

Inside this issue:

Ask the Pastor	1
Thank You / Church Info	2
Thank You from Council	3
Memorials/ In Sympathy	4
Circle News/Baptism	5
1st Communion /Dartball	6
The Longest Night Service	7
Christmas Worship Schedule	8
New Stephen Ministry Class	9
Faith Practice #3 Readings	10
Thank you from Pastor	10
144 Youth Fundraiser	11
From the Bishop/Staff Support	12
Blood Drive/Food Pantry News	13
Stewardship Page	14
Youth Group News	15
Cookie Sale!	16
Christmas Program/Advent Tea	17
Altar flowers/Offering 2018	18
Online giving form	19
Council Highlights	20
Church Leader nominations	21
Committee Reports/Budget 18	22
Finance Report	23
December Celebrations	24
December Worship Assistants	25
January Worship Assistants	26
December Calendar	27

Why do we not hear about Martin Chemnitz? I read an article in Portals of Prayer that said without him the Reformation would not have succeeded.

To tell you the truth, I was not familiar with Martin Chemnitz (but seminary was a long time ago and I probably didn't pay attention as well as I should have.) Martin Chemnitz has an interesting story, and reading about him is probably good follow-up to our Reformation celebration. The following article was written by Dan Graves is from Christianity.com...

"If the second Martin had not come, the first Martin would not have stood." This saying from the seventeenth century refers to Martin Chemnitz and Martin Luther. It means that the writings of Martin Chemnitz rescued Lutheran theology which was being undermined by the teachings of Calvinists and Catholics alike.

However, it was by no means clear that Martin Chemnitz would ride to the rescue of Lutheran thought. Born November 9, 1522, he had to labor hard for his education, for his father died when he was a young man. In the course of time, however, he became a student at Wittenberg where Philip Melancthon impressed him. Although the first Martin (Luther) was conducting the Reformation at the time, the second Martin (Chemnitz) paid little attention to what he said. Studying math, he had become so wrapped up in astrology that he was little use for anything else.

Fortunately, Melancthon was able to steer him toward theology. Although at first Chemnitz made his living as a librarian and astrologer, he finally recognized the futility of astrology and turned his entire thoughts to theology, reading the works of the church fathers and the theologians of his own day. As a result, his keen mind became equipped to defend the Reformation teachings of Luther.

He engaged in theological controversy more mildly than most theologians of the day, who jeered and called each other names. Martin Chemnitz tried to allow reason and Scripture to speak for him. One of his best-known books was *Loci Theologici*, a commentary on Melancthon's theology. In it, Chemnitz staunchly defended the doctrine of justification by faith alone, which had taken a beating, owing to a misunderstanding of what Lutherans meant by their teaching. In other writings, he defended Luther's teaching on the Lord's supper and the church's ancient teaching that Jesus is both God and man.

Another important work by Martin Chemnitz was his Examination of the Council of Trent. At Trent, the Roman Catholic church restated and clarified its doctrines. In four volumes, Martin Chemnitz made a strong Protestant reply to the Roman claims.

But for Lutherans, his most important contribution was his part in drafting the Formula of Concord. This was an orthodox restatement of Lutheran faith acceptable to most Lutheran factions, which had been growing apart over differences of interpretation.

Martin died in 1586. In his later years, he turned down several offers of high positions, content to remain a pastor and educator."

Bibliography: "Chemnitz (Kemnitz), Martin." New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1954. "Chemnitz, Martin" and "Concord, Formula (1577) and Book (1580) of." The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, edited by F. L. Cross and E. A. Livingstone. Oxford, 1997. "Martin Chemnitz." Studium Excitare. <http://www.studiumexcitare.com/docs/archives/000007.php> Various encyclopedia and internet articles.

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.



BLESSED BEYOND WHAT WE COULD EVER DREAM.

with gratitude



Blanket Ladies of St. John,

The blankets were so beautiful and we can tell they were made with love. My family had three homes which were destroyed and four that have to be completely restored. The love you have shown to us will never be forgotten. I pray that God blesses all of you with abundance! Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus!

Dawn Zahradnik
Wharton, Texas

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you very much for your generous gift to our mission of bringing the love of Christ and helping to meet the needs of our less fortunate neighbors. We thank you for being a part of that mission. God grant you a joyous Christmas.

In HIM,

**The Family of Redeemer
Lutheran Church Toledo, OH**

Thank You..

Thank you for all your prayers, love, support, cards, memorials and all you have done for our family. Especially -thank you to those who were able to attend the celebration of life at Schedel Gardens in honor of Pat.

**With much appreciation,
Kent Delventhal**

**Thank you to the wonderful
FORERUNNER MAILING
GROUP** who make light work of a time consuming task.

Linda Schlievert
Diane Hartman
Terry Gast
Betty Roecker
Madelayne Saionzkowski
Audrey Milbrodt

Thank You,

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and cards-before and after my hip replacement. I would also like to thank Pastor O'Brien for coming to the hospital and saying a prayer before the surgery.

Jack Mathews & family

Pastor & Congregation,

I would like to thank Pastor for his visit and prayer with me and my family the day of my surgery and the congregation for prayers and cards while dealing with my medical concerns and surgery.

Also, a big thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl which was given by Carolyn and Marilyn and made by Diane Gerkenmeyer. Also, thank you for the beautiful quilt from the Blanket Ladies. It is a blessing to know I have a large church family for support.

Darlene Carstensen

The Forerunner

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

Telephone: 419-836-5514
e-mail:
office@stjohnwilliston.org
www.stjohnwilliston.org

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

pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Schedule

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

**Deadline for the
October newsletter is
Tuesday, December 26
Please send articles and/or
information to
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.



KUDOS FROM COUNCIL

“Kudos”: noun meaning “praise, glory, and honor received for an achievement”.

We want to thank all of our volunteers throughout the year, who have sacrificed their time, talents, energy and sometimes even money in order to contribute to the success of our church.

Perhaps, you were the one who brought food for events, cleaned the kitchens, changed the altar cloths, fixed the electrical outlets, decorated the church, or showed up and helped at events.

Or, did you make an extra donation for the food pantry, the youth events, pancake breakfasts, chicken dinners or Trunk or Treat?

Maybe your donation went to the roof projects or building fund.

Did you help with the landscaping, or replenishing envelopes in the pews?

Who put the flowers up every Saturday and took them down on Sunday?

Were you the one who hosted parties for the youth or were you a driver for one event or another?

Did you supervise one of our events?

Were you here on Tuesday to do quilts,

or on Thursday to help get the Forerunner in the mail?

Was your artwork on the front of our church bulletin?

Have you been serving on a committee, helping with church maintenance or working with our technical support system?

Are you taking up the offering, greeting people as they enter our church or maybe just making sure everyone knows they are welcome?

The list goes on and on and we cannot name all of the volunteers, but we truly appreciate what you do from the smallest job to the largest.

We know that God has a plan for each of us and He works through us to accomplish His will for His Church.

In reviewing our budget, we recognize that without these volunteers, our expenses would be greatly increased, so again our “KUDOS”.

VOLUNTEERS ARE TRULY LOVE AND GOD’S BLESSINGS IN MOTION.



Memorials given to St. John.

In Memory of Paul Fredericksen Janis Wolf

In Memory of Patricia Delventhal

Ray and Judy Robaszkiwicz
Progress TAC, Inc.
Arline Sabin
Madelayne Saionzkowski
Jeff and Janet Clough
Larry and Tina Ponzi
New Vision Farms
Donald and Margaret Berger
Carol and Steve Jensen
Elaine Gruetter
Gertrude Eckerman
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Kris Johnson
Ben and Kimberly Sommers
Ralph and Ethel Mae Votsberger
JoEvelyn Schwaiger
Tom and Joan Truman
Carolyn Votsberger
Carolyn Lasseter
Marilyn Sandrock
Edna Sandrock
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson
Rich and Joni Hillman
Linda Schlievert
Cal and Marvel Nelson
Darryl and Diane Traver
Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson
Carole Beamer
Carolyn Vogtsberger
Joe and Carol Vargo
JoElaine Schimming
Nancy and Richard Weaver, Jr.
Dennis and Linda Vogtsberger
Alan and Carolyn Lieske
Gary and Karen Kellermeier
Suzanne Beckman

George and Barbara Baker
Bob and Diane Kapp
Jeff Schimming
Jim and Mona Vogelbacher
Gary and Darlene Carstensen
Lee and Debbie Wehner
Paul and Julianna Ruble
Al and Traci Brown
Lowell and Diane Hartman
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer
Clarence and Wilma Smithers
The Bowser Family
Linda and Mike Schoenitz
Carolyn Jordan
Pamela Potter
Phyllis Haeft
Barbara Stentz
Ronald and Martha Carey
Jim and Phyllis Brown
Jim and Peggy Gainsley
Keith Weirach & family
Chris Hamilton
Janice Sheahan
Jim and Dilly Schimming
Ruth Petersen
Virgil and Betty Roecker
Dan and Lisa Kessler & family
Clyde and Mary Sandrock
Gene and Amy Bihn
Fred and Melissa Lammers
Thomas Woodings
Doris Titgemeyer
Spencer Stone, Jr.
Gary and LisaAnne Gregg
Mike and Ann Mann
Diane Dickinson
Richard and Lenore Harmeyer
Roger and Barbara Jensen
John and Amy Kale

In Memory of Joe Vargo

Dennis and Rosemaire Dickinson
Gertrude Eckerman
Donald Ruthsatz
Diana Pfaff
Bernie Blausey
Jo Elaine Schimming
Susan Bires Heinze
James and Diane Schumaker
Suzanne Bires
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer
Jim and Mona Vogelbacher
Don and Margaret Berger
Doris Titgemeyer
Clarence and Wilma Smithers
Frances Vargo
Richard and Lenore Harmeyer
Jane and Richard Phillips
Dean and Mary Lowe
Bob and Diane Kapp
Gary and LisaAnne Gregg
Elaine Gruetter
James and Delores Schimming
Linda Schlievert

Lowell and Diane Hartman
Alan and Traci Brown
Gene and Amy Bihn
Tim and Cebie Titgemeyer
Gary and Darlene Carstensen
Brandee Stanton
Dan and Loranal Watkins
David and Kris Lee & family
Carole Beamer
Mike Haeft
Phyllis Haeft
Alice Witt
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Evalyn Witty
Janice Sheahan
Madelayne Saionzkowski
Lewis and Phyllis Rist
St. Ursula Academy
Legacy Farms Cooperative
Suzanne Buhro
Thomas and Joan Truman
Walter and JoAnn Trier
Carolyn Lasseter
Marilyn and Edna Sandrock
Margie Bringe
Phyllis Parks
Allen and Beverly Harder
Dan and Tolanda Kronfield
Roger and Barbara Jensen
Lee and Deb Wehner
Gary and Lorraine Meinke



In Christian Sympathy

**Joseph George Vargo, 79,
of Curtice, Ohio, went to
heaven on the evening of
Monday, November 6, 2017,
surrounded by his loving family.
Joe is survived by his loving wife
of 56 years, Carol, whom he
married August 7, 1961, in
Williston, Ohio. He is also
survived by his daughter,
Michelle (Rocky) Maix, son,
Joseph (Denese) Vargo, and
daughter, Tracy (Mike)
Donnelly; grandchildren and
great-grandchildren.
Services were held here
at St. John.**



ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 p.m.
 Bible Study: Christmas Sing-a-Long/Diane Hartman
 Hostess: Hors d'oeuvres & cookies
 Ellen Wilhelm setup

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.
 Bible Study: Nancy Strohscher
 Christmas Potluck at Nancy Strohscher's

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, December 7, 1:30 p.m.
 Bible Study: Group study
 Gifts for Sunshine Friends

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

Community Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, December 7

St. John United Church of Christ, Genoa



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!**



We welcomed
 Cali Jo Quigg
 and Kara Jean Quigg
 into the
 St. John Family through
 Holy Baptism
 on November 19 2017
 They are the daughters of
 Nathan and Jenn Quigg.

Nathan and Jenn were also welcomed as
 new members of the
 St. John Congregation.

Welcome Quigg Family!





On **Sunday, January 7th**, at **2:00p.m.**, there will a First Communion instruction class for parents and students.

We will discuss the origins of Holy Communion; the Passover, the Last Supper, etc. We will talk about how we, as Lutheran Christians, view Holy Communion. We will practice the “how” of receiving Communion. We will make Communion bread, and I will answer any and all questions about Holy Communion.

That sounds like a lot, but the class should not last longer than two hours.

If you are interested in attending this class, please contact Pastor O’Brien to let him know that you are going to participate.

Join the St. John Dartball Team!



What are you doing on Tuesdays?
Why not have a little fun and
join the Dartball Team?
You do not need any experience to play!
For more information,
contact Jeff Schimming
@ 419-356-3552

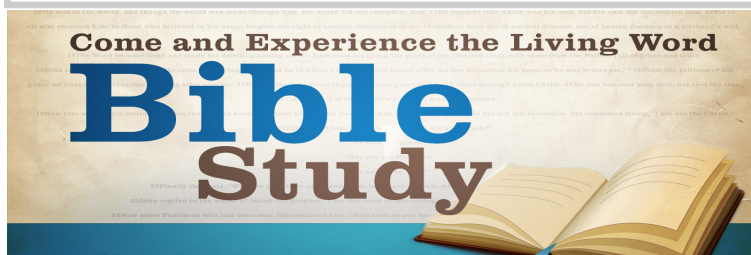
All games start at 7:30

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.



The Longest Night

For some of us, the holidays are hard.

The Christmas season can be difficult for those experiencing loneliness, sadness and loss. You are not alone.

Please join us in a simple worship service of song, readings and a reflection of God's hope for us and HIS presence with us during this difficult time of the year.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

St. John Lutheran Church Williston, OH

Thursday, December 21st 7:00 PM

A Service of Remembrance and Hope

Light refreshments and fellowship following service

Our Stephen Ministers will be available this evening.

**We invite you to celebrate Christmas at St. John
St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo St. (SR 579) Williston, Ohio**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
AND ADVENT TEA**

Sun. December 17th at 7:00 PM
Celebrate the birth of the Savior
with our kids. Light refreshments served
following the program.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thurs. Dec. 21 at 7:00 PM
A service of comfort and hope for those
who have trouble finding the joys of the
holiday season.
You are not alone. Find comfort here.
Our STEPHEN MINISTERS
will be available this
evening.

LAST SUNDAY IN ADVENT WORSHIP

SAT. DEC. 23 AT 5 PM

AND SUN. DEC. 24 AT 9:45 AM

Join us as we make a joyful noise with
favorite hymns in anticipation
of the birth of the Baby Jesus.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

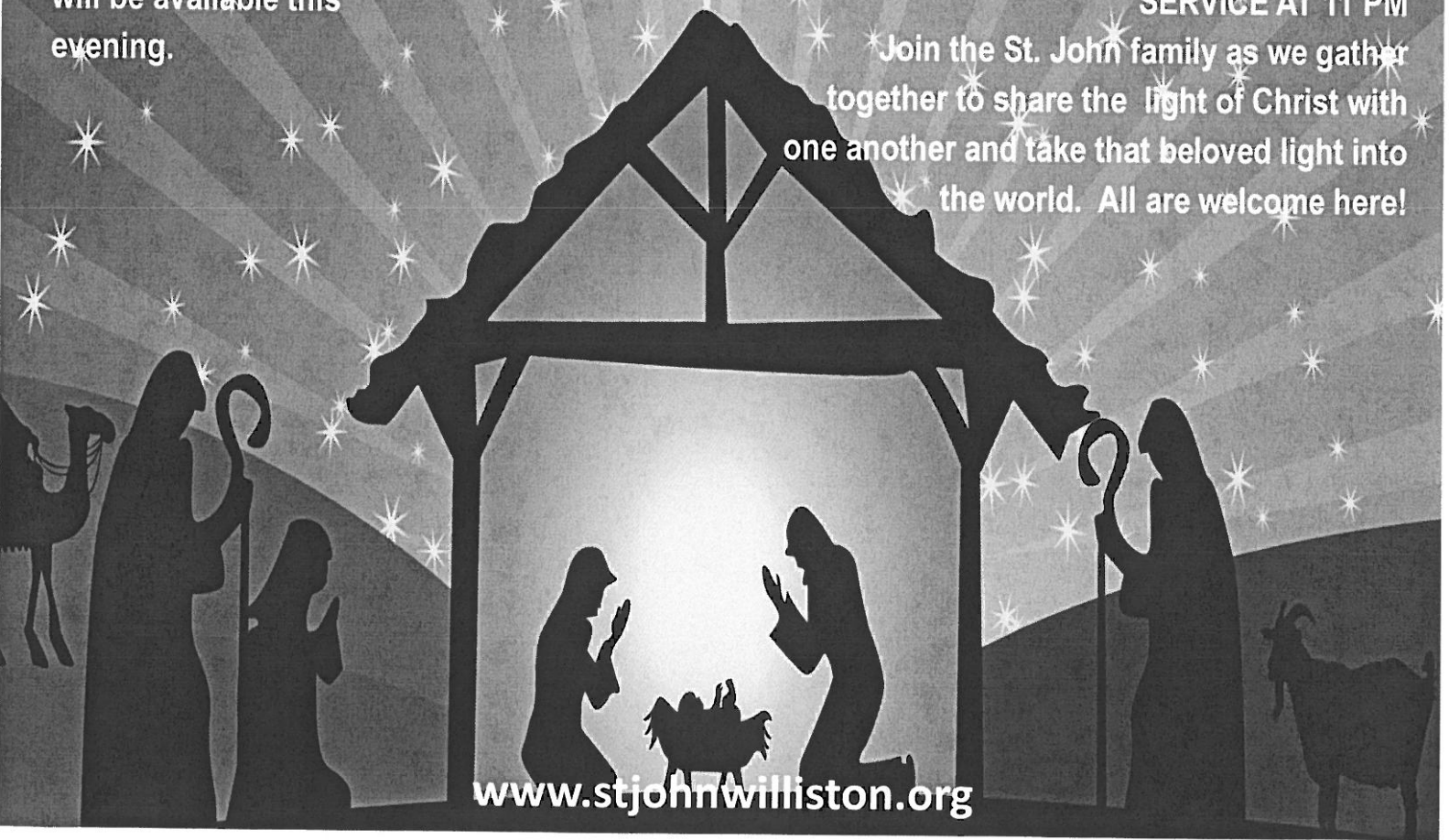
AT 4 PM AND 7 PM

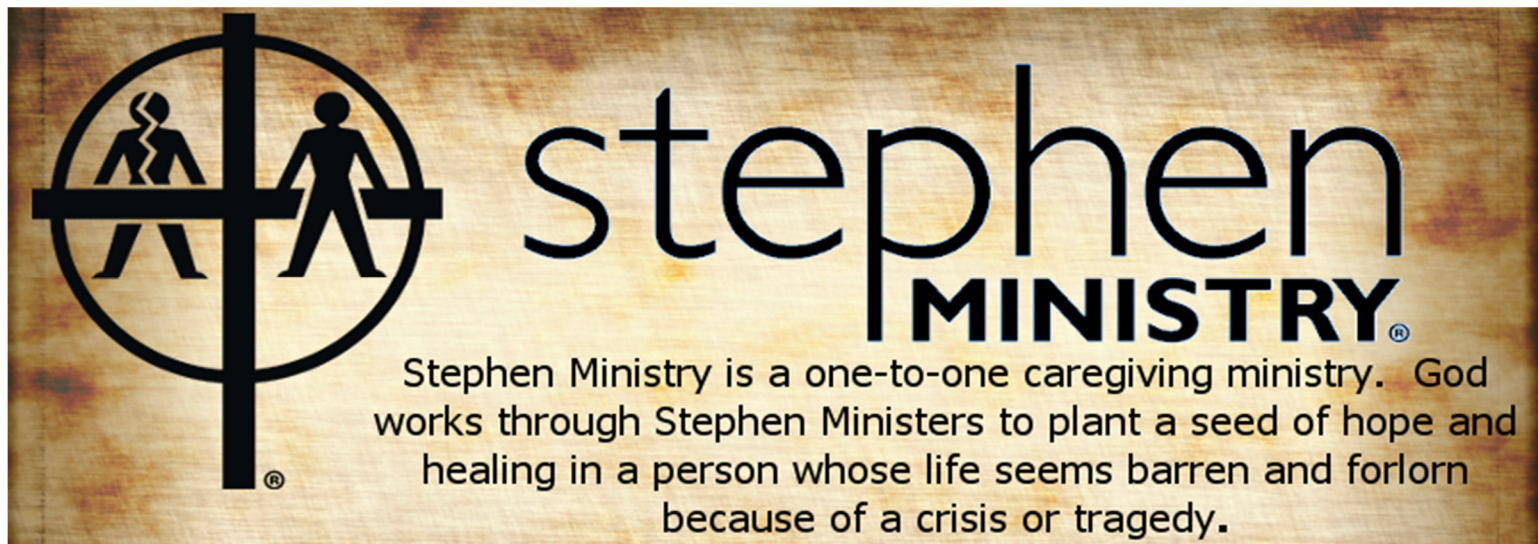
Come. Celebrate with worship, scripture,
and song at this beautiful
family worship experience.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE AT 11 PM**

Join the St. John family as we gather
together to share the light of Christ with
one another and take that beloved light into
the world. All are welcome here!

www.stjohnwilliston.org





New Stephen Series Training Class to Begin!

Hopefully by now you have heard about the ministry of the Stephen Ministers here at St. John.

Have you thought that perhaps you would like to participate in this ministry?

Is this chance for ministry the one for you?

Please think about it. Pray about it.

If you would like to participate in this training and in this ministry, talk to Pastor O'Brien or any of our Stephen Leaders or Stephen Ministers soon! The next Stephen Series training class will begin in January.

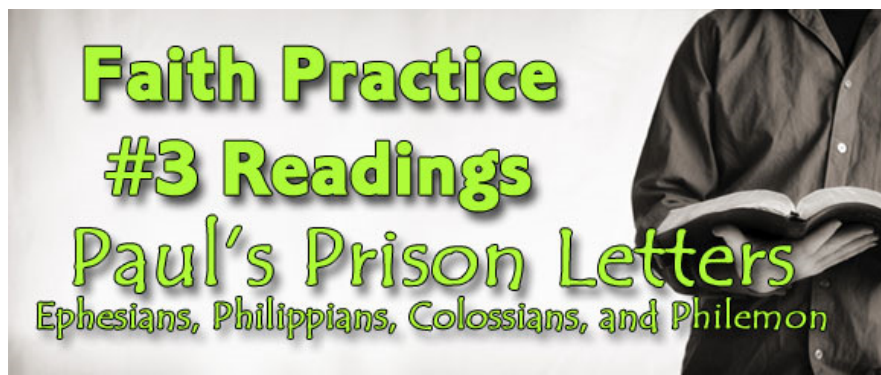


*"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."
Matthew 21:22*

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



Week of December 4

Colossians 4

Paul reminds us to be devoted to prayer, praying that the message of Christ is presented clearly. We are instructed to make the most of every opportunity, speaking to each other with grace in our conversations. Paul closes the letter with a final greeting to the church from others who minister with him.

Week of December 11

Philemon

The book of Philemon is a letter written by Paul while in prison, to a fellow Christians, Philemon, in regards to his slave, Onesimus. It appears that Onesimus stole from his master then ran away, eventually becoming a believer and meeting Paul. Paul writes to Philemon asking him to forgive and restore Onesimus who had become very dear to him. Paul urges Philemon to do the right thing in forgiving Onesimus and to set an example for the church that met in his home.



Thank you very much to my St. John family for the 20th Anniversary of Ordination celebration and for the gift. Your love and generosity continue to astound me. I had originally thought it would be a simple affair, a time to mark the occasion when my parents were in town. So I must say a big thank you to Diane Gerkenmeyer for making it a bigger celebration that I had imagined. Thank you to Diane for her kind words before worship. Thank you to Tami and Beckie for letting me pick the songs. Thank you to the folks who served cake and punch. Thank you to all the people who helped Diane behind the scenes that I don't even know about. And thanks to all of you who contributed to my gift and stayed around after worship to share kind words and a smile. I am honored to be your pastor and I am very grateful for the love and kindness of my St. John family.

“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!

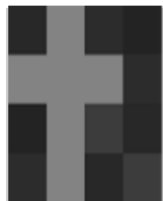
Why 144?

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.



Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



News from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Dear Friends in Christ,

"In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God" (Ephesians 2:21-22).

In Ephesians chapter 2, Paul writes about the God given task (or opportunity) we all have to grow together spiritually. That as a community of faith, we will be joined together and built together into a dwelling place for God. You might recall that I had to replace my front porch because the foundation was cracked, which caused the roof to sag.

Too many of our parishes are struggling because there is not a firm foundation upon which to build. We know that the crucified and risen Jesus is the cornerstone upon whom God builds, and the teachings of the apostles and prophets are foundational (Ephesians 2:20). What is missing in too many of our parishes are the other stones that help hold it all together: daily prayer, daily reflection on Scripture, Bible study, weekly worship, sacrificial giving, evangelical witness, and loving service. These practices are some of the living stones that help us to grow and bring the community of faith together.

So, how are you, and how is your parish building a dwelling place for God?

2017: The Year of Grace Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8 **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"**

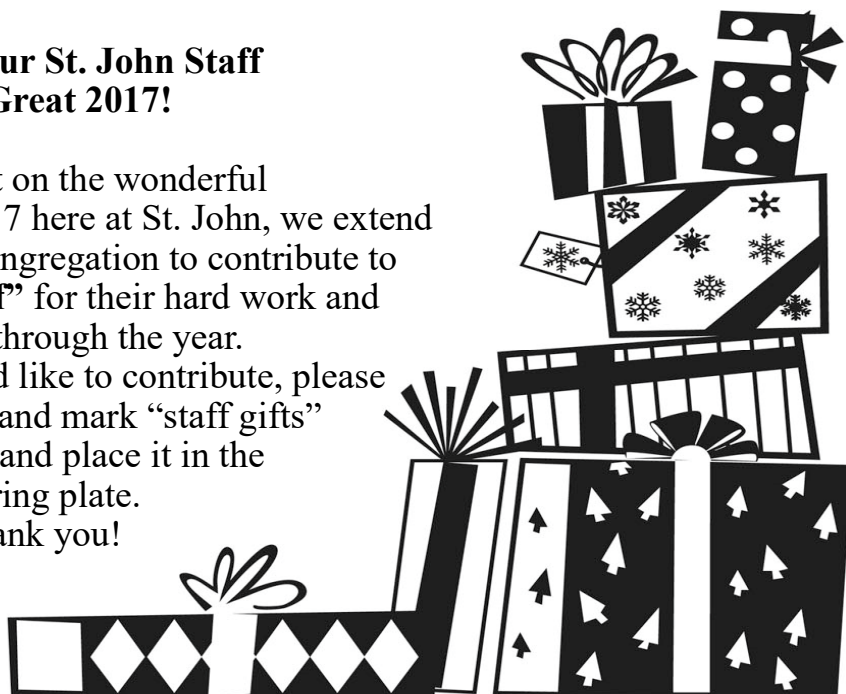
Bless you,



Thanks to our St. John Staff for a Great 2017!

As we reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of 2017 here at St. John, we extend an invitation to the congregation to contribute to **"Gifts for our Staff"** for their hard work and dedication through the year.

If you feel you would like to contribute, please use an envelope and mark "staff gifts" on the front and place it in the offering plate.
Thank you!





THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
GIVE SOMETHING THAT MEANS SOMETHING
GIVE BLOOD
.....AND.....
HELP *save* LIVES

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
or by calling LisaAnne in the office.

Genoa Food Pantry News & Needs

**December-Cereal and dish soap
& VOLUNTEERS!**



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.
9AM-Noon
Please mark your calendar to help!



Stewardship

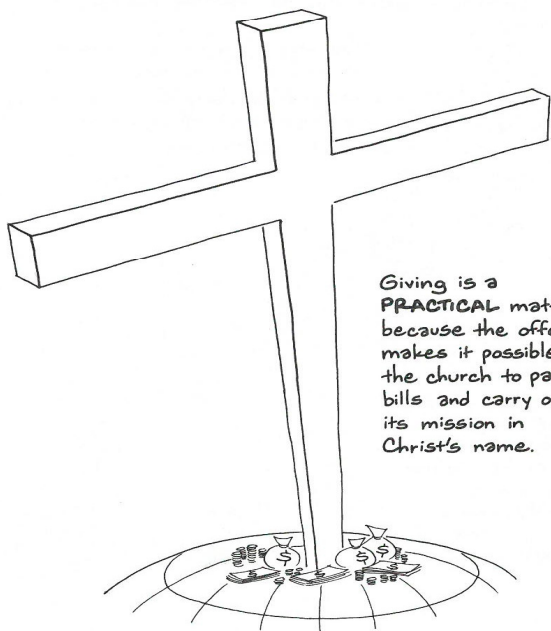
A WAY OF LIVING

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

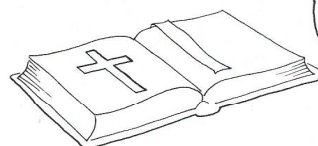
Our December Stewardship Prayer

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is "the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen

Giving money to the church is a **SYMBOLIC ACT** --the offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God.



Giving is a **PRACTICAL** matter, too, because the offering makes it possible for the church to pay its bills and carry out its mission in Christ's name.



HOW MUCH should I give?

The Bible says that we should set aside our "first fruits" -- that our offering to God should be the first portion we set aside, not what remains.

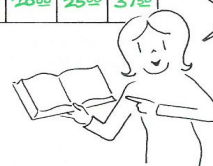


Some people give by **PROPORTION**:
for example: \$1 per week for every \$1000 of annual income.

Others set aside a **PERCENTAGE** of their income

WEEKLY INCOME	3%	5%	8%	10%	15%
\$100	3 ⁰⁰	5 ⁰⁰	8 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	15 ⁰⁰
\$150	4 ⁵⁰	7 ⁵⁰	12 ⁰⁰	15 ⁰⁰	22 ⁵⁰
\$200	6 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	16 ⁰⁰	20 ⁰⁰	30 ⁰⁰
\$250	7 ⁵⁰	12 ⁵⁰	20 ⁰⁰	25 ⁰⁰	37 ⁵⁰

The Old Testament guideline for giving was the tithe (usually 1/10). How close do you come to the giving expected of the early Christians?



ST. JOHN YOUTH GROUP NEWS

December 2017



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. There is also a sign up sheet to bring ingredients for cookie jars. We will meet on Saturday (12/9) at 9:00a to make cookie jars and assemble our cookies for sale.

Thank you!

Thank you to the planners, cooks, and servers for last month's "Mystery Dinner". We had a GREAT time!



Lock-In

Saturday, December 30th starting at 6:00 p.m. we will gather at the church for our annual Youth Group Lock-In. *(I guess it is not technically a real 'lock-in' because we will be going to the Luther Home of Mercy gym again this year, but you get the idea.)* This event is for confirmation through senior high youth. We will play games, eat pizza, have a faith talk, play more games, and hang out with friends. As with all of our events, non-St. John friends are also welcome.

Pastor O'Brien has committed to stay until mid-night, we need parent/adult volunteers to chaperone after that and help keep the peace (see the sign-up sheet at the church for a schedule). We can't have an overnight lock-in without parent/adult commitment to help. Please encourage your parents to volunteer. Any questions, please contact Pastor O'Brien.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

December 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 9a on Saturday.)

December 9/10 - Youth Christmas Cookie Sale

(Help the youth raise funds for their trip to the National Youth Gathering next summer by purchasing cookies before or after worship.)

December 10 - Blood Drive

(St. John is hosting a Red Cross Blood drive from 1-6. Volunteers are needed to help and sell leftover Christmas cookies. This is a good opportunity to earn service points.)

December 16 – Genoa Food Pantry

(Help is needed filling orders and loading cars Saturday from 9-1. This is a great opportunity to earn community service/confirmation service points)

December 17 – Christmas Program and "Advent Tea"

(If you are not participating in the program you can help set up for the reception afterward and earn community service/confirmation service points)

Last Minute Christmas Gift Idea

If you do not have one of our blue St. John t-shirts and want one (or know someone who would like to find one in their Christmas stocking); AND can wear an adult L or XL. Contact Pastor O'Brien. He has a box he needs to get out of his office.

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



An Advent Tea will follow the program.
Please bring an appetizer
or dessert to share.
Any questions, contact Tammy Mazur or
Beckie Goldstein.



The 2018 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted in the Narthex.

Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order Altar or Chancel flowers.

Fill out the blue slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office with your payment.

Altar flowers are \$25.00

Chancel flowers are \$20.00

Please submit your order/blue slip as soon as possible **before** the order date as orders are placed several days in advance.

Flowers will not be ordered without a blue slip.

We are using Hirzel Bros. Florists again this year. They do such a nice job and are very customer friendly.

Please pass the word if you know someone looking for flowers!



You're a Blessing!



2018 Offering Envelopes will be available after December 10th and will be in the Narthex.

You may have a new number for the new year so please do not use your 2017 envelopes after December 31. If you have any questions about your envelopes or cannot find them, please call the office and we can help you!

Thank you for your support of the ministries at St. John!



Don't want to be bothered with writing a check or finding cash every week?

Online giving is fast and easy!

You can sign up by

1) Visiting our website at www.stjohnwilliston.org and clicking on the "online giving" link.

Or

2) Fill out an "Electronic Giving Authorization Form" and stopping in the office with a copy of a voided check.

Need details?

See LisaAnne in the office. 18

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>	
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; margin-top: 5px;"> </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.*



November Meeting Highlights

Pastor's Report: He had 13 hospital/homebound or family visits, 4 committee meetings, 2 community event, 4 clergy meetings, 8 Bible studies, and 1 baptism. The 2019 Youth Gathering has raised \$6500 of the \$15,000 needed for the event. There will be a Christmas cookie sale on Dec. 9 & 10. There are still "144 Fundraiser" envelopes left to help support the Youth Gathering. The Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Curtice on Nov. 22 at 7:00 p.m. **Committee Night will be on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** The Longest Night Service will be on Dec. 21, at 7:00 with our next Council Meeting following this service.

Christian Community Life: reported that there were 93 people served with 42 families at the Genoa Food Pantry in November. The Pantry received 52 boxes of donated food in November. Our church will be serving at the Genoa Food Pantry on Saturday, Dec. 16 with help needed from 9-1 p.m. The committee will be helping with the Advent Tea following the Children's Christmas Program

Evangelism: reported that letters will be sent out to the visitors that signed up for the Gift Basket at the Trunk-or-Treat that did not list a home church. We had 80 people sign up for the Gift Basket and the winner of the basket was Tanner Willford of Millbury. The committee will be putting an ad in the Suburban Press for the Christmas services. We had discussion on ideas for a 2018 community tree lighting service. Ideas included a possible open house tour with area churches and selling tickets for the tour with the proceeds to go to the Genoa Food Pantry.

Parish Education: reported that the Christmas Program will be on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. with an Advent Tea following. Practices for the Program will be on Sat., Dec. 16, 2017 from 9-12 p.m. and Sunday morning during the Sunday school hour. New puppets have been ordered for the Children's Time. New costumes for the Children's Christmas Program have been ordered. The Sunday school classes are raising money for the ELCA Barnyard animals to purchase and have a thermometer that is showing the progress of the offerings brought in each week.

Stewardship Committee: reported that the Golf Outing next year will be on Sept. 16, 2018. The committee is considering having the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace class next year, Legacy Planning class or a Pre-Arranged Funeral classes. The committee will be checking on how to get Thrivent to contribute any extra donations towards any fundraisers and how we can take advantage of these contributions from Thrivent.

Worship Life: reported that they have begun the formation of a worship service leader group to train members how to lead a worship service to fill in for when pastor is absent with the shortage of supply pastors. The Christmas Eve services are all prepared. The committee has requested that all three pianos in the church be tuned. Traci Brown is heading up the decorating of the church on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017.

Property: reported there is a leak in the roof above the Social Hall that they are in the process of having the company come back to repair. The committee will be receiving estimates to replace the roof over the sanctuary. The committee would like to have a campaign to fund the roof replacement.

New Business: The Annual Meeting will be on Jan. 21, 2018, with a Financial Budget Review on Jan. 14, 2018. The Nominating Committee has the following openings for the 2018 Officers and Board Members still open: Council Secretary, Christian Community Life member, Parish Education Committee member and 2 members for the Nominating Committee. Please contact Rick Buhrow with any interest in filling these positions.

Next Committee Meeting is on Thursday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 7:30 pm. following the Longest Night Service.

Respectively submitted,
Diana Pfaff, Council Secretary

2018 Nominees for Church Officers and Board Members

Church Officers	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving (Term Expires)
President			Janice Sheahan (Jan 2019)
Vice-President			Rick Buhrow (VP-Jan 2019 P-Jan 2021)
Secretary	Diana Pfaff		
Financial Secretary			Jennifer Nelson (Jan 2019)
Treasurer			Ron Gerkenmeyer (2nd term Jan 2019)

Board Members	Outgoing	New Nominee	Still Serving (Term Expires)
Finance			Tim Titgemeyer (2nd term Jan 2019)
Community Christian Life	Debbie Wehner (2nd term)	Cheryl Berger	Carolyn Lessester (Jan 2019)
	Michelle Fisher (2nd term)		Marilyn Sandrock (Jan 2019)
Evangelism	Tracy Orians	Margaret Berger (2nd term)	Jane Phillips (Jan 2019)
			Rob Orians (Jan 2019)
Parish Education	Jennifer Johnson	Michaela Goldstein	Melissa Lammers (Jan 2019)
	Kim Sommers (2nd term)		Rachel Nissen (Jan 2019)
Stewardship	Heather Cashen	Carol Beamer	Shirley Berger (Jan 2019)
	Madelyne Salonzkowski	Linda Schlievert	
	Tom Cashen (2nd term)	Mike Mann	
Property		Craig Blausey (2nd term)	Jack Mathews (Jan 2019)
		Dan Petersen (2nd term)	John Mazzur (Jan 2019)
Worship Life	Brenda Keeley (2nd term)	Amy Schloegl (2nd tem)	Deanna Neuman (Jan 2019)
		Beth Johnson	Joel Mann (Jan 2019)
Nominating Committee	Beverly Harder	Diane Dickinson	
	Evalyn Witty	Tracy Donnelly	
	Marcia Morgan		
	Rosemarie Dickinson		

Luther Home of Mercy Representatives	Gene Bihn and Amy Bihn
Lutheran Homes Society Representatives	Karolyn Jansen and Owen Jansen
NW Ohio Synod Representatives	Gene Bihn and Kris Johnson

The Nominating Committee has the following openings for the 2018 Officers and Board Members.

- Council Secretary
- Christian Community Life board member
 - Evangelism board member
 - Parish Education board member
- Nominating Committee -two members

Please contact Rick Buhrow (440) 476-6630 or RickBuhrow@gmail.com) with any interest in filling these open positions.



Committee REPORTS

The 2017 Annual Report will be available for inspection on Sunday, January 14th.

Committees and Boards are asked to turn in their annual report to the office by January 7th.

Please include details of your accomplishments for the year so we may provide members an update of the important ministries of St. John and to contribute to the historical records of our wonderful church.



Congregational Budget Meeting

Sunday, January 14th.

following worship.

Our Finance Board members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the 2018 Church Budget.



ANNUAL MEETING

The St. John Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st following 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
9:45 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

***Please
check
the
narthex
for sign
up sheets for our
Christmas Eve
worship services!***



***Thank you for
serving the Lord in
worship!.***



Worship Assistants

SUNDAY
9:45 Worship

Acolytes

7 Sophia Cashen
14 Evan Kessler
21 Lauren LaRue
28 Tucker Fredericksen

Lectors

7 Heather Cashen
14 Christopher Pfaff
21 Melissa Lammers
28 Marcia Morgan

Ushers

7 The Bob Bench Family
14 The Fred Lammers Family
21 Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer, Jeff Schimming
28 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Bob Kapp

Communion Servers

7 Tim Tigemeyer, Heather Cashen, Kris Johnson
14 Wilma Smithers, Jean Fowler, Mona Vogelbacher
21 Roland Sandrock, Marcia Morgan, Carol Jensen
28 Ann & Mike Mann, Karolyn Jansen

Communion Set-up

7 Cebie Titgemeyer
14 Diana Pfaff
21 Melissa Lammers
28 Nancy Brittan

Door Greeters

7 Karen Jeffers
14 Linda Schlievert
21 Dave Neuman
28 Tim & Cebie T.

Sound/Projector Techs

7 Joel Mann
14 Andy Kessler
21 Alex Lammers
28 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

7 Bells
14 Puppets
21 Stef Neuman
28 Alex Lammers

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

6 Lauren Martin
13 Mallory Nelson
20 Peyton Donnelly
27 Aubrey Lee

Lectors

6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
13 Beth Johnson
20 Tracy Orians
27 Nancy Strohscher

Ushers

6 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
13 Ken & Pat Sievert, Alice Witt, Carol Vargo
20 Jack Matthews, AJ Rubeis, Zack Buhrow, Tom Truman
27 Marty & Owen Schloegl, Gene & Amy Bihn

Communion Servers

6 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Gene Bihn
13 Doris Titgemeyer, Carol Vargo, Beth Johnson
20 Wayne Bauman, Al Brown, Carol Vargo
27 Amy Schloegl, Nancy Strohscher, JoElaine Schimming

Communion Set-up

6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
13 Joan Truman
20 Ruth Petersen
27 Dilly Schimming

Door Greeters

6 Linda Bauman
13 Shelley Snider
20 Linda Bauman
27 Carol Vargo

Sound/Projector Techs

6 JJ Milbrodt/Traci Brown
13 Phil & Matt Milbrodt
20 Ron Gerkenmeyer/Amy Bihn
27 Matt Milbrodt/Traci Brown

*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!