



# FORERUNNER

## Ask the Pastor

**What is the difference between “Christ Jesus” and “Jesus Christ”; both are used in the New Testament?**

In order to answer the question, we first have to understand the vocabulary...

“Jesus” is the human name given to the Son of God when he became incarnate and was born to Mary. In the first chapter of Matthew’s Gospel it is Joseph who gives him this name at an angel’s instruction. (In Luke’s Gospel the angel tells Mary, but you get the idea.)

“Christ” is a title. It is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for “Messiah”. It carries the meaning of “Anointed One” or “Chosen One”. It would have been understood as the title of a God chosen king from the line of David, believed to be the one who would restore Israel to her glory.

The given name plus the title indicates a more comprehensive identity of the Holy One of Israel than would the use of the given name or just the title. However, either order, Jesus Christ or Christ Jesus, seem to have the same meaning. So the short answer to the question seems to be, there is no difference. If you find the short answer unsatisfying we can speculate...

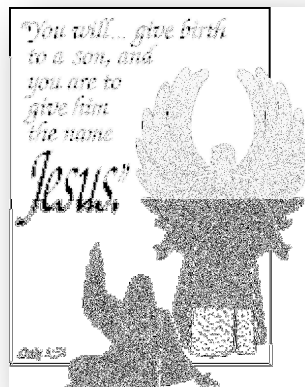
Most of the New Testament writers use the name, followed by the title; i.e. “Jesus Christ” (the Gospel writers more often use just the title or name by itself when referring to Jesus). The inverted order “Christ Jesus”, is used almost exclusively by Paul (1 out of 83 times it appears in the book Acts). One possible difference might be author’s preference. There are some authors who speculate that Paul, who never physically walked with Jesus, uses “Christ Jesus” more than others as a more formal address. (Assuming that the inverse “Jesus Christ” is more casual?)

Another possible answer is that in many languages, word order can be changed for emphasis. So perhaps a particular biblical author would use the less common “Christ Jesus” to emphasize the “Chosen One” title of Jesus. However, scholars note that while statements in Greek are also subject to shifts in emphasis based on word order, the difference between “Jesus Christ” and “Christ Jesus” is slight.

I conclude with my original answer, there really is no difference. To use the title Christ on either side of the personal name Jesus is appropriate and biblical, and does not seem to communicate a different meaning.

As a closing note... in writing this article I discovered there are some really bizarre theories about this on the internet, so be warned if you search this out yourself.

*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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# *Grateful and Blessed*

## ***Our Friends at St. John,***

Thank you so much for the beautiful blankets. This is truly love in action. Every body they cover will feel HIS love.

**Pastor Brenda  
New Birth Church  
Freeport, Texas**

## ***Thank you St. John Family,***

We would like to thank all the members of our St. John family for all the well wishes on our 62nd Wedding Anniversary. God has blessed us with 62 great years of marriage and a big beautiful family with 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren and our church family at St. John.

**Your friends in Christ,  
Dick and Shirley Crosskill**

**Thank you** to the wonderful FORERUNNER MAILING GROUP who make light work of a time consuming task and prepared the October newsletter for mailing.

**Linda Schlievert  
Diane Hartman  
Allen Harder  
Terry Gast**

**Betty Roecker  
Madelayne Saionzkowski  
Audrey Milbrodt  
Carolyn Lassiter  
Marilyn Sandrock**

## ***St. John Lutheran Church,***

Our family would like to thank y'all for the blanket. We lost about 75% of all our things in the recent hurricane. It is so nice to know that there are such nice people like you out there thinking about us.

You have been a blessing to us. Thank you!

**Brad, Jessica, Taylor  
and soon to  
be born-Elijah Fief  
LaPorte, Texas**

## ***Thanks for serving!***

The Property Committee would like to thank Andy Kessler for his help in running the network cable for the church internet.

Also, thanks to Dan Jet of Gordon Lumber in Genoa for letting us have the lift for the entire weekend to get the parking lot lights finished.

**John Mazur  
Property Committee**



***“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!*



**Memorials and Honorariums  
given to St. John.**

**In memory of  
Denny Wilhelm**

Richard and Lenore Harmeyer  
Lowell and Diane Hartman

**In honor of  
Mason Orians baptism**  
Clyde and Mary Sandrock

**In Honor of  
Lenore Harmeyer's 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday**  
Lowell and Diane Hartman  
Elaine Gruetter



We will welcome  
Hadley Ruth Huber and  
Colton Chad Huber into the  
St. John Family through  
Holy Baptism  
on November 5, 2017  
They are the children of  
Chad and Erin Huber  
and the grandchildren of  
Dave and Vicki Huber.  
Their sponsors are Lori and Wesley  
Ernsthausen and Allison Murphy.



The love and sympathy of the St. John Family are  
with the family of **Patricia Delventhal.**

Pat passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at home.  
Pat's family would like to invite relatives and friends to celebrate  
her life on Saturday, November 4, 2017, at Schedel Arboretum &  
Gardens, Elmore, Ohio from 1-4 p.m. in the  
Brown Welcome Center.

In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorial contributions be  
directed to St. John Lutheran Church-Williston,  
Solomon Lutheran School-Woodville, or the Genoa Food Pantry.

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by St. John Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien  
Home Telephone:  
419-972-4003

[pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org)

### Worship Schedule

**Saturday Worship 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday School 8:30**  
**Sunday Worship 9:45**

**Deadline for the  
October newsletter is**  
**Monday, November 27TH**  
Please send articles and/or  
information to  
[office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org).

*At St. John, we are  
"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."*



**9am—3pm**  
**Mon. thru Fri.**





November  
Circle  
News

**Due to the Election Day schedule,  
some Circle dates for November  
have been changed.**

**Dorcas Circle: Thurs. November 2 at 1:30 PM  
Bible Study: Group Study**

**Esther Circle: Tues., November 14th at 7:30 PM  
Bible Study: Marvel Nelson  
Hostesses: Margaret Berger/Marvel Nelson**

**Rebekah Circle: Weds. November 8th at 7:30 PM  
Bible Study: Joan Truman**

**The November WELCA Board meeting will be  
on Mon. Nov. 13th at 7:00 PM**



*St. John  
Blanket Ministry*

The Blanket Ladies would like to thank those who purchased blankets, raffle tickets and bid on the silent auction.

The highest bidder on the Ohio State Blanket was Dayna Goldstein and the highest bidder on the Americana Blanket and Pillow was Fred Lammers. Those who won blankets from the raffle drawing were: Evalyn Witty, Beckie Goldstein, Linda Schlievert, Jill Mathews, Elaine Gardner, Janice Sheahan, Sue Kozina, Bernie Blausey and Kim Sommers.

Dan Berger loaded our vehicles with blankets and Arline Sabin and Margaret and Don Berger took boxes of blankets to New Rochester for Lutheran World Relief. We took a total of 19 boxes with 107 blankets and 1 box with 9 fabric kits.

Twenty additional blankets will be delivered to Nightengale's Harvest-a ministry which assists homebound cancer patients and to the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. Throughout the year, we have passed out 31 blankets to those with health issues, 42 to Impact for Hope and 15 to Ruth Ann's House (for abused women and children) in Port Clinton.

*We would like to thank all of those who have donated material, sheets, filler and thread throughout the year. With the money raised this year, we will be able to make many more blankets in the coming year.*

*God bless you for the continuing support of  
this comforting ministry.*



**Thankoffering 2017  
November 11-12, 2017**

As we make our Thankofferings, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier.

Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Gathering in groups called "cent" or "mite" societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received.

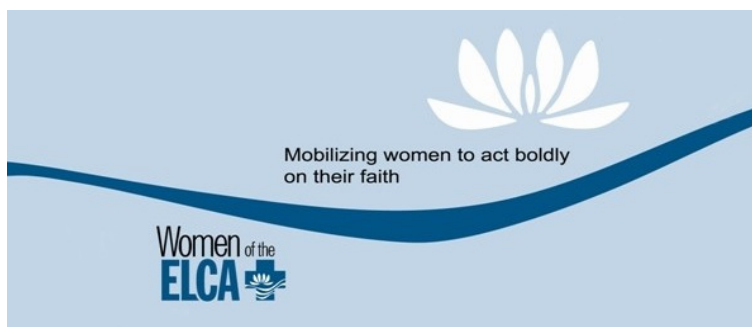
And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings.

Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, please consider a Thankoffering gift this year.

Please place your offering in the offering plate or send it to the office. Thank you for your support of the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

Our annual THANKOFFERING Services will be held on November 11 and 12. The theme for this year is "Refreshed and Renewed." Our guest speaker will be LisaAnne Gregg, our church secretary and Lay Leader at Zion UMC.



The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.  
Bed sheets are needed for quilt backings

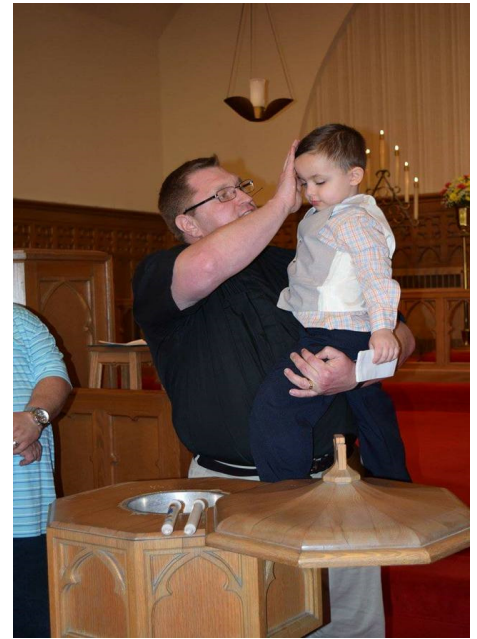
**Donations may be left in the  
box outside the church office.**

**Come join us!  
You only need to know how to tie a knot!**



## **Pastor O'Brien celebrates 20th Anniversary of his Ordination**

Please join in a celebration with Cake in the Cloister after services on **Saturday, November 18 and/or Sunday, November 19** in Honor of Pastor O'Brien's 20th Anniversary of his Ordination. Enjoy a little history and a photo board. Pastor's parents (from Florida) and Megan's parents (from Indiana) will be here for the celebration. We plan to give him a gift from the congregation. If you would like to contribute, please mark an envelope (Pastor's 20th) and place in the offering plate or drop off at the office.

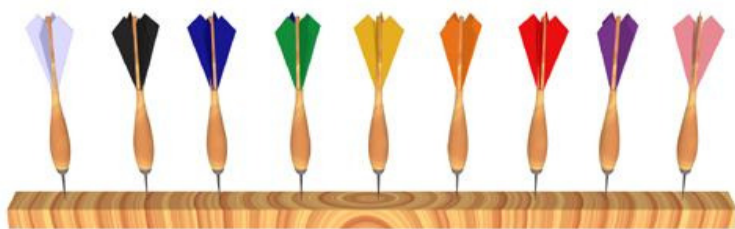


Pastor O'Brien was Ordained on October 10, 1997 at  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio.

He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice and Trinity Lutheran Seminary (Columbus, OH) with a Master of Divinity degree. He has been serving St. John since 2009. (He previously served at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Crestview Hills, Kentucky and St. John's Lutheran Church in Miamisburg, Ohio.)

We celebrate this anniversary with Pastor Shawn and consider our church blessed by his presence and his service to this church and our community!

**Happy Ordination Anniversary, Pastor Shawn!**



## Join the St. John Dartball Team!

What are you doing  
on Tuesdays?  
Why not have a little fun and  
join the Dartball Team?

League play begins  
November 7th  
at Oak Harbor St. Paul.

You do not need any  
experience to play!

For more information,  
contact Jeff Schimming  
@ 419-356-3552

All games start at 7:30

Nov 7 at OH St. Paul  
Nov. 14 at home  
Nov. 21 Millbury St. Paul  
Nov. 28 at home  
Dec. 5 at home  
Dec. 12 at Genoa St. John  
Dec. 19 at Elliston Zion

Catch the excitement and join a  
**Sunday School Class!**  
Classes meet at 8:30 AM  
every Sunday!

**\*The Confirmation Class** will meet  
in the Sanctuary.

**\*Kids Classes** will meet in the various  
classrooms.

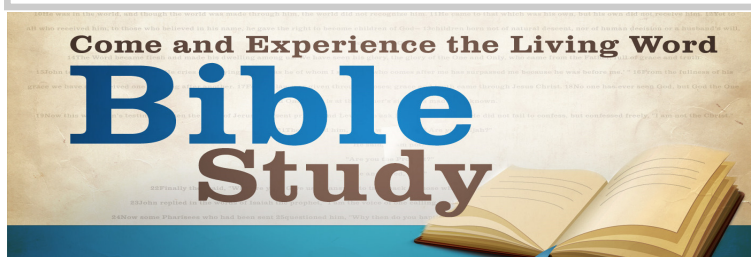
**\*The Senior High Class** will meet in the  
lounge with Stefanie Neuman.

**\*The Adult Class** will meet upstairs and  
will be continuing their study on  
the life of Martin Luther with special focus  
on the 95 Theses, Lutheran  
Doctrine and the different types  
of Lutheran churches.

### **\*Parent's Class**

Join us in third floor library  
near the Social Hall  
every Sunday for great discussion.

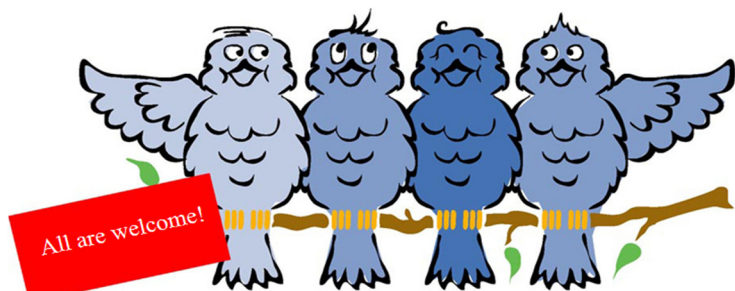
This Fall we will use another  
Focus On The Family series,  
“Essentials of Parenting” as a spring board  
for discussion.



**Monday Morning Bible Study** meets with Pastor  
O'Brien at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to join this  
class with readings and discussion.

### **New Study—“Reading Encounter”**

Join us every Weds. At 10:00 AM at the church for  
a new class entitled “Reading Encounter.”  
We will be examining the writings of prolific writer,  
C.S. Lewis. See Mike Mann for info.



Join the Flock at Sunday School



**Our Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service  
will be held on Weds. November 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM  
at St. Luke Lutheran Church  
at the corner of Yondota and Seaman Rds.**

Join with others in worship from  
St. John-Williston  
St Peter-Blackberry  
Mt. Carmel-Bono  
St. Luke-Curtice

There will be a choir anthem involving  
members from all four churches.

Rehearsals will be held at  
St. Luke on Weds. Nov. 8 and Nov. 15 at 7:00 PM  
and at St. Peter-Blackberry on  
Thurs. Nov. 2, Nov. 9 and Nov. 16 at 7:30 PM.

***Please join us for this service as we  
give thanks for our bountiful gifts from God!***



# Faith Practice

## #3 Readings

### Paul's Prison Letters

Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon



#### Week of October 30

##### Philippians 3

Paul encourages people to throw out their confidence in the flesh and attain righteousness through faith in Christ. He wants to know Christ so well that he "may share in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death." Because of Christ, Paul encourages the people to press on towards the goal of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

#### Week of November 6

##### Philippians 4

The Philippians are exhorted to help his fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord. The Lord is at hand. Pray with supplication and thanksgiving, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

#### Week of November 13

##### Colossians 1

God has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of his dear Son. Christ, in whose blood we have redemption, is the image of the invisible God, and the firstborn of every creature. By him all things were created; he is before all things, and the head of the church. He is the firstborn of the dead. By his flesh and blood, all things were reconciled to God.

#### Week of November 20

##### Colossians 2

Continue in Christ in the same way we received him by faith. We are reminded of his glorious victory on the cross where he completely annihilated all powers that accused and opposed us. We are encouraged to put aside principles and rules that are based on human teachings and commands.

#### Week of November 27

##### Colossians 3

We have been raised with Christ so we should set our hearts on things above. We died with Christ to the things of this world. We are to put them aside along with our old self. And in its place, to put on our new self, which is being renewed in the knowledge and image of our Creator.



**Thank  
You for  
helping!**



What beautiful weather we had this year for our 8th annual Trunk or Treat.  
We had lots of kids in costume and all had a wonderful time.  
Now for the Thank You's:

Thanks to all the folks who decorated their cars.  
I think we had about 22 lined up this year -  
I think the most we have ever had. Good job!

Thanks to Christian Community Life Committee who had delicious food: hot dogs, chips, drinks, popcorn, cotton candy and bootiful cupcakes baked by Carolyn Lassiter and Marilyn Sandrock and decorated by Amy Sandrock. These folks endured the hot sun on the south side of the church to keep us all fed. We really appreciate it.

Thanks to the Evangelism Committee who put together a very cute basket of Halloween goodies and then gave away to the winner of the drawing at the end of the afternoon. They also were in a very sunny location.

Thanks to Payton Donnelly, Anna Mazur and Joel Mann who sprayed hair and did face painting.  
A lot of fun was had in that tent throughout the afternoon.

Thanks to Diana Pfaff and kids from Sunday School who decorated the haunted trail and to Hulkster Pastor O'Brien who drove the rides through the trail all afternoon.  
A big thanks to Rollie Sandrock who provided the pick up and trailer with straw for the hayride.

Thanks to Alex Lammers and Sofia Cashen who kept the kids in line at the Bouncy House. Again a big hit.



Thanks to LisaAnne who printed flyers to advertise the event and to Heather Cashen who dropped the flyers at the school.

And last but not least - to all our members who provided all the candy to give out at the cars. This is a big help as we know the cost of candy these days. And we really went through a lot of candy this year!!

Thanks to Parish Education for their support of this event and taking care of many details to make this happen from year to year.

***The Trunk or Treat Basket was won by 5 year old Tanner W. of Millbury. He has a brother and sister and said he would share his basket with them. There were 80 children signed up for the drawing!***



## “St. John Youth 144 Fundraiser”

The ELCA National Youth Gathering is taking place in Houston, TX  
the summer of 2018.

The St. John Youth are asking for your support  
raising funds for the trip...

Please consider taking a “144 Fundraiser” envelope (envelopes at the rear of the sanctuary) and donating the dollar amount indicated by the number at the top of the envelope. Choose your envelope based on the donation you are comfortable making (envelopes numbered 1-144). Everyone can help!

### *Why 144?*

In book of Revelation, 144 thousand represent the servants of God who gave themselves to witness the name of Christ. Consider giving a little bit of yourself to help the youth grow in their witness to the name of Christ at The National Youth Gathering. *Thank you for your support!*



### **This Changes Everything**

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.





## News from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Dear Friends in Christ,

**"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him," Ephesians 1:17**

### Martin Luther: A Brief Word on Prayer

In 1535, Peter Beskendorf, a Wittenberg barber and friend, asked Martin Luther to teach him to pray. Luther responded with a letter entitled, *A Simple Way to Pray for Peter, the Master Barber*.

In this letter Dr. Luther describes his own personal practice of prayer. At the end of his explanation of the Lord's Prayer, Luther offers these words,

"Therefore, it's very clear that if a person is going to do something well, it requires him to focus and concentrate, as the old saying goes: pluribus intentus minor est ad singular sensus, that is, "a person engaged in many pursuits, does none of them well." So, if this is true about other things in our life, how much more does prayer require the heart to be completely focused if it is to pray a good prayer."



## *In Christian Sympathy*

The Northwestern Ohio Synod expresses sympathy to the family and friends of

**Bishop Festo Ngowo**, who passed away into the arms of the Lord on Sunday, October 15, 2017.  
He was the Bishop of the Dodoma Diocese in Tanzania, East Africa.

The Northwestern Ohio Synod began a partnership with the Diocese of Dodoma Tanzania shortly after the forming of the ELCA. This began with the NWOS Bishop traveling with a group to Tanzania to visit the Bishop of Dodoma Diocese. For several years Rev. Festo Ngowo corresponded with Trinity Lutheran in Arcadia.

Trinity invited Rev. Ngowo to come and visit during a Lenten season. He worked with them during that time and also visited Winebrenner Seminary where he became interested in attending. Later, he returned and attended Winebrenner for two years. He lived at the City Mission in Findlay attending seminary, and serving as Trinity's assistant pastor.

In 2009 Rev. Festo Ngowo was selected by the Dodoma Diocese to be their Bishop and he was consecrated Bishop of Dodoma Diocese on November 8, 2009.

Services for Bishop Ngowo were held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017  
where he was be buried in Dodoma.

## Scrapbook Crop Fundraiser for Luther Home of Mercy



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH,**

**9:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

Bring your friends to the Luther Home of Mercy Habilitation Center (5810 N. Main St. - Wiliston) for a day of scrapbooking fun benefiting the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy!

Your donation of \$35.00 includes 8 ft. of table space, light continental breakfast, lunch, dinner & snacks. This is a great opportunity to complete your Christmas projects and enjoy time with friends.

You can register & pay online at

<http://lutherhome.org>

Questions: Contact Megan O'Brien  
419-972-4436,

Or email her at [mobrien@lutherhome.org](mailto:mobrien@lutherhome.org)

## St. John to host BLOOD DRIVE



### St. John Blood Drive Sunday, December 10th from 1-6 PM in the basement.

**A light lunch will be provided to those  
who present to donate blood.**

### Share your gift of blood and save a life! It's easy!

You may sign up at  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
or by calling LisaAnne in the office.



## Genoa Food Pantry News & Needs

**November**-Paper towels, 4 pack bathroom tissue and Kleenex

**December**-Cereal and dish soap

The Genoa Food Pantry will also be collecting donations of laundry detergent in the month of December. If you would like to donate, just drop your donations off at the church pantry cart.

**St. John will be serving at the Genoa Food Pantry on  
Saturday, December 16th. Please mark your calendar to help!**

Thank you for helping to support our neighbors in need!  
For more information, please call Cindy H. at 419-304-0071<sub>2</sub>





# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

## ***Our November Stewardship Prayer***

Loving Father, you alone are the source of every good gift. We praise you for all your gifts to us, and we thank you for your generosity.

Everything we have, and all that we are,  
comes from you.

Help us to be grateful and responsible.

You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost. Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples.

We commit ourselves to being good stewards.

Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous,  
and willing to give back with increase.

Help us to make stewardship a way of life.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now  
and forever. AMEN

God, may we think of  
ourselves as  
Servants of Christ  
and stewards of your  
mysteries.



## **The Nature of True Apostleship *1 Cor. 4:1-2***

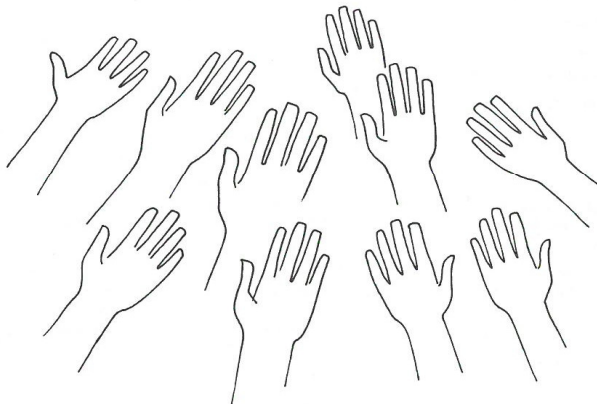
*This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*



## **STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY**

We bring nothing into this world...  
and we take nothing out of it.

**EVERYTHING** that we have  
while we are here comes as a  
**GIFT FROM GOD...**



**In appreciation, we choose to share a portion of these gifts.**

The stewardship of our property is an ongoing process.

We give regularly and systematically in proportion to the gifts which we are given...

...the talents which earn us our possessions.

Because we love God, we gladly dedicate these gifts to God's service, and give a worthy portion for the care of people in need.





# St. John Youth Group News

November 2017

## Mystery Dinner

Due to a scheduling conflict our October event was moved to the first Saturday in November. Join us Saturday, November 4th at 6:00p for a Mystery Dinner.



Come hungry; there will be plenty of good food - even if we can't tell you what it all is. Please sign up so we can have enough delicious food for everyone.

## Food For Thought

We will be working with "Food For Thought Toledo", a mobile food pantry. Friday, November 10 (6:00p) we meet at their downtown location (Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St.) to help pack lunches for the homeless. On Saturday, November 11 we meet around 9:30a to distribute lunches.

We can take up to 50 volunteers on Friday and no more than 15 on Saturday. There is a sign-up sheet next to Pastor



## Cookie Making

To raise funds for the Youth Gathering next summer, we will be **selling Christmas cookies on December 9/10** before and after worship. If you would like to help, bring some of your favorite Christmas cookies (baked at home) to the church. We will meet at 7:00p in the basement kitchen on Friday (12/8) to get organized and start making gift jars. On Saturday (12/9) we meet at 9:00a to continue making cookies and package them

## 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>

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Upcoming Youth Activities/ Events*

### November 4, 6p - Mystery Dinner

*(Can you guess what we are eating? )*

### November 10 - Food for Thought Lunch Packing

*(We meet at Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St. at 6:00 to make sandwiches.)*

### November 11 - Food for Thought Lunch Serving

*(We meet at Trinity Episcopal Church, 316 Adams St. at 9:30a to distribute lunches.)*

### December 8 /9- Christmas Cookie Sale preparation

*(Help the youth raise funds for their trip to the National Youth Gathering next summer. Meet at the church at 7p on Friday and 9a on Saturday.)*

### December 9/10 - Christmas Cookie Sale before and after worship

*(Help the youth raise funds for their trip to the National Youth Gathering next summer.)*

### 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 STUDENTS:

Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher.

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

# Youth Christmas Cookie Sale



St. John Youth will be selling  
**Christmas Cookies &  
Take -n-Bake Cookie Jars**  
before and after worship on  
Saturday, December 9th  
& Sunday, December 10th.

Our Youth will be baking some of their  
own favorite recipes!

All proceeds will benefit the  
2018 ELCA  
Youth Gathering Trip



# St. John's Annual Christmas Program

## December 17, 2017

### 7:00PM

**Practices for the program will be on  
December 16, 2017 9:00am-12:00pm  
and during Sunday School from 8:30am-9:30am  
Any Catechism students who are not in the program  
will have class with Pastor O'Brien.**



An Advent Tea will follow the program.  
Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Any questions, contact Tammy Mazur or Beckie Goldstein.



# COUNCIL MINUTES

**Council Meeting Highlights- October 19, 2017**

**Pastor's Report:** He had 21 hospital/homebound or family visits, 3 committee meetings, 4 community event, 2 clergy meetings, 6 Bible studies, 1 funeral and 1 baptism. The 2019 Youth Gathering has raised \$4000 of the \$15,000 needed to send all 13 people interested in attending the event. St. John will be helping at the Food for Thought mobile pantry on November 10, 2017, leaving the church around 5:30 p.m. We will be packing lunches for the homeless. We can use about 50 volunteers on that night. Then on Saturday, we can take 15 volunteers to distribute the lunches. We will leave on Saturday about 9:30 a.m. We are also, in need of creamy peanut butter, jelly, sandwich bags, bread and sweet/salty snacks. Please place any donated items in the box beside the church office.

**Christian Community Life:** reported that the Genoa Food Pantry served 65 people in 31 families for September. On December 16, 2017 St. John Lutheran Church will assisting at the Genoa Food Pantry. The committee will be serving the lunch for the Trunk-or-Treat event.

**Evangelism:** reported that the committee put together a gift basket as a prize for the Trunk-or-Treat event. Jane Phillips purchased the items for the gift basket. Tracy Orians, Rob Orians and Margaret Berger will be at Trunk-or-Treat to register children for the gift basket.

**Parish Education:** reported that a huge thermometer will be created to show the Sunday school students which animal their offerings are able to purchase as their offerings increase throughout the year. The Children's Christmas Program will be on December 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with an Advent Tea to follow. New Angel wings were purchased this year to replace the old ones for the Children's Program. The committee would like to purchase more costumes and add to the puppet ministry with more puppets.

**Stewardship Committee:** reported that the committee had nothing to report at this time.

**Worship Life:** The committee is reviewing the contracts for both music directors.

**Property:** reported that there is a leak in the roof and the contractors have been contacted. The dirt in the side lot has been moved and leveled. The Wi-Fi has been upgraded throughout the church. The projector and sound system proposal for the Social Hall will be quoted.

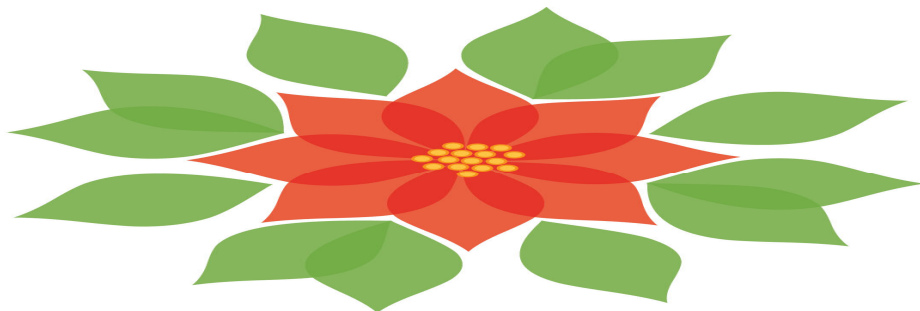
**Old Business:** Property would like to possibly replace the water heaters for next year. Nominating Committee will be starting to look for the committee members for the next year's term. The Secretary position is also to be filled as it was just an appointment for this last year.

**New Business:** The Quilting Ladies received a thank-you from Freeport, Texas for the donated blankets to the Impact of Hope (Hurricane Relief).

**Next Committee Meeting is on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm.**

Respectively submitted,  
Diana Pfaff, Council Secretary



# ORDER YOUR Poinsettias

**ORDER DEADLINE -NOVEMBER 26th**

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.

## Quantity

\_\_\_\_ White - \$ 7.00 each

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Red - \$ 7.00 each

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**New! Please consider purchasing a plant for one of our homebound members...  
Our Sunshine Friends!**

\_\_\_\_\_ White—\$7.00 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Red- \$7.00 each

(Check one) \_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver my donated plant to a Sunshine Friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver my plant to Sunshine Friend

(name) \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**Statement of Income and Expense**  
**As of: September 30. 2017**

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
<b>Income: *</b>	<b>281,000</b>	<b>21,215</b>	<b>20,248</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>204,546</b>	<b>206,705</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>205,291</b>	<b>1%</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%	27,875	27,875	100%		
<b>Board/Ministries</b>	14,400	1,200	583	49%	10,800	6,999	65%		
<b>Staff Salaries</b>	106,230	9,085	8,146	90%	80,372	74,961	93%		
<b>Staff Benefits</b>	52,470	4,348	3,898	90%	39,427	35,602	90%		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	60,900	5,936	5,694	96%	50,049	45,473	91%		
<b>Expense Totals</b>	<b>272,000</b>	<b>23,527</b>	<b>21,279</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>208,523</b>	<b>190,910</b>	<b>92%</b>		
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>(2,312)</b>	<b>(1,031)</b>		<b>(3,977)</b>	<b>15,795</b>			

**2017 Dedicated Fund Balances**

Building/Development	2,363
Activity Center Savings	267,881
Memorials	63,385
Music Fund	3,519
Endowment Fund	107,382
Roof Fund	20,715
Scholarship Tank	7,448
Scholarship Younker	1,250
Scholarship Johnson	34,247
Scholarship Parks	39,121
Stephen Ministries	3,874
Other	29,923
Savings	29,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>610,951</b>

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

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance, Tim Titgemeyer, Ron Gerkenmeyer or Jennifer Nelson



# NOVEMBER



## SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

### Acolytes

- 4 Mallory Nelson
- 11 Aidan O'Brien
- 18 Aubrey Lee
- 25 Anna Sommers

### Lectors

- 4 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 11 Doris Titgemeyer
- 18 Shelley Snider
- 25 Amy Schloegl

### Ushers

- 4 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
- 11 Diane Dickinson, Evalyn Witty, Alice Witt, Carol Vargo
- 18 David Lee Family
- 25 Marty & Owen Schloegl, Jack Matthews, AJ Rubeis

### Communion Servers

- 4 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Gene Bihn
- 11 Doris Titgemeyer, Carol Vargo, Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 18 Wayne Bauman, Al Brown, Carol Vargo
- 25 Amy Schloegl, Nancy Strohscher, JoElaine Schimming

### Communion Set-up

- 4 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 11 Joan Truman
- 18 Ruth Petersen
- 25 Dilly Schimming

### Door Greeters

- 4 Linda Bauman
- 11 Thankoffering
- 18 Kris Lee
- 25 Carol Vargo

### Sound/Projector Techs

- 4 JJ Milbrodt/Traci Brown
- 11 Phil & Matt Milbrodt
- 18 Ron Gerkenmeyer/Amy Bihn
- 25 Matt Milbrodt/Traci Brown

## SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

### Acolytes

- 5 Sophia Cashen
- 12 Evan Kessler
- 19 Lauren LaRue
- 26 Tucker Fredericksen

### Lectors

- 5 Deanna Neuman
- 12 Kris Johnson
- 19 Marica Morgan
- 26 Roland Sandrock

### Ushers

- 5 The Lammers Family
- 12 Sue Kozina, Margaret Berger, Carole Beamer  
Darlene Carstensen
- 19 Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer, Jeff Schimming
- 26 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Bob Kapp

### Communion Servers

- 5 Tim Tigemeyer, Heather Cashen, Kris Johnson
- 12 Wilma Smithers, Carole Beamer, Kris Johnson
- 19 Roland Sandrock, Marcia Morgan, Carol Jensen
- 26 Ann & Mike Mann, Karolyn Jansen

### Communion Set-up

- 5 Melissa Lammers
- 12 Diana Pfaff
- 19 Pam LaRue
- 26 Janice Sandrock

### Door Greeters

- 5 Karen Jeffers
- 12 Thankoffering
- 19 Dave Neuman
- 26 Tim & Cebie T.

### Sound/Projector Techs

- 5 Joel Mann
- 12 Andy Kessler
- 19 Alex Lammers
- 26 Paul Beamer

### Children's Moments

- 5 Bells
- 12 Puppets
- 19 Stef Neuman
- 26 Alex Lammers

*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.*



We need to add volunteers to our list of Worship Assistants! Can you help? Call the office today and sign up to help in Worship!



## Worship Assistants

### SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

#### Acolytes

2 Lauren Martin  
9 Riley Chesson  
16 Peyton Donnelly  
23 Anna Sommers  
30 Aidan O'Brien

#### Lectors

2 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
9 Gene Bihn  
16 Nancy Strohscher  
23 Shirley Berger  
30 Doris Titgemeyer

#### Ushers

2 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Jim and Dilly Schimming  
9 Dean & Mary Lowe, Gerald & Jeanette Lentz  
16 Ken and Pat Sievert, Marty and Owen Schloegl  
23 Carol Vargo, John and Helen Meyer, Alice Witt  
30 David Lee Family

#### Communion Servers

2 Beth Johnson, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
9 Wayne Bauman, Al Brown, Gene Bihn,  
16 Amy Schloegl, Nancy Strohscher, Doris Titgemeyer  
23 Diane Gerkenmeyer, Carol Vargo,  
Jo Elaine Schimming  
30 Al Brown, Beth Johnson, Gene Bihn

#### Communion Set-up

2 Diane Gerkenmeyer  
9 Carol Vargo  
16 Traci Brown  
23 Brenda Keeley  
30 Ruth Petersen

#### Door Greeters

2 Joni Hillman  
9 Linda Bauman  
16 Jo Elaine Schimming  
23 Dean and Mary Lowe  
30 Jack Mathews

#### Sound/Projector Techs

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

### SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship

#### Acolytes

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

#### Lectors

3 Kris Johnson  
10 Tim Titgemeyer  
17 Jill Kao  
24 Mike Mann  
31 Cebie Titgemeyer

#### Ushers

3 Heather, Sophia and Lindsey Cashen  
10 The Fred Lammers Family  
17 Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp  
24 Jeff Schimming, Clarence Smithers, Dan Nelson  
31 Bob Bench Family

#### Communion Servers

3 Carol Jensen, Kris Johnson, Roland Sandrock  
10 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler  
17 Jill Kao, Heather Cashen, Wilma Smithers  
24 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen  
31 Mona Vogelbacher, Bob Kapp, Carole Beamer

#### Communion Set-up

3 Heather Cashen  
10 Melissa Lammers  
17 Deanna Neuman  
24 Diana Pfaff  
31 Janice Sandrock

#### Door Greeters

3 Marcia Morgan  
10 Linda Schlievert  
17 Deb Wehner  
24 Tim Titgemeyer  
31 Shelley Snider

#### Sound/Projector Techs

3 Alex Lammers  
10 Joel Mann  
17 Andrew Kessler  
24 Joel Mann  
31 Tim Titgemeyer

#### Children's Moments

3 Bells  
10 Alex Lammers  
17 Stef Neuman  
24 Puppets  
31 Caira Goldstein

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