



FORERUNNER

Volume 0638 Issue 263
March 2018

Ask the Pastor

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Recently a co-worker made the comment that Easter was originally a pagan holiday. Is that true?

The simple answer is, no. Easter is without a doubt a Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. It dates back to the earliest days of the church. Your co-worker may, however, be confusing the holiday itself with the etymology of the word "Easter" ...

In the original language of the gospels, the Greek word *<pascha>* is used, which means Passover. During the first three centuries of the Church, *<Pasch>* referred specifically to the celebration of Christ's passion and death; by the end of the fifth century, it also included the Easter Vigil and Easter day itself. (The early Christians saw Christ as the *new* Passover Lamb, so they kept the name, but subtly changed the meaning.) Sometimes in our liturgy we will hear Easter referred to as the Paschal Feast. All of Holy Week, from Passion/Palm Sunday, through the mystery of the Last Supper, the sacrifice of Good Friday, and including the resurrection of Easter all form the new Passover – the new *<Pasch>*.

According to St. Bede (d. 735), a Middle Ages historian, the title Easter seems to originate in English around the eighth century A.D. The word Easter is derived from the word *<Eoster>*, the name of the Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and the coming of spring, also the annual sacrifices associated with her. If this is the origin of our word Easter, then the Church took over the name and changed its meaning to denote that first Easter Sunday morning *<Pasch>* (or new Passover) when Christ, our Light, rose from the grave; when the women found the empty tomb just as dawn was breaking.

Other sources say Bede made up the goddess Eoster, and the word comes from the German month *Ēosturmōnath* (the equivalent of April) when the celebration was held.

Either way, the celebration of the day of Resurrection has absolutely nothing to do with pagan goddesses and ceremonies, other than, perhaps, stealing the name. The event we celebrate as "Easter" is Christian without question. Exactly why the English language did not continue to use to the Hebrew-Greek-Latin root is a mystery. Unlike Christmas, which was set on December 25 and "baptized" the former Roman pagan Feast of the Sun, Easter is a unique celebration. Any confusion, therefore, rests with etymology, not theology.

(Etymology information comes from Fr. Saunders, president of Notre Dame Institute and associate pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish, in Alexandria.)

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.

GRATEFUL & BLESSED

To all who helped..

A new leaf has been added to the tree of life. Thank you for joining us in celebrating our loved one's homegoing. Thank you so much for your time, help and service.

The Family of Sharon Kusian

You are "SOUPER!"

A big thank you to all who donated on Souper Bowl Sunday. This year our congregation gave \$752 to the Genoa Food Pantry! Thanks so much for your generosity for this most worthy cause. And

Thanks to all who donated and bought many of our wonderful baked goods! St. John WELCA really appreciates it!! Very successful again this year even though the ice storm on Sunday the 11th kept many away. Once again, THANKS!

Ann Mann

Friends at St. John,

Thank you so much for your Christmas Contribution of over \$1400 to the Genoa Food Pantry. Your generosity is overwhelming.

It is appreciated and will be put to good use.

***Nancy Csiznek
Genoa Food Pantry***

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!

*Carolyn Lasseter
Marilyn Sandrock
Linda Schlievert
Terry Gast
Betty Roecker
Alan Harder
Madelayne Saionskowski*

Snow Emergency Information

If Ottawa County is under a **Level 3** Snow Emergency, we will **not** have worship or any other church related activities until the emergency has been cancelled.

If Ottawa County is under a **Level 2 or Level 1** Snow Emergency, we will still hold worship and activities for those who can travel safely. Please consider your safety and the safety of others on the road when you decide to venture out into the weather. We love you and your well-being is our number one concern. !

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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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
April 2017 newsletter is
March 26**

**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 Jennifer Johnson
Diane Dickinson

In Memory of Kris Johnson
Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson
Lois Staber
Ruth Alteneder
Alonzo Seaboldt
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Mary Harmeyer
Barbara Meder
Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Doris Titgemeyer
Clarence and Wilma Smithers

In Memory of Sharon Kusian
Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson

In Memory of Doris Arndt
Jim and Delores Schimming
Roland and Janice Sandrock

In Memory of James A. Bihn
Gene and Amy Bihn (Youth trip)

In Memory of Virginia Webb
Roland and Janice Sandrock

In Memory of Mary Mathews
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Arline Sabin
Madelayne Saionzkowski
Carol Vargo
Alice Witt
Dick & Marge Buhrow
Curt & Christine Reeder
Gary & Darlene Carstensen
Joe Burdge
Roland & Marilyn Henderson
Wayne & Linda Bauman
Linda & James Reihing
JoElaine Schimming
Phyllis Haeft
Carol & Dora Sander
Robert and Ruth Long
Al & Traci Brown
Jack & Barbara Chio
Gary & Sandy Beckman
Eloise Hellwig
Barbara & Daniel Sander
Ruth Cummerow
Carolyn Lasseter, Marilyn Sandrock
& Edna Sandrock
Alice & Tom Siglar
Richard & Rebecca Brossia

Donna Witt and family
Jim & Delores Schimming
Wayne & Linda Sandrock
Sandra Stoke
Ken & Judy Sander
Marlene Burke
Frederic & Suellen Jensen
Fritz Lau
Joel & Joanne Pinkerton & family
Lucille Gackstetter
Linda Schlievert
Don & Margaret Berger
Tom & Joan Truman
Jim & Mona Vogelbacher
Drema Ignaczak
Gerry Jagos
Jim & Barb Hasenfratz
Mann Technologies
Clyde and Mary Sandrock
Lowell and Diane Hartman
Clarence and Wilma Smithers
Dave and MaryAnn Glowzewski
Rich and Joni Hillman
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Dale and Sondra Klavinger
Clarence and Wilma Smithers

In Memory of Jean Sahr
Virgil and Betty Roecker
Lowell and Diane Hartman

In Memory of Michelle Tuttle
Virgil and Betty Roecker

In Memory of Rolland Hansen
Roland & Janice Sandrock
Greg Bronner
Sally Clark
Bob & Julie Hansen
Gary and Darlene Carstensen
BeckyAnn & Wayne Johnson
John and Susan Hansen
Gary Schumaker & Cheryl Catr
Nancy Vanderhorst
Brenda Lowe
Sandra Stake
Dorothy Banky & family
MaryLou & Sherry Hansen
LisaAnne Gregg
Clyde and Mary Sandrock

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



Mary Mathews, 95, of Curtice, OH passed away Saturday, February 3, 2018, on her 95th birthday, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. Mary is survived by her sons, Jack (Jill) Mathews, Thomas (Monica) Mathews, Daniel (Karen) Mathews, Donald Mathews, and Gary Mathews, daughters, Joanne (Al) Domrose and Donna Mathews, 14 grandchildren, many great grandchildren, and several great great grandchildren. Services were held at St. John on Feb. 7th.



Rolland I. Hansen, 93, of Clay Center, Ohio died Tuesday, February 6, 2018 while a resident of Perrysburg Commons, Perrysburg, Ohio. Rolland is survived by his children, Roland "Buck" Hansen, Terry Hansen, and Marsha (Dan) Wolf, many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He is survived by his brother, Ralph Hansen, sisters, Martha Jamie, Margaret Schert and Leona Behlmer. Services were held at St. John on Feb. 10th.



March Circle News



The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Wilma Smithers

Hostesses: Carol Vargo

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Helen Meyer

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, March 1, 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting Monday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup & Salad Buffet

Wednesday noon, following 11 a.m. service
(Dates, Hostesses)

March 7, Christian Community Life

March 14, Rebekah Circle

March 21, Church Council



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 on.

Thank you!

“I Am She”

Boldness is a call to action. As Women of the ELCA, women who are claimed and called by God, we believe that a life lived boldly is a faith-filled celebration and an investment in the world we want for ourselves and our children. Through the publication “I Am She” by the WELCA, we will explore how we can be BOLD.

Praying Boldly

For some of us, praying is second nature, while for some, praying out loud is a bold step. If you're not used to praying as bold action, you may feel uncertain—or maybe even silly—about trying it. Trying new things is good. And praying with boldness is what we are called to do. It will change the world, and us.

Here is a list of ways you might pray boldly. Try doing a different prayer idea every day for a week, or try one new bold idea a week for 7 weeks.

1. Invite a group of friends to pray with you (ask them to hold hands while you pray).
2. Pray for something that you think is completely impossible. Journal about it and record what happens.
3. Prayer-walk your neighborhood. As you walk, look around at the houses you see and the people you pass. Pray for the people in your neighborhood. Prayer-walking is a great exercise all around— you get out and active, and your spirit gets moving boldly.
4. Try praying aloud in a big group setting, like your women's Bible study group or in church.
5. Try a new prayer posture. If you usually sit when praying, try kneeling. If you usually kneel, try standing and raising your hands.
6. Pray over a meal out—at school, work, or in a restaurant. Don't worry if others watch you; they may want to join you sometime.
7. Share a song, a story, or a joke with God as you pray. Or draw a prayer for God and color it beautifully!

Based on an idea from Jane Cline Rubicini, Kitchener, Ontario (2000)

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive God's mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it Hebrews 4:16 (New Living Bible)

Adult SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's Not Just for Kids! Join Us! Sunday Morning at 8:30

Have you decided that going to Sunday School or Bible Study class is a big waste of time? Maybe you started skipping because you were constantly running late on Sunday mornings, or perhaps you started a new church and just never got connected with a class. Whatever your reasons, Sunday School isn't just for the kiddos! There are lots of reasons why connecting with a small group or class can benefit your life in ways you haven't even thought of. For example ...

1. Develop a Sense of Belonging Even the biggest churches seem smaller when you attend breakout sessions. If you're longing for a little country church where "everybody knows your name," Sunday School or Life Discovery class is just the thing for getting to know people one-on-one. People tend to listen and leave in "big church," but small groups usually linger in classrooms and get to know one another personally. Before long, you'll start recognizing familiar faces in the sanctuary, and those people will introduce you to other people ... soon you'll fit right in, even in the largest of churches!

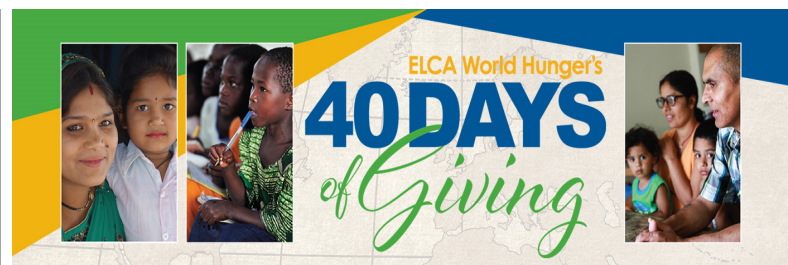
2. Get to Know Your Community Better Where's the best place to get an affordable, stylish back-to-school haircut? Which local vets specialize in exotic pets? Who's available to cut grass during the summertime, or babysit for your date nights? Sunday School is a great place to get to know people, places, events, and other local conveniences. There may not be a pediatric dentist in your class, but you can bet there will be at least one person in there who knows one!

3. You Can Ask Questions! Sermons are one-way communication. In Sunday School class, you can ask questions. What are spiritual gifts? Why do we still follow some Old Testament laws but not others? What does the Bible say about discipline and immigration and economic policy? Sunday School and Life Discovery class is where you can ask those pressing questions and gain a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the Bible and what it means for our daily lives.

4. Join Others in Prayer for Specific Needs Do you often leave church feeling like you still have needs that are unmet? In Sunday School, class members talk about their lives. They share their needs, goals, and worries with one another, and they take time to pray for the needs and concerns of individuals. If your heart is heavy about an illness, a wayward child, or another issue, Life Discovery class is the best place to get the prayer, support, encouragement, and guidance you need.

5. Get Different Perspectives on the Bible & Faith Because Sunday School allows for open discussion and questions, you can gain perspective from a number of different people — all from different backgrounds and differing walks of life. You can even choose what group you fit best in. Some classes are made up of people who were once Atheists, or who love to ride motorcycles, or who have small children. Others are an interesting mix of different people with different perspectives on life and faith. You can learn so much by spending time in one of these small groups.

6. Socialize Your Kids in a Safe & Nurturing Environment Are you in desperate need of some "adult time"? During Sunday School, you can place your kids with loving, nurturing caregivers, while you get some one-on-one with big people. Your kids will thrive there, learning fun Bible stories that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Kids learn how to sit still, pay attention to the teacher, ask questions in an orderly fashion, and even share books and toys — all the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.



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".

SPECIAL EVENTS in the NWOS-ELCA District

"JOURNEY IN THEIR SHOES EXHIBIT"

Where? HeART Gallery St Paul's Lutheran Church
428 North Erie Street, Toledo 419.270.3224



TOLEDO HeART Gallery, is inviting its viewers and guests to participate in two unique and very different exhibits this spring. "Journey in Their Shoes", March 15-17, is an exhibit of shoes, on loan from everyday Toledo folks. Each donor is invited to write four sentences that describe where these shoes have taken them on their journey. By reading the short narratives accompanying each pair of shoes, visitors will engage in uplifting moments of challenge, share the heartache of being forced to leave one's home, experience stories of inner strength, successes, accomplishments, isolation, regret and exuberant joy. These stories will move you and make you laugh, in a very memorable gallery exhibit that crosses and connects the diversity in our greater Toledo area. Individuals willing to loan a pair of their shoes, should email kate@stpaulstoledo.org. Accompanying the exhibit are black and white photos by "Toledo street photographer" James Dickerson

Starting Feb. 14,

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving will once again offer congregations and ELCA members the opportunity to support and learn about ELCA World Hunger.

This year's effort will lift up programs in India, Malawi and the United States that urgently need your support. Choose a program and walk alongside our neighbors as they address hunger in their communities.

[Join us!](#) **Learn More at www.elca.org.**



The 2018 Synod Assembly "The Year of Prayer" will be held on Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, 2018 in Bowling Green Ohio.

All Friday's opening festivities will include a preliminary keynote presentation and an opening prayer service at the First United Methodist Church, 1526 E Wooster St, Bowling Green, OH. All Saturday events will be held at the Bowen Thompson Student Union at BGSU.

Registration Periods

Early Registration: Wednesday, January 31 to Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Regular Registration Period: Thursday, March 1 to Saturday, March 31, 2018

Final Registration Period: Sunday, April 1 to Monday, April 30, 2018

Non-Voting Guest: Wednesday, January 31 to Monday, April 30, 2018

Check www.nwos-elca.org for more information

Did you know?

The ELCA Website is full of resources for today's Lutheran Community. This month, check out <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>. This resource provides a month long list of prayers and concerns of the ELCA Church and our world.



STEWARDSHIP

MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY

What is Christian Stewardship?

"It's a lifestyle choice that recognizes that everything is a gift from God.

Jesus taught that our responsibility as disciples is to recognize that God is the provider of all that we possess and that our call is to be generous givers. A Christian steward contributes his or her time, talent, prayers and financial resources with a willing and joyful spirit.

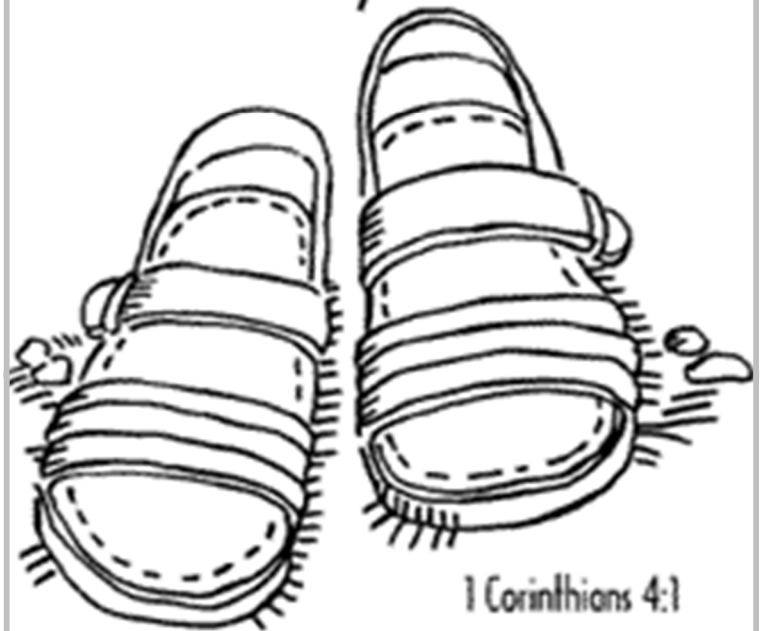
Being a generous giver is a spiritual response to God's goodness.

12 Qualities of a Christian Steward

1. A Christian Steward is compassionate
2. A Christian Steward is content.
3. A Christian Steward is generous.
4. A Christian Steward is grateful.
5. A Christian Steward is loving.
6. A Christian Steward is obedient.
7. A Christian Steward is loyal.
8. A Christian Steward is prayerful.
9. A Christian Steward is responsible.
10. A Christian Steward sacrifices.
11. A Christian Steward shares.
12. A Christian Steward is trustworthy.

From Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Stewardship by
Phyllis Bowers, Nashville: Cokesbury Copyright ©2000

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.



1 Corinthians 4:1

NOISY OFFERINGS

For VBS!

*Save your change and mark
Your Calendars for
NOISY OFFERING
WEEKENDS*

March 3-4
April 7-8
May 5-6



Easter Lilies

Order forms for Easter Flowers will be available in the Forerunner, in the Narthex and in the office.

******The order deadline is March 9th before 2PM. ******
(They will be ordered 3/9 at 3PM)

Please fill out a form, attach your check or cash, and drop it in the offering plate or at the office. Please mark **“EASTER LILIES”** on your envelope and check and write your name on the envelope.

This year, the white lilies are in 6” pots and contain 5-6 blooms.
All pots will have gold pot covers. **They are \$7.50 each.**

They will be available for pick up after our Sunday Easter Service.

Easter Lily Order Form

Flowers are white and are in 6” pots with gold covers and contain 5-6 blooms.

Your name _____

Phone _____

Qty. _____ x \$7.50 each = \$ _____

In loving memory of _____

In Honor Of _____

Please place this form and payment in an envelope marked “Easter Flowers” and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office. Please remember to write your name on the envelope. Thank You!



COMMUNITY *Lenten Services*

We will be participating in a Lenten rotation again this year. The Wednesdays of Lent, we will worship at 11:00 am here at St. John. We will hear from a new preacher each week. Worship will be followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the basement.

Weds. March 7th * "Enlist"

Pastor Bob Noble

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon following service
by Christian Community Life

*

Weds. March 14th * "Finish"

Pastor Stephen Bull

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon following service
by Rebekah Circle

*

Weds. March 21st * "Mine!"

Pastor David Hendrick

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon following service
by Church Council

For those who are only able to worship in the evening, this sermon series is also available at the following participating churches: Calvary (Northwood) Meal 6PM-Service 7:30PM

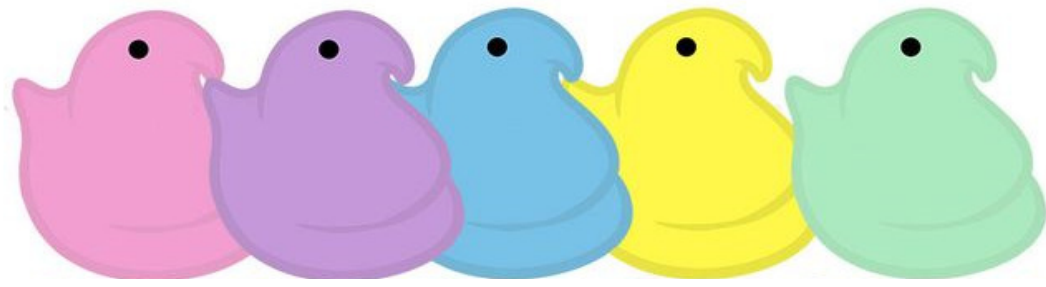
St. John (Oak Harbor) Meal 6PM-Service 7PM, St. Luke (Yondota) Meal 6PM-Service 7PM,
Zion (Latcha) Meal 6PM-Service 7PM, St. John (Rocky Ridge) Meal 5PM-Service 7PM



MAUNDY *Thursday*

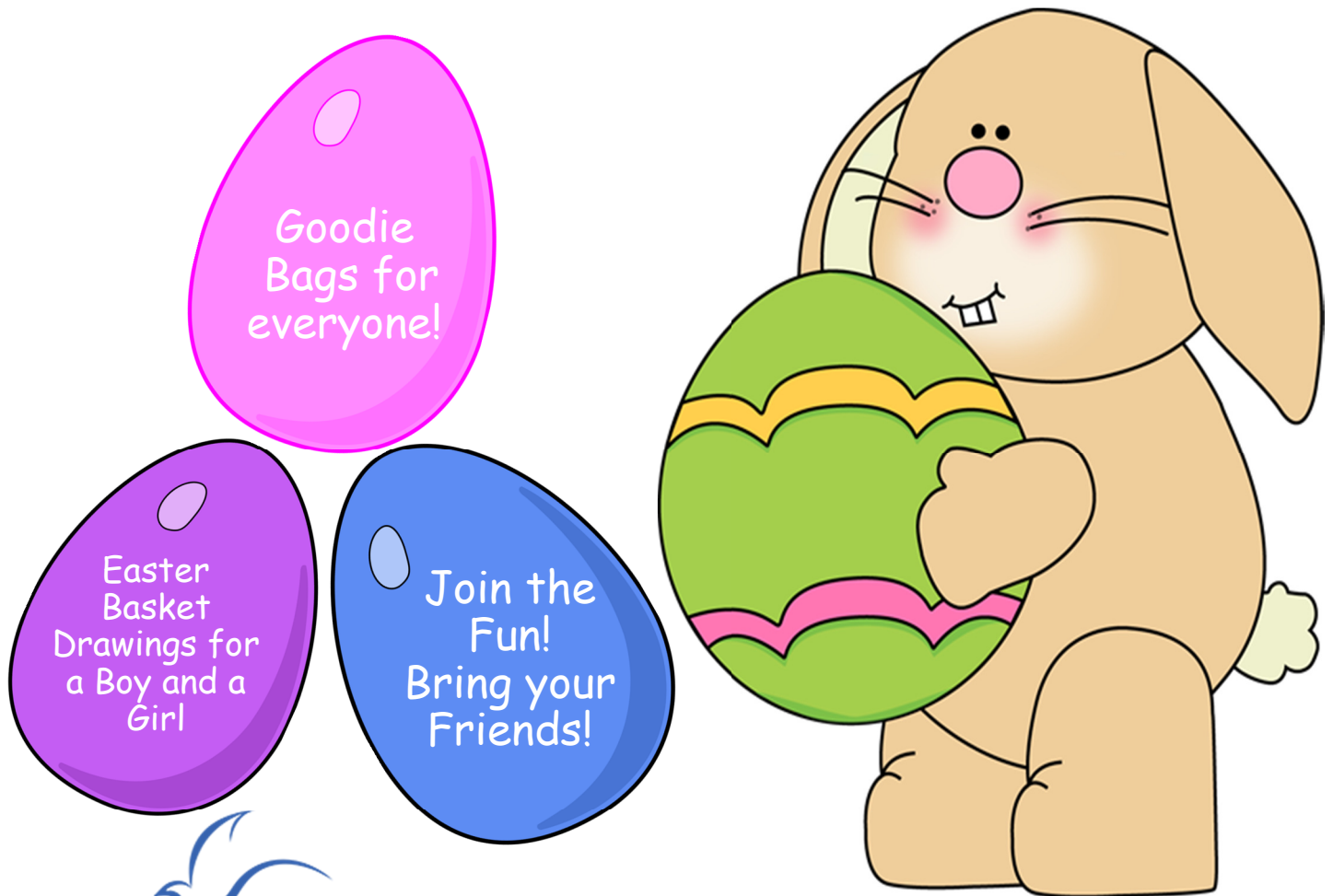
Worship Service
7:00 PM
March 29th





Bring your Peeps!
Annual St. John-Williston
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31st* 11:00 am
Ages 0 to 5th grade welcome!



EASTER BREAKFAST

8:30am Easter Sunday



*Join us for
Easter Breakfast
at St. John*

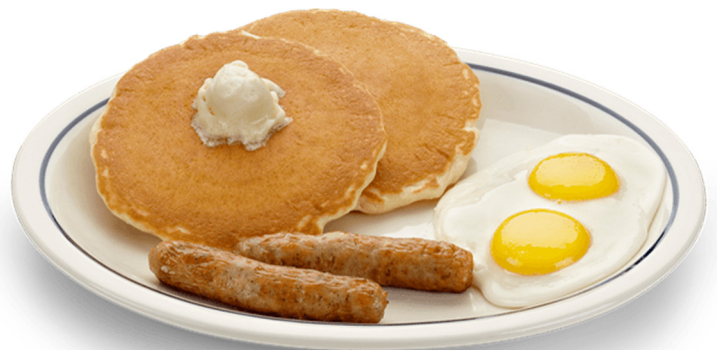
*Sunday April 1, 2018
8:30am to 9:30am*

*Scrambled Eggs, Sausage,
Cinnamon Rolls, Bagels and Fruit
Coffee, Tea, Milk and Juice*

Oatmeal will also be available.

*Free will
donation.*

All welcome!



THIS EASTER

*There is a place
for you here!*

*Join us for Easter
at St. John-Williston*

*† Easter Egg Hunt Saturday,
March 31 @ 11:00 AM (preschool-5th grade)*

*† Easter Contemporary Worship
Saturday, March 31
@ 5:00 PM*

† Easter Sunday Breakfast @ 8:30 AM

*† Easter Sunday
Traditional Worship @ 9:45 AM*





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.

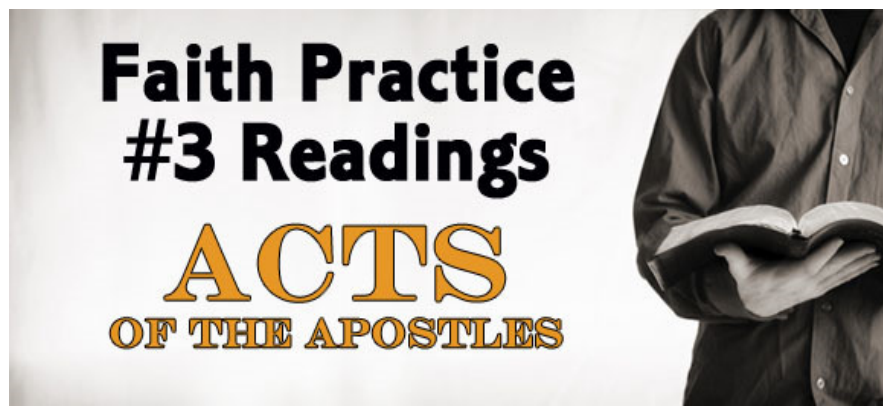


Let's help the Genoa Community Food Pantry!

FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY DONATION LIST SCHEDULE

Oil
Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo
Paper Towels, 4 pk toilet paper, Kleenex/tissues
Cereal, Dish Soap
Spaghetti Meat Sauce, Dry Pasta (Spaghetti Noodles, Egg Noodles)
Can Soups (creamed, tomato, chicken noodle, Hearty soups)
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Boxed Mac and Cheese, canned pasta (spaghetti O's)
Instant Mashed Potatoes Boxed
Instant Rice Boxed, Ramen Noodles (Beef or Chicken)
Canned meats (Tuna, chicken, Spam, Ham)
Canned fruits and vegetables

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
OLL		CCC		GENOA C C	
	OLL		CCC		GENOA C C
TRINITY		OLL		CCC	
	TRINITY		OLL		CCC
ST JOHN - W		TRINITY		OLL	
	ST JOHN -W		TRINITY		OLL
ST J UCC		ST JOHN -W		TRINITY	
	ST J UCC		ST JOHN -W		TRINITY
GENOA C C		ST J UCC		ST JOHN -W	
	GENOA C C		ST J UCC		ST JOHN -W
CCC		GENOA C C		ST J UCC	
	CCC		GENOA C C		ST J UCC



Week of March 5

Acts 10

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, is told by an angel to go to Peter. Peter has a vision about eating unclean animals. After the vision, Peter is called by messengers to meet Cornelius. At Cornelius' house, Peter preaches the risen Christ, and emphasizes that all people are accepted by him.

Week of March 12

Acts 11

Jews object that Peter associates with gentiles. Peter recounts his vision of the sheet with clean and unclean animals on it. Peter recalls the words of Jesus: John baptized with water, but I shall baptize with the Holy Spirit. If the gentiles receive the same gift as the Jews, who is Peter to withstand God?

Week of March 19

Acts 12

Herod (the nephew of Antipas) harasses the church, and kills the apostle James. Peter is arrested during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. An angel causes Peter's chains to fall off, and helps him to escape. Peter goes to the house of Mary, mother of John. A girl called Rhoda tells the apostles Peter has come, but she is not believed until they see Peter for themselves. Herod orders that the prison guards are put to death. Herod makes a speech to the people of Tyre and Sidon, and is praised by them as a god rather than a man. On this, an angel strikes him dead, because he does not glory to God.

Week of March 26

Acts 13

Barnabas, Saul and Mark, preach in the cities of Seleucia, Salamis and Paphos. In Paphos, a sorcerer and false prophet called Bar-Jesus is rendered blind by Saul (aka Paul). In Antioch, Paul gives a sermon on the history of Israel, and stresses Jesus' Davidic lineage; he preaches the risen Christ, and alludes to psalm 2: you are my Son, today I have begotten you. When the Jews see the popularity of Paul's message, they become envious and expel Paul and Barnabas from the region, they shake the dust from their shoes, and go to Iconium.

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

**Simply visit our web site at
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 (419)836-5144 email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
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: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <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;">Total</div>	
				AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
CHECKING / SAVINGS	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: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 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: _____				
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	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

March, 2018

Easter Egg Hunt

On March 31, help is needed filling and hiding Easter Eggs for the preschool and grade schoolers. We will gather at the church Saturday morning. Everyone is asked to bring a bag of candy to put inside the eggs. This is a great service opportunity, and wonderful chance to earn some service points, as well as show the little kids how cool St. John's older youth are! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office.



Easter Breakfast

On April 1st, help is needed serving at the Easter Breakfast. Come to the church kitchen between 8 and 8:30 on Easter morning. This is a great service opportunity, and wonderful chance to serve God and serve our neighbors.

Thank you!

Thank you to the planners, chefs, servers, clean up crew and diners. We appreciate your help raising funds toward our trip to the National Youth Gathering this summer. A special thank you to all of the parents who helped us organize and all of the junior youth who aren't going on the trip but came to help anyway!



We're Getting the Band Back Together...

Pastor O'Brien is currently seeking interest in a youth instrumental band/ensemble/performance. If you play a musical instrument (all skill levels welcome) and are willing to play in church (with others) please contact Pastor O'Brien with what instrument(s) you play. Ideally this would happen during both worship services. The exact date is to be determined.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

March 31 - Easter Egg Hunt

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

April 1 - Easter Breakfast

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

April 1 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

April ?? - Paprikash Dinner

This will be our (hopefully) final fundraising event for our trip to the Youth Gathering in June. The exact date will be announced soon.)

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!)

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>

If you HAVE any pictures from our Youth Group activities, 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.



Community involvement and relationship building is an important part of what we do. Each year, we host or participate in a number of special events to make new friends, keep our constituents informed and have fun! Below you will find a list of our upcoming events. If you have any questions about an event, please contact us at info@lutherhome.org, 419-972-4436.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Saturday, March 10: Hop on over to the Fremont Eagles (2570 W State St) for a fun-filled morning with the Easter Bunny. Doors will be open from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. for an all you can eat buffet of breakfast favorites, crafts & fun! Bring your camera for a memorable photo with the Easter Bunny. Adult tickets are \$10.00 & children 10 & under are \$5.00. Proceeds will benefit the Fremont offices of Luther Home of Mercy & Lutheran Social Services of NW Ohio.



This event is co-hosted by the Fremont Eagles, Luther Home of Mercy, Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio & Living In Faith Together (LIFT).

SCRAPBOOKING CROP FUN-RAISER

Saturday, March 24, 2018: Join us in the LHM habilitation center (5810 N. Main St, Williston) for some scrapping fun! Bring your friends for a day of crafting, card making and scrapbooking. Your donation of \$35.00 includes a full day of scrapbooking with breakfast, lunch & dinner. Questions? Contact Megan O'Brien: 419-972-4436, or email mobrien@lutherhome.org.



LUTHERAN MINISTRIES OF MERCY ANNUAL MEETING

March 12, 2018: "A Heart For Mission - A Vision For the Future". Join your friends from Filling Homes, Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio and Luther Home of Mercy at the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Annual Meeting. The event will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5665 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg, OH and the keynote speaker is Representative James M. Hoops (R) District 81. Registration begins at 5:30 and dinner is served at 6:00.

For reservations, please call Joyce Willier at 419-243-9178 or email jwillier@lssnwo.org by March 9, 2018



What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is God's love in action. It is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties:

- ✚ Loss of a loved one
- ✚ Spiritual Crisis
- ✚ Cancer
- ✚ Hospitalization
- ✚ Imprisonment
- ✚ Disability
- ✚ Homebound
- ✚ Discouragement
- ✚ Extended Illness
- ✚ Divorce
- ✚ Rehabilitation
- ✚ Job Loss
- ✚ Loneliness

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

What Is a Stephen Minister?

A Stephen Minister is...

- ✚ A Christian who walks beside a hurting person;
- ✚ A caring Christian who knows how to listen;
- ✚ A member of our congregation who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care;
- ✚ A person who is ready to focus on your needs;
- ✚ A trustworthy confidant who will keep everything you say and even your identity—confidential; and
- ✚ Someone who will faithfully meet with you regularly for as long as your need persists.

The Blessings of Serving as a Stephen Minister

Since 1975, nearly 500,000 Christian men and women from all walks of life have trained and served as Stephen Ministers. Most become Stephen Ministers as a way to serve others—but quickly discover the amazing blessings God gives them in return.



"God gave me a heart for other people. Stephen Ministry gave me the skills I needed to minister to other people and bring God's love into their lives during a time of deep need. I'm humbled and awed to be used by God in this way"

*Charlotte
Manager/Case Management
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania*

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. A new Stephen Ministry Training class will be starting soon.



Church Council Highlights

Council Meeting Highlights- February 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rick Buhrow.

Devotions led by Pastor from the book "Bread of the Day".

Secretary Minutes: Minutes were approved as written.

Pastor's Report: Reported he had 18 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 5 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events, 6 professional/clergy activities, 9 classes/Bible studies, 2 funerals.

Funerals were Kris Johnson on the 2nd and 13th, and Sharon Kusian on the 4th.

Youth Gathering: We have raised \$12,000 toward our current fund raising goal of \$17,000.

The Olive Branch Spaghetti Dinner will be February 24 following worship.

There are still plenty of envelopes available for contributions to the "144 Fundraiser"

First Communion: We had a First Communion class for about 8 young men and women. Thank you to Marilyn and Carolyn for making bread with the students.

Pfeiffer House: The Stewardship Committee is going to coordinate "Work Day: projects.

Christian Community Life: Food Panty: The food pantry will be advertised in the comet Communicator to let people know it is available. Our dates to work the food pantry in 2018 are May 19 and October 20. January there were 69 patrons served. Total Families were 36. Expenses \$3,864.70. Donations \$50.00. Stats for 2017 are number of households" 431 Number of seniors 388, Number of adults 316, number of children 234. The total number of people served in 2017 were 938. In 2016, the total number of people served were 1044.

Christian Community Life will be collecting this Saturday and Sunday February 17 and 18th to send Girl Scout cookies to send to the troops. Lenten lunch for Christian Community Life will be on March 7.

Evangelism: An ad will be placed in the Suburban Press with our Holy Week schedule. Carol Vargo will continue delivering the CD's to shut-ins. Beverly Harder will cover for Carol when She is on vacation.

Parish Education: Tammy Mazur will oversee the Easter Egg Hunt and the Breakfast

A noisy offering will be taken for VBS on March 3 and 4, April 7 and 8, May 5 and 6.

\$752.46 was raised on Souper Bowl Weekend. Donations will be given to the Food Panty.

Co-chairs will be Melissa Lanners and Rachel Nissen.

Stewardship Committee: The committee will focus on the Golf outing with Tom Cashen as coordinator and the Pfeiffer House. Mike will contact all members of the Stewardship committee concerning meeting times.

Worship Life: The music contracts are signed. Sign-up sheets for Worship assistants during lent are in the narthex. Volunteers are needed! New cards/songs for Kids bell have been received. Lenten devotion booklets for all age groups – kids, teens and adults have been ordered. This committee is short one member and outreach will be made this month.

Next Committee Meeting is on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

Finance Report

St. John Lutheran Church

Statement of Income and Expense

As of: January 1, 2018 (updated 2/12)

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	280,000	20,484	20,518	100%	20,484	20,518	100%	23,818	-14%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	2,958	2,958	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,100	1,176	1,003	85%	1,176	1,003	85%		
Staff Salaries	96,999	8,083	7,660	95%	8,083	7,660	95%		
Staff Benefits	53,807	4,483	3,984	89%	4,483	3,984	89%		
Operating Expenses	74,100	9,675	9,066	94%	9,675	9,066	94%		
Expense Totals	277,006	26,375	24,671	94%	26,375	24,671	94%		
Income less Expenses	2,994	(5,891)	(4,153)		(5,891)	(4,153)			

2018 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	12,177
Activity Center Savings	268,632
Memorials	65,664
Music Fund	3,657
Endowment Fund	110,320
Roof Fund	35,710
Scholarship Tank	7,592
Scholarship Younker	1,250
Scholarship Johnson	36,484
Scholarship Parks	39,409
Other	50,959
Savings	30,059
Total	661,913

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



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY

5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

3 Aidan O'Brien
10 Payton Donnelly
17 Mallory Nelson
24 Anna Sommers
31 Lauren Martin

Lectors

3 Diane Gerkenmeyer
10 Doris Titgemeyer
17 Amy Schloegl
24 Shelley Snider
31 Gene Bihn

Ushers

3 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
10 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow
17 Owen and Marty Schloegl, Dean and Mary Lowe
24 Ken and Pat Sievert, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
31 Gene and Amy Bihn, Dave and Kris Lee

Communion Servers

3 Al Brown, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
10 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Nancy Strohscher
17 Carol Vargo, Amy Schloegl, Wayne Bauman
24 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Beth Johnson
31 Diane Gerkenmeyer, Al Brown, Carol Vargo

Communion Set-up

3 Diane Gerkenmeyer
10 Dilly Schimming
17 Brenda Keeley
24 Ruth Petersen
31 Traci Brown

Door Greeters

3 Mary and Dean Lowe
10 Carol Vargo
17 Linda Bauman
24 Shelley Snider
31 Joni Hillman

Sound/Projector Techs

3 Traci Brown **(need one)**
10 Phil and Matt Milbrodt
17 Ron Gerkenmeyer /Amy Bihn
24 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
31 Traci Brown/ Matt Milbrodt

SUNDAY
9:45 Worship

Acolytes

4 Lauren LaRue
11 Sophia Cashen
18 Evan Kessler
25 Tucker Fredericksen

Lectors

4 Melissa Lammers
11 Heather Cashen
18 Deanna Neuman
25 Roland Sandrock

Ushers

4 The Bob Bench Family
11 Jeff Schimming, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
18 The Tim Titgemeyer Family
25 Dan Kessler, Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson

Communion Servers

4 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Roland Sandrock
11 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vohelbacher, Jean Fowler
18 Jill Kao, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp
25 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen

Communion Set-up

4 Pam LaRue
11 Cebie Titgemeyer
18 Nancy Brittian
25 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

4 Cebie Titgemeyer
11 Linda Schlievert
18 Karen Jeffers
25 Debbie Wehner

Sound/Projector Techs

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

Children's Moments

4 Bells
11 Stef Neuman
18 Alex Lammers
25 Puppets

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



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

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

Lectors

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

Ushers

7 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
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 Gerkenmeyer
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 Gerkenmeyer
14 Joan Truman
21 Brenda Keeley
28 Carol Vargo

Door Greeters

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

Sound/Projector Techs

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

SUNDAY 9:45 Worship

Acolytes

1 Lauren LaRue
8 Sophia Cashen
15 Evan Kessler
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, Dan Kessler, Dan Nelson
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, Carole Beamer
8 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vohelbacher, Jean Fowler
15 Jill Kao, 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 Andrew Kessler
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!
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make your
assignment, please
make
arrangements for
a replacement or
let the office know
as soon as
possible.*