHURCH BE THE CHURCH



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?

Contact any one of our Stephen Ministers, Pastor O'Brien or the church office.



Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

***Needs for November**
Paper towels,

4 pk. Bathroom tissue, Kleenex

***Needs for December**
Cereal, Dish Soap
and Laundry Soap

Please no expired items.

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Fall/Winter Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

**Deadline for the
December 2018 newsletter is
NOVEMBER 26th**

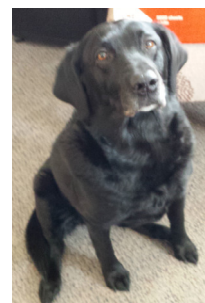
**Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.**



**"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**



*LisaAnne Gregg
Office
Administrator
9am—3pm
Mon. thru Fri.*



*Bella
Fredericksen
The Greeter of
St. John*



Dear Friends and Family at St. John,

Thank yo so much for all your thoughts, prayers and love. I am doing well. Four more chemos and I am feeling well. I feel so loved and thankful for all of you. Your love and kindness is overwhelming. Thank you so kindly!

Deborah Hartman Alday

A "Trunkful of Thanks!"

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Trunk or Treat successful! Weather turned out wonderful and many from our community enjoyed being here and taking part in all our festivities.

Thanks to the scouts and their leaders who did a wonderful job running the Haunted Trail. Thanks to all members who decorated their trunks and passed out candy and were dressed up in their Halloween finest. Thanks to the extras who dressed up and really added to the atmosphere. Thanks to Rollie Sandroock who donated his pick up truck and wagon so the hayride could take place. Thanks to members who donated lots of candy to help us pass out to the many kids who attended.

Thanks to the Christian Community Life committee for all the wonderful food, treats and drinks that all enjoyed. Thanks to the Evangelism Committee for putting together a wonderful gift basket that was given out. Thanks to the youth who painted faces, heads, and sprayed hair. You did an awesome job! Thanks to Evan and Andy Kessler who helped out at the bouncy house (the whole time) and kept all the kids in line. The bounce house is always a big hit.

Parish Education really appreciates everyone's help in making this community event come together that we look forward to each year. See you all again next year!

Ann Mann

Note* The winner of the Halloween Basket was Kaylin Johnson of Genoa who said she would share it with her twin sister. Congrats, Kaylin!



We would like to thank everyone that helped at the food pantry on Saturday October 20.

Richard & Jane Phillips
Ben, Kim, Anna & Benjamin Sommers
Carolyn Lasseeter, Marilyn Sandroock
Alyssa Mullins, Grace Zuranski
Kateri Glenn, Meghan Glenn
Diane Hartman
Barb Meyer, Linda Schlievert
Brenna Nye, Nolan Weaver
Keith & Beverly Norwalk
Maddion Strickland, Sydni Buhrow
Elizabeth Wilt, Beverly Harder
Carole Beamer, Janice Sheahan
Joyce Grimm, Bob Purney
Grant Smith, Boston Gallup
Logan Berger, Moe McCallum
Liberty McCallum
Cindy Hartman
Becky Tank

**Thank you,
Becky Tank & Cindy Hartman**



The food pantry is collecting laundry detergent to distribute in December for the holidays. Please turn in by December 2.

Thank you!

*Healing and Hope
Prayer Chain*

***"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 it on. Thank you!



In Memory of Gregg Yockey

Donald and Patricia Yockey
 Ken and Pat Sievert
 Michael and Judith Sayen
 Mark Cooper and Lois Fuller
 Donald and Jill Bench
 Allen and Judith Yockey
 Mary Schimming
 Bill and Barb Lambert
 Richard and Jane Phillips
 Donna J. Ryan
 Janice and Donald Bench
 Karen Bench
 Don and Patti Yockey
 Dennis and Linda Vogtsberger
 Doris Titgemeyer
 Donald Sankey
 Diane Dickinson
 P. Richard Carson
 Gary Shellman

In Memory of Bill Knierim

Mr and Mrs. Harold Ruetter
 Mary Schimming
 Carol Vargo
 Diane Dickinson

In Memory of Clarence Diefenthaler

Richard and Leslie Shields
 Kathy Temple
 Mary Schimming
 Diane Dickinson

In Memory of Mrs. Mary Lowe

Jane and Richard Phillips
 Mary Schimming
 Gertrude Eckerman
 Madelayne Saionzkowski
 Thomas, Alice and Tom Siglar
 Alice Witt
 Jim Blum
 Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson
 Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock
 Nancy and John Fulop
 Wayne and Darla Dreier
 Kathleen Silcox
 Carol Vargo
 Owens Illinois Onized Club
 Suzanne Irwin
 Jeff & Marsha Mihalko

In Memory of Bernadine Dipman

Bernie Blausey



The love and sympathy of the family of
 St. John is extended to the following families..

Bernadine Dipman 1926-2018

Bernadine K. Dipman, 92, of Martin, Ohio, passed away peacefully, Wednesday, October 3, 2018. Bernadine was born in Toledo, Ohio on April 6, 1926 to Vern and Alice (Yunker) Hoeft. In 1947, she married Earl Dipman who preceded her in death. She was an avid gardener and assisted her husband in the operation of their trucking business.

Bernadine is survived by her children, Robert (Victoria) Dipman, Cheryl Dipman, and Donald Dipman; grandchildren, Dana (Robert), Kirk, and Angelique Dipman; great-grandchildren, Chloe, Bailey, and Chase; and brother, Dwayne (Eva) Hoeft. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; brother, Earl Hoeft; and sister, Evelyn Gerkensmyer.

Services were private.

Mary Lynne Lowe 1940-2018

Mary Lynne (Myers) Lowe, 78, of Curtice, Ohio, passed away at the Cleveland Clinic surrounded by her loving family on October 10, 2018. Mary was born at Flower Hospital in Sylvania, Ohio, on May 24, 1940, to James and Margaret (Krueger) Myers. She graduated from Clay High School in 1958 and obtained her cosmetology license shortly thereafter. On January 28, 1961, she married the love of her life, Dean Lowe

Mary is survived by her husband of 57 years, Dean; daughter, Julie (Mark) Stahl; sons, Robert (Christine) Lowe, Daniel (Jenny) Lowe; grandchildren, Kallie Stahl, Stephen, Nathan, Adrienne, Mallory and Myles Lowe; sisters, Carol (Steve) Agnew, Barbara Ritzenthaler; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; father and mother-in-law, Gurney (Edna) Lowe; and brother-in-law, Galen Lowe.

Services were held October 15th at St. John.

Circle News

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.
 Bible Study: Beverly Harder
 Hostesses: Diane Gerkenmeyer

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Thursday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.
 Bible Study: Joan Truman

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, November 1, 1:30 p.m.
 Bible Study: Group study



Katie Luther

Herr Katie, Morning Star of Wittenberg

Our special guest for our Thankoffering Services will be Ruth Ann Anderson from Grace Lutheran Church in Elmore.

She will be presenting a first person narrative as Katie Luther, describing her life and influence on the Reformation.

Thankoffering Worship

Saturday, November 10—5:00 PM

Sunday, November 11—9:45 AM

The Blanket Ladies would like to thank the congregation for the support you have shown to us and to our Blanket Projects.

This year, we finished 300 blankets which have been sent to Lutheran World Relief, Ruth Ann's House, Nightengale's Harvest, Ottawa County Holiday Bureau and friends and members of St. John.

We would like to thank Diane Hartman, Linda Schlievert, Heather Cashen, Mona Vogelbacher, Carol Jensen, Judy Yockey, and Richard and Jane Phillips for helping to pack up all the boxes. Thank you to the choir members who folded the blankets from the pews and folded them so nicely. Thanks to Dan Berger who came to load the boxes to be transported to New Rochester for LWR. And many thanks to all who purchased tickets for the raffle and bid on the auction.

The auction winners were

Michaela Goldstein and Marcia Morgan.

Winners for the raffle were Cindy Hartman, Kevin Schimming, Judy Robaszkiewicz, Janice Sheahan, Diane Traver, Ann Mann, Amy Bihn and Mona Vogelbacher.

And, we received enough funding to keep us going for another year! We also received \$250 from Thrivent Action.

We also send a big thanks to all those who donated material, sheets and filler throughout the year.

The Blanket Ladies

Grace Johnson
 Arline Sabin
 Marcia Morgan
 Marvel Nelson
 Ellen Wilhelm
 Gertrude Eckerman
 Margaret Berger

Thankoffering

Women of the **ELCA** 

"... gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings."

— Women of the ELCA Constitution

There is a "Thankoffering Envelope" included in your newsletter. Please use this envelope to support the life changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

Please place your "Thankoffering Envelope" in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. We encourage all envelopes be turned in by the end of November.

Thank you for your support of the WELCA.



Thanksgiving Eve SERVICE

**Our Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
will be held on Weds. November 21. 2018 at 7:00 PM
at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church
1105 Elliston Rd (just south of SR 2)
Curtice (Bono), Ohio**

Join with our faith community in a Community Worship Service with St. John Williston, Mount Carmel
-Bono, St. Luke's-Yondota and St. Peter-Blackberry.
All are invited. All are welcome!

**Special Note* Our Thanksgiving Offerings will be used for missions in our local community.
This year, Council voted to share our Thanksgiving
Offerings with the following:**

*The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion
*Jerusalem Township Community Food Pantry
*Bistro 163 "Pay it Forward"
(Restaurant in Port Clinton that supports undernourished in the community)

**Please use your church issued Thanksgiving envelope for this service or place it in the offering
plate during services at St. John. Thank you for being a blessing!**

Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Dartball begins November 6th!

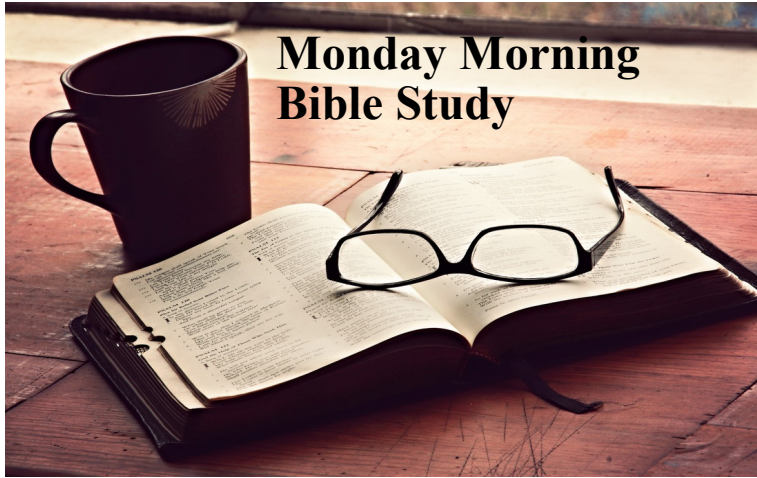
**Get those pitching arms ready! Join us for fun on
Tuesday nights when the Western Ottawa County
Dartball League begins its new season.**

**The first game will be on Tuesday, November 6 at
7:30 PM at Millbury St. Peter UCC
(Main and Cherry Sts.)**

**All are welcome. No experience is needed.
All are welcome to come and cheer
on our St. John Team, too!
See or call Jeff Schimming for more info.
419-356-3552**



Weekly Events @



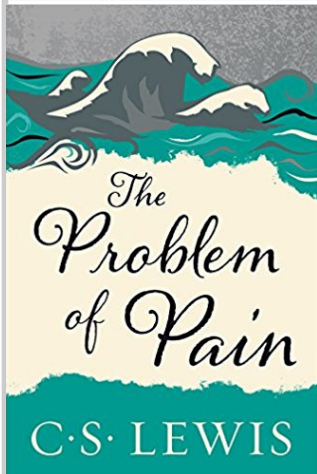
Monday Morning Bible Study

Did you know....

There is an adult bible study class that meets
Mondays at 10:00 am?

This study is lead by Pastor O'Brien and concentrates on the lectionary lessons for the upcoming week.

No experience needed
and all are welcome!



NEW Reading Encounter – Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M.

You are welcome to join us for the group study of *The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis, one of the most renowned Christian authors and thinkers.

The book is free. You can get the book (free) on-line in .pdf or audio.

For a hard copy, see Mike Mann (419) 654-4206.

Everyone Welcome! Gather in the Lounge to examine the universally applicable question within the human condition: "If God is good and all-powerful, why does He allow his creatures to suffer pain?"

The "Blanket Ladies"
gather to make quilts on

**Tuesday mornings
at 10:00 am.**

These beautiful blankets are then distributed to those in need all over the country!

Bed sheets (preferably queen size)
are needed for quilt backings

Donations may be left in the box
outside the church office.

Come join us! The Coffee is on!
And, you only need to know
how to tie a knot!





All Saint's Weekend is November 3 & 4th.

ALL Saints DAY

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint--a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus.

The family of St. John remembers those who have passed in the last year.

Joseph G. Vargo

Jennifer L. Johnson

Sharon K. Kusian

Carolyn (Kris) Johnson

Mary Mathews

Rolland I. Hansen

Clyde W. Sandrock

Donald L. Berger

Zachary C. Diefenthaler

William H. Knierim, Jr.

Clarence J. Diefenthaler

Gregg A. Yockey

Bernadine Dipman

Mary Lynne Lowe

Let us pray... Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**



Week of November 5

Nehemiah 10

A list of the people who sign the covenant is given. Further laws to be obeyed: no selling of wares on the Sabbath, cancellation of debts every seven years, tithes and regulations concerning offerings and temple administration.

Week of November 12

Nehemiah 11

A tenth of the people live in Jerusalem, and the rest in other cities. The distribution of people is decided by lot. Lists of people who stayed in Jerusalem, and a list of other towns and villages in Judah are given.

Week of November 19

Nehemiah 12

Records of priests, Levites and temple duties is given. The Jerusalem wall is dedicated with marching, music and sacrifice. People contribute to the temple.

Week of November 26

Nehemiah 13

The law is read. Nehemiah journeys back to Persia; when he returns to Jerusalem, he is horrified to discover that Eliashib, the priest charged with managing the storerooms of the temple, had rented a room out in the temple courts to Tobiah. Tobiah is expelled. Nehemiah also realized that the Levites have not been granted their due portions, and that business is being conducted on the Sabbath. Nehemiah cleanses Judean life from everything pagan, and asks God to remember him.

December

When we finish with Nehemiah, we will begin reading Paul's "Pastoral Letters" (*1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus*). Written to his coworkers in the gospel, Paul addresses these letters to Timothy and Titus to guide them in matters concerning the care of the church. These are likely churches Paul founded and these two men have stayed on to minister to. These are called "Pastoral Letters" because of their strong bearing on the life of the church, which is the household of God

NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP PAGE



NOVEMBER PRAYER

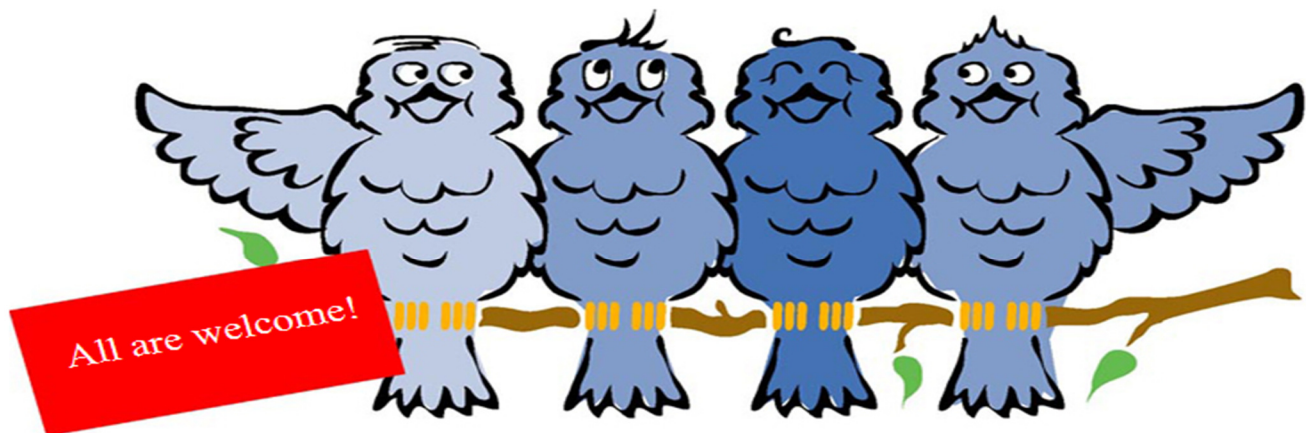
Lord,
Thank you
for showing
us how to
give back
through
stewardship.
Our hearts
and souls are
forever grateful.



November Verse

*God, thank
you for
blessing us
with the
spiritual
gift of generosity.
Romans 12.6-8*

Stewardship is  WORK



Join the Flock at Sunday School



Confirmation Students and Parents:

The early teen-age years are an important time in a young person's faith development. Confirmation Instruction is a way we can help inform and guide them on their faith journey.

Confirmation Classes (for grades 6-7-8) will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM



Adult Sunday School Class: LIFE TOGETHER

In his book *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers the Christian means with which to cultivate authentic Christian community.

Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30-upstairs.

Parents Sunday School Class –ENGAGE

Raising children in a tech-obsessed social media world is tough.

What limits do you put on it?

Is it safe?

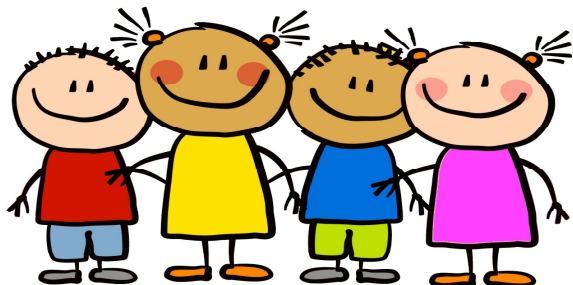
Why can't kids just put their phones down?

Meet us in the Library! Sunday at 8:30 AM.



engage

Five practical lessons for raising your kids in a social media generation



Follow us to Sunday School!

All are welcome! Invite a friend!

Preschool - 5th Grade meets in basement
6th - 8th Grade (Confirmation) meets in sanctuary
Senior High meets in the lounge
Adult Classes meet in their designated spaces

St. John Youth Group News

November, 2018

Cyber Attack

Join us after worship on Saturday, November 17 (about 6:00). We will share a meal and then match wits with boy genius Eric McConnell, following the clues to disable his computer hacking before time runs out. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside of Pastor O'Brien's office door.



2017 Digital Scavenger Hunt winners...

Congratulations to the 2017 Digital Scavenger Hunt Winners; with a Wendy's employee (40 points)



...and the first runner-up team; National Museum of the Great Lakes (points 100)



Lock-In

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, December 29th starting at 6:00 p.m. we will gather at the church for our annual Youth Group Lock-In. *But it will only be an overnight lock-in if we have parent/adult volunteers to chaperone and keep the peace. Please encourage your parents to volunteer.* Any questions, please contact Pastor O'Brien.

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher. Also remember your one Church council visit. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00. Question forms for your visit are available in the 8th grade confirmation room.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

November 17 – Cyber Attack

(eat delicious food, then follow the clues and solve the puzzle before time runs out)

December 1 – Tree Lighting

(this is a good fellowship event and an opportunity to earn service points by helping serve/clean up)

December 2 – Christmas Program

(this year is Star Wars themed, we are looking for Stormtroopers, Jedi, and Wookies!)

December 29 – Lock-In

(this is the Saturday between Christmas and New Year; it may be late night or overnight depending on availability of adult volunteers)

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/join/32g677>

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 activities, please send them to Pastor O'Brien

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



From the Presiding Bishop

So, Now What??

This month marks the 501st anniversary of the [Reformation](#). Last year it was all Reformation all the time. It was our year!

News, media and the public paid attention. Hundreds of Reformation-themed events took place. Documentaries were produced and joyful liturgies with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters were held. I have lost track of the number of “Flat Luther” photos that were taken. We walked with a spring in our step. We read [Martin Luther's Small Catechism](#) together. Even Lutherans in parts of the U.S. where Lutherans are not dense were noticed!

But the spotlight has dimmed, the public and the media have turned their eye to other things. Reformation 500 swag has taken up residence in the backs of closets and the bottoms of file drawers. And, I'd wager, our Small Catechisms sit alone and unopened on shelves and apps. This really is Oct. 32.

But, dear church, now is the time for us to refocus our attention on the gospel of our freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Take out your Small Catechism and take a fresh look at Luther's clear and concise exposition of the faith.

To start, turn to Luther's explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed. In beautifully spare language, he lays out the truth about God and human nature: “I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.”

Two things jump out—the God of all creation, infinite and omnipotent, set aside all of that to become finite and helpless as the Christ child and the broken one on the cross, and this Jesus is Lord. There are many things that claim our attention and allegiance, but none of these can save us and none of these is Lord.

Reformation 500 swag has taken up residence in the backs of closets and the bottoms of file drawers. And, I'd wager, our Small Catechisms sit alone and unopened on shelves and apps. This really is Oct. 32.

Luther continues: “He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being.” He had a conservative and realistic assessment of humankind. Yes, we affirm with the psalmist that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14), but it is also clear that we are seriously and terminally broken. We are a rebellious lot constantly rising up against God's good and gracious will and trying to set ourselves up as savior. This never ends well. And while there is pain in acknowledging that we are sinful, there is also freedom in confessing that truth.

Here's the thing: we have to get past a kind of Billy Joel theology in which God sings “I Like You Just the Way You Are” to the realization that God does not like us just the way we are and in infinite love has done something about it. In Christ, Luther wrote, God has “purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.”

Here is pure grace. It is God's action, not ours. We don't have to—in fact, we cannot—do anything to save ourselves or the world. God has done it.

So now what? So now we live, really live, in freedom and in service. Luther wrote: “He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.”

This is what the world needs to see in us and hear from us—not a vindictive, capricious god who must be appeased, nor a purveyor of therapeutic moralism, but an all-powerful God who comes to us in humble human form to set us free from our murderous rebellion so we may be whole, holy and wholly devoted to joyful service.

This is most certainly true.

To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith...visit www.elca.org.

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>



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

"When the seventh month came-the people of Israel being settled in their towns- all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month"
(Nehemiah 8:1-2).

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was a beloved French author who wrote the children's book, *Le Petit Prince* (The Little Prince). He was also a pilot in the Free French Airforce and was shot down and killed by the Nazis while on a reconnaissance mission in 1944. From 1941-1943, Antoine and his wife lived in New York, where he wrote books and spoke passionately about the need for the United States to enter the war. He was a great speaker who knew how to cast a vision. In his book, *The Wisdom of the Sands*, he writes this, ***"If you want to build a ship, don't summon people to buy wood, prepare tools, distribute jobs, and organize the work; rather teach them to yearn for the wide, open sea."*** Antoine de Saint-Exupéry reminds us to ground the people God has called you to lead in a purpose that is bigger than themselves.

Nehemiah had a clear God given purpose... to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Though construction was not his main purpose. His main purpose was to rebuild God's people into a community of faith. Nehemiah begins this rebuilding effort by enlisting the help of the scribe Ezra. Ezra turns to Scripture and begins to build God's people through the hearing of God's Word. And when you think about it, isn't that where re-building and re-forming always begins for God's people?

Martin Luther's reforming movement was born out of a grounding in God's Word, not to mention the work of Huss, Savonarola, and Calvin. The Wesley brothers, John and Charles, helped usher in a "Great Awakening" in England through preaching and hymnody. Preaching and hymnody that were deeply grounded in God's Word.

This year is the Year of Prayer. Next year is the Year of Scripture. I invite you to learn how you and your parish may be transformed by the gift and power of God's Word.

2018: The Year of Prayer Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6 **"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God".**

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin





Simple, Safe and Just a Click Away!

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

**Simply visit our web site at
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.**

*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!

1st Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting At St. John -Williston

**Saturday, December 1, 2018
6:00 PM**

Join us for a light meal followed by singing
of Christmas Carols and
wonderful fellowship.

The Lighting of the Community Christmas
Tree will follow the meal and take place in the
lot to the east of the Parsonage– along SR 579.

Please bring items for the
Ottawa County Holiday Bureau.
(socks, mittens, scarves, toys,
hygiene items, paper products,
cleaning items
and non perishable food items)

If you would like to help set up,
clean up or decorate..
please contact Margaret Berger,
Rob Orians, Bev Harder or
Jane Phillips.



ST. JOHN KIDS INVITE YOU TO FOLLOW THE STAR.....

STAR
OUR FAITH AWAKENS
TRIP

*A long time ago,
in a galaxy far far away ...
It is a period of unrest
for the people of God.
Who can bring light
into this dark situation?*

**St. John's Annual Children's
Christmas Program**
December 2, 2018 * 4:00PM
(New Day and Time!)



*Our Annual Advent Tea with light refreshments and fellowship
will follow the program.*

Practices for the program will be on December 1, 2018 from 9am-12pm
and during Sunday School on December 2, 2018 from 8:30am-9:30am
Any Catechism students who are not in the program
will have class with Pastor O'Brien.

We are in need of some costumes for the pageant:

**1 - Darth Vader Mask, 1 - Darth Vader Cape, Stormtrooper Costumes
(we will take as many as we can get)**

If you are donating anything, please put your name on it so it can be returned after the pageant.



Scrapbooking Crop Fun-raiser!

benefiting Luther Home of Mercy

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 10TH, 2018
9:00 AM- 9:00 PM**

Location: **Luther Home of Mercy Habilitation Center Gymnasium**
5810 N. Main Street, Williston, OH 43468
(See Directions On Back)

Call your friends to come have some fun as you join us for a day of friendship, fellowship, scrapbooking, cardmaking, photo organizing or your favorite crafting project. Bring your projects and enjoy time with friends. You can have a day of fun and help Luther Home of Mercy, a non-profit for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Included in your fun day for \$35.00 (or \$25 for half table):

- Light continental breakfast, lunch and dinner
 - Snacks and bottled water
- Full 8 foot table space (or 4 foot with half option)
 - Raffleprizes (Tickets 6 for \$3)
- Help unloading and loading your supplies

Register and pay online at lutherhome.org or make check out to Luther Home of Mercy, and mail with registration below to:

Megan O'Brien
5810 N. Main St.
Box 187
Williston, OH 43468

Please contact Megan with any questions
at (419)972-4436 or:
mobrien@lutherhome.org

--No Refunds--



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____ **Email:** _____

I need electricity for laptop/Cricut use: Yes _____ **No** _____ **(bring extension cord and power strip just in case)**

I would like to be seated near: _____

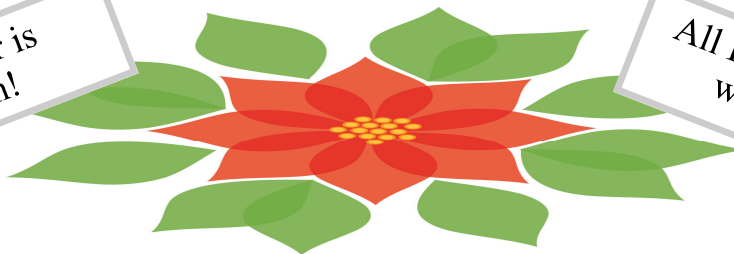
(We will do our best to accommodate special requests.)

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, November 2

If you miss the deadline, contact Megan to see if spots are still available.

The Deadline to order is
NOVEMBER 18th!

All Poinsettias are in 6.5" pots
with 5 or more blooms!



ORDER YOUR Poinsettias

ORDER DEADLINE -NOVEMBER 18th

Please place this order form and payment in an envelope marked with your name and "Poinsettia" in the offering plate. Plants will be available for pick-up following the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. Please make checks out to St. John.

The deadline to order is Sunday Nov. 18th.

Quantity

_____ White - \$ 7.25 each

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ Red - \$ 7.25 each

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

New! Please consider purchasing a plant for one of our homebound members...

Our Sunshine Friends!

They will be delivered to our Sunshine Friends for Christmas.

_____ White—\$7.25 each

_____ Red- \$7.25 each

Purchaser's name _____

Phone _____

Total Ordered

_____ plants at \$7.25 = _____ (amount enclosed)



Church Council Highlights

Council Meeting Highlights- October 18, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Janice Sheahan. Devotions led by Janice Sheahan
Secretary Minutes: Minutes were approved.

Pastor's Report: Average attendance September 2018 was 157.0 Last year's average attendance 162.8. Average attendance for YTD 161.8. Last year's average attendance 167.0 Pastor had 17 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings
3 committee group meetings: 6 community/youth/fellowship events, 4 professional/clergy activities, 7 classes/Bible studies, 3 funerals, 2 baptisms

Funerals

Presided at the funeral of William Knierim on September 17th
Presided at the funeral of Clarence Diefenthaler on September 20th

Presided at the funeral of Gregg Yocky on September 22th

Baptisms:

Magnolia Mae Gibbons, daughter of Kayla Meszaros, was baptized on September 16th

Adeline George, daughter of Scott and Stephanie George, was baptized on September 22nd

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The community Thanksgiving Eve Worship service is November 21, 2018 at Mt. Carmel.

Committee Night: Remember that our next Committee Night is November 8th at 7:00pm

Christian Community Life: reported the **Food Panty** served 73 patrons, 21 were children. 29 families with 22 of those senior citizens. We will be helping at the panty on October 20th, 9:00am until noon. Please contact Becky Tank 419.262.1828 or Cindy Hartman 419.304.0071 if you can help.

Trunk or Treat will be October 21 at 2:00pm. We will have snow cones, root beer floats and hot dogs.

Pop Corn for Troops, we will be collecting a noisy offering to purchase Scout popcorn to be sent to the troops.

We will be again doing **Shopping for the Stars** for the residents of Lutheran Home of Mercy.

The **Advent Tea** is December 2 after the Christmas Program.

Evangelism:

A gift basket is ready for **Trunk or Treat**. **Tree Lighting** the date for the tree lighting will be December 1, Saturday at 6pm. Margaret has received the funds from Thrivent Action to be used towards the light meal. Those attending will be

asked to bring gloves, socks, stocking caps, canned goods, etc. for the Holiday Bureau. The plan is to have a light lunch, Christmas carols and the lighting of the tree.

Parish Education: Trunk or Treat The date is set for October 21th at 2:00pm. We are all looking forward to seeing all of the fun costumes and decorated trunks again this year. Big thanks to Ann Mann for all of her work in coordinating this event for us again the year.

Christmas Program will be on December 2nd at 4:00pm. The title is "Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens" with a Star Wars theme. If you haven't already, please return your child's permission slips to their Sunday School teacher so we can have a count of how many children will be participating, as well as who would like to have speaking parts. Practice for the program will be on Saturday December 1st from 9 to noon and during the Sunday School hour on Sunday December 2nd. We are still looking for a Darth Vader Cape and Storm Trooper costumes to borrow. An Advent Tea to follow.

Stewardship Committee: Mike Mann thanked all who helped with the Chicken BBQ. Profit made was \$400.00. Stewardship is looking for a fundraiser project in the spring. More yarn has been coming in for the **Warm Up American** blanket project and a big thank you goes out to those who have contributed to this Stewardship endeavor.

The Stewardship Page is still being submitted to Lisa Anne for the month Forerunner and have received many compliments on it.

Property: The **window project** has started and the company is doing a good job but progress is slow and only about half done. John calls them daily. Roof Project committee is in the process of making sure all the final bids have the same specifications. Plan is to present contracts and recordation to council at the November Council meeting. After the approval by the council at the November meeting, a congregational information meeting will be held after both worship services January 5 and 6th. The congregation will vote on the project at the congregational annual meeting. Work to begin next year.

Old business: Nominating committee has met and are working on the slate of nominees. Please **volunteer** or make a recommendation to Rick Buhrow.

Next Committee Meeting is Thursday Nov 8 at 7:00 PM

Next Council Meeting is Thursday November 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary₂₀



faith and finances

St. John Lutheran Church

Statement of Income and Expense

As of September 30, 2018

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	280,000	25,753	26,787	104%	204,656	209,933	103%	203,868	3%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	27,875	27,875	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,100	1,175	855	73%	10,575	8,373	79%		
Staff Salaries	96,999	8,084	7,689	95%	72,749	69,232	95%		
Staff Benefits	53,807	4,483	4,188	93%	40,350	37,668	93%		
Operating Expenses	74,100	4,618	3,717	80%	57,656	51,832	90%		
Expense Totals	277,006	21,318	19,407	91%	209,205	194,980	93%		
Income less Expenses	2,994	4,435	7,380		(4,549)	14,953			

2018 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	10,007
Activity Center Savings	274,512
Memorials	73,164
Music Fund	3,016
Endowment Fund	112,541
Roof Fund	43,374
Scholarship Tank	5,884
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	34,469
Scholarship Parks	34,994
Other	37,176
Savings	30,498
Total	663,635

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



Worship Assistants

***Please note the changes in bold for
Thankoffering Services. Thank you!**

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 3 Aidan O'Brien
- 10 Seidona Brossia
- 17 Shane O'Brien
- 24 Riley Brossia

Lectors

- 3 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 10 Beverly Harder (Thankoffering)**
- 17 Nancy Strohscher
- 24 Doris Titgemeyer

Ushers

- 3 Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 10 Evalyn Witty, Janice Sheahan,
Diane Gerkensmeyer, Ann Mann**
- 17 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
- 24 Gene & Amy Bihn, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

Communion Servers

- 3 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 10 Doris Titgemeyer, JoElaine Schimming, Carol Vargo**
- 17 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Al Brown
- 24 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

- 3 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 10 Dilly Schimming
- 17 Carol Vargo
- 24 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

- 3 Jack Mathews
- 10 JoElaine Schimming
- 17 Dean and Mary Lowe
- 24 Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer

Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 10 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 17 Ron Gerkenismeyer / Amy Bihn
- 24 Phil and JJ Milbrodt



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 4 Sophia Cashen
- 11 Evan Kessler
- 18 Ben Myers
- 25 Megan Haefl

Lectors

- 4 Tim Titgemeyer
- 11 Margaret Berger**
- 18 Deanna Neuman
- 25 Roland Sandrock

Ushers

- 4 Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 11 Sue Kozina, Darlene Carstensen, Lindsay
Cashen, Heather Cashen**
- 18 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 25 Bob Bench Family

Communion Servers

- 4 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 11 Carole Beamer, Ann Mann, Melissa Lammers**
- 18 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 25 Roland Sandrock, Wilma Smithers, Jill Kao

Communion Set-up

- 4 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 11 Diana Pfaff
- 18 Deanna Neuman
- 25 Pam LaRue

Door Greeters

- 4 Jennifer Delventhal
- 11 Melissa Lammers
- 18 Linda Schlievert
- 25 Karen Jeffers

Sound/Projector Techs

- 4 Alex Lammers
- 11 Andy Kessler
- 18 Joel Mann
- 25 Andy Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

- 4 Caria Goldstein
- 11 Puppets
- 18 Alex Lammers
- 25 Stef Neuman

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



DECEMBER

Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 1 Anna Sommers
- 8 Aidan O'Brien
- 15 Seidona Brossia
- 22 Shane O'Brien
- 29 Riley Brossia

Lectors

- 1 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 8 Shirley Berger
- 15 Tracy Orians
- 22 Amy Schloegl
- 29 Gene Bihn

Ushers

- 1 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 8 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow
- 15 John & Helen Meyer, Ken and Pat Sievert
- 22 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl
- 29 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski, Carol Vargo
Alice Witt

Communion Servers

- 1 Al Brown, Diane and Ron Gerkenmeyer
- 8 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Wayne Bauman
- 15 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Allen Harder
- 22 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Amy Schloegl
- 29 Diane Gerkenmeyer, Gene Bihn, Doris Titgemeyer

Communion Set-up

- 1 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 8 Brenda Keeley
- 15 Carol Vargo
- 22 Traci Brown
- 29 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 1 Jack Mathews
- 8 JoElaine Schimming
- 15 Joni Hillman
- 22 Carol Vargo
- 29 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

- 1 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 8 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 15 Ron Gerkenmeyer/ Amy Bihn
- 22 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 29 Ron Gerkenmeyer/Traci Brown

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Lindsey Cashen
- 9 Peyton Donnelly
- 16 Tucker Fredericksen
- 23 Sophia Cashen
- 30 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 2 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 9 Ann Mann
- 16 Mike Mann
- 23 Marcia Morgan
- 30 Jill Kao

Ushers

- 2 The Titgemeyer Family
- 9 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 16 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 23 Jeff Schimming, Dan Nelson, Jennifer Delventhal
- 30 Bob Bench family

Communion Servers

- 2 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 9 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 16 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 23 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Heather Cashen
- 30 Carole Beamer, Jill Kao, Bob Kapp

Communion Set-up

- 2 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 9 Diana Pfaff
- 16 Melissa Lammers
- 23 Janice Sandrock
- 30 Pam LaRue

Door Greeters

- 2 Debbie Wehner
- 9 Marcia Morgan
- 16 Linda Schlievert
- 23 Nancy Brittan
- 30 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Andy Kessler
- 9 Alex Lammers
- 16 Joel Mann
- 23 Andy Titgemeyer
- 30 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

- 2 Caira Goldstein
- 9 Stef Neuman
- 16 Puppets
- 23 Bells
- 30 Alex Lammers

***Remember to
 watch in the
 Narthex for
 sign up sheets to
 help with our
 Christmas Eve
 Worship
 Services!
 Thank you
 for
 serving!***

