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FORERUNNER

Ask the Pastor

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

"Confession is good for the soul"

This proverb found in a 1721 James Kelly publication, A Complete Collection of Scottish Proverbs, started out as "Open confession is good for the soul." Somewhere along the way we abandoned the "open" part.

Who made that decision? Maybe it was discovered that closed confession was just as delicious to the soul and, so as not to confuse things, they just settled on all flavors of confession as good soul food.

As people of faith we often associate confession with the admission of sins. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines confession in two ways as it relates to religion: a disclosure of one's sins in the rite of reconciliation, and a formal statement of religious beliefs.

Likewise, the Bible speaks of confession in the same two ways. So if the Bible speaks of two types of confession, exactly which is good, better or best for the soul? If I had to choose I'd likely go with the latter, not because I'm sinless and therefore don't need to confess but because I believe the act on the cross covered all of my sins — 2,000 years before I even committed them. I can't compete with that. But I can confess that it's my faith in Jesus Christ that saved my sin-sick soul.

So confession is indeed good for the soul, not to feed our need to assuage our guilt but to proclaim the goodness of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, who lived and died and lived again for the atonement of our sins — past, present and future. Now that's what I call good soul food.

— Ulysses Burley

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.

*With thankful
hearts.....*



Thank you..

I would like to thank Pastor O'Brien and the members of St. John for all the kind words and cards I received following the death of my son,. You were all such a comfort to me.

Donald Ruthsatz

Dear Congregation,

I would like to thank you for awarding me the Parks Scholarship. This will help me continue my education at the University of Toledo where I am majoring in Chemical Engineering. I am grateful to be honored with this scholarship. With your help, it has brought be closer to achieving my dream. Thank you again!

Jeremiah Berger

St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for selecting me at the recipient of the Tank Memorial Scholarship. It will help me greatly as I continue through my college career. I am very appreciative of your generosity and your support of me and other's goal through education.

Thanks, again.
Nicholas LaRue

Dear St. John Family,

Thank you very much for awarding me the Martin Parks Memorial Scholarship. I am now in my junior year at the University of Tampa and I am very grateful for the generosity and kindness of my congregation. The funds greatly help me with the high college costs. I am truly blessed to be a part of the St. John Family.

Thanks so much,
Drew Schloegl



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

Linda Schlievert

Diane Hartman

Allen Harder

Terry Gast

Betty Roecker

Madelayne Saionzkowski

Marilyn Sandroock

Carolyn Lasseter

Audrey Milbrodt

**Blessings in a
Backpack**

Thanks for helping!

Thanks to all who donated in any way to the Salvation Army of Ottawa County's School Supplies Drive.

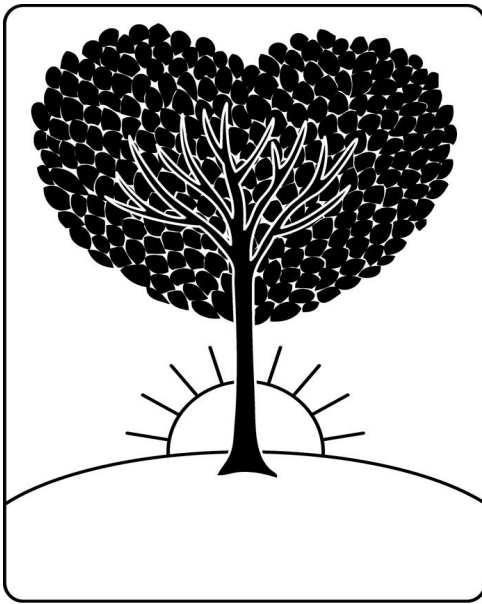
St. John collected and turned in the following: 18 backpacks, 4 rulers, 8 pair of scissors, 3 pencil pouches, 5 composition books, 3 folders, 1 box of 48 crayons, 35 erasers, 64 blue and black pens, 15 washable markers, 4 dry erase markers, 38 glue sticks, 340 pencils, one - 3 subject notebook, 83 - 1 subject notebooks, 2 boxes of large crayons, 48 boxes of 24 crayons, 4 regular Elmers glues, and 4 boxes of colored pencils.

Whew! What a great amount of supplies to be given to children in our county who are truly needy and need a good start for another school year.

Thanks so much!!

Ann Mann





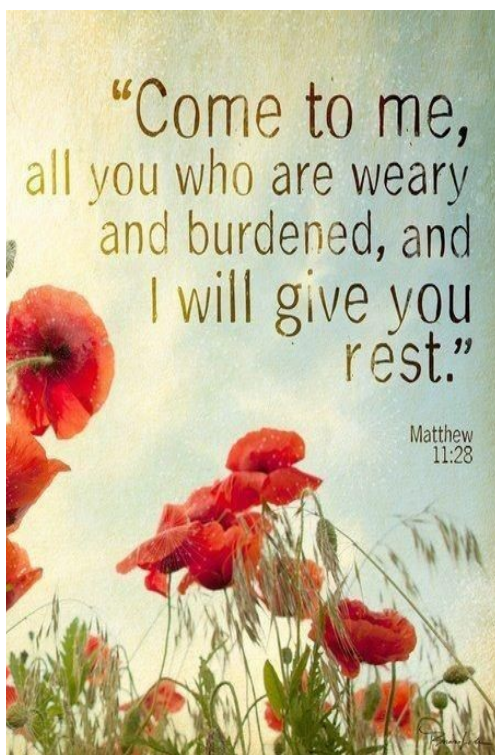
Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Paul Fredericksen, Sr.

Lowell and Diane Hartman
Robert and Diane Kapp
Arline Sabin
Jacob and Mary Shaner
Calvin and Marvel Nelson
Joyce Hosley

In Memory of Ilo Mae Hartman

Clyde and Mary Sandrock



*“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 neigh-
bors, 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!



The Forerunner

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by St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio
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Corner of Main and Toledo St.

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www.stjohnwilliston.org

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

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Summer Worship Schedule
Saturday Worship 5:00 pm
Sunday Worship 9:00 am

**Worship Schedule beginning
September 10th**
Saturday Worship 5:00 PM
Sunday School 8:30
Sunday Worship 9:45

**Deadline for the
October newsletter is
Monday, September 25th**
**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.”**



Church
Office
Hours

**9am—3pm
Mon. thru
Fri.**



September Circle News

SEPTEMBER

The Apostles' Creed

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, September 5, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Diane Hartman

Hostess: Diane Gerkenmeyer, Pat Sievert

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, September 5, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Sue Kozina

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, September 7, 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting

Monday, September 11, 7:00 p.m.

WELCA's General Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, September 19th at 7 PM in the Social Hall.

All from the congregation are invited. Our speaker that evening will be Lynn Ritter, Ph.D., who is the Education Coordinator of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of Alzheimer's Association.

Forgetfulness, change in speech patterns, and difficulty making good judgments are among the changes faced by people with dementia. This program is for anyone interested in learning more about these changes and ways to support someone who may be facing these challenges.

Staying involved in the life of someone experiencing changes of dementia can be challenging. All are invited to participate in a discussion of what these changes are and how to support someone. Please join us that evening.

Devotions: Esther Circle

Offering Meditation: Dorcas Circle

Hostess: Rebekah Circle



Fall Gathering News

Fall Gathering at Peace-Port Clinton

Sisters, don't forget to make your reservation for the Fall Gathering at Peace-Port Clinton (across from the high school at 90 S Jefferson St.) on Sept 30, 2017.

An informative and dynamic program will be presented by Jeff Wilbarger about the Daughter Project.



The Daughter Project is a 501c3 non-profit operating Ohio's first licensed group home for girls who have been rescued from sex traffickers. Registration at 8:30 am. Program starts at 9:00. Cost \$10.00 Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The offering will go to the Daughter Project.

Wish list for the Daughter Project:

Mrs. Meyer's Cleaning Supplies
Planners without year
Deodorant
Trash bags
AA and D Batteries
Headphones.

Reservations due by Sept. 16 .

Peace Lutheran Church

Attn: Ann Colston

Phone: 419-732-0633

Or Email: peacelutheranpc@gmail.com

New calendars will be passed out at the 2017 Fall Gathering.



**New Worship Schedule begins
September 10th.**

**Join us for worship as we return to our
Fall Worship Schedule**

**Saturday Contemporary Worship
at 5:00 PM**

Sunday School for all ages at 8:30 AM

Sunday Traditional Worship at 9:45 AM

Invite a friend to church!

Sunday School



Sunday School Rally Day Sunday, September 10 8:30 AM

**Catch the excitement
and join a new 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.

***New Parents Class**

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

Topics are not limited to children and parenting, but faith based topics pertaining to our daily lives as Christians in today's society.

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

This class has been a great source of discussion, listening, learning, laughing and Christian love and support for one another.

Parents:

**Please fill out the Emergency Form on the next page and
return it to your child's Sunday School Teacher at the beginning of class.**

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILLISTON, OHIO
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

Grade _____

Student's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Student's Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Purpose: To enable parents and guardians to authorize the provision of emergency treatment for children who become ill or injured under the supervision at St. John Lutheran Church.

Mother's Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work _____

Cell Phone _____

Father's Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work _____

Cell Phone _____

Name of Relative or Childcare Provider _____ Relationship _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

PART I OR PART II MUST BE COMPLETED

Part I: To Grant consent

I hereby give consent for the following medical care providers:

Physician _____ Phone _____

Dentist _____ Phone _____

Medical Specialist _____ Phone _____

Hospital _____

In the event reasonable attempts to contact me have been unsuccessful, I hereby give my consent for the administration of any treatment deemed necessary by the above-named doctor/ dentist, or in the event the designated preferred physician/ dentist is not available, by another licensed physician/ dentist.

This authorization does not cover major surgery unless the medical opinions of two other licensed physicians or dentists concurring in the necessity for such surgery are obtained prior to the performance of such surgery.

Facts concerning the child's medical history, including allergies, medications being taken and physical impairments to which a physician should be alerted: _____

Date _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____

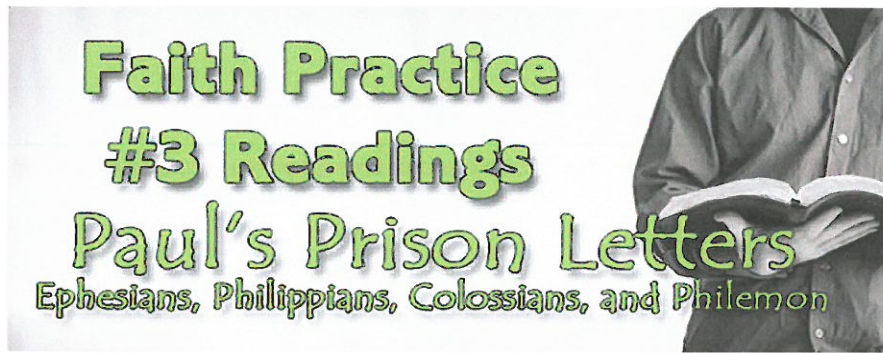
Address _____

Part II: Refusal to Consent

I do NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment of my child. In the event of illness or injury requiring emergency treatment, I wish the church authorities to take the following action: _____

Date _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____

Address _____



Week of September 4th

Ephesians 1

Paul to the saints in Ephesus. God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ. We are redeemed through Christ's blood. Through the mystery of God's will, we have obtained an inheritance. The Holy Spirit is the seal of our inheritance. God raised Christ from the dead and gave him great power, putting all things under his feet, including the church.

Week of September 11th

Ephesians 2

Christ made you alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins. You once walked according to the prince of the power of the air, but we have been raised up to sit in the heavenly places in Jesus Christ. You have been saved by faith, the gift of God, and not works. Jesus Christ reconciles Jew and Gentile, now fellow citizens in the household of God.

Week of September 18th

Ephesians 3

Paul is a prisoner. Gentiles are fellow heirs. Paul preaches the hidden mystery of God, who created all things through Jesus Christ. Paul's role in revealing this mystery is part of God's eternal purpose. Paul's tribulations are the Ephesians' glory. From Christ, we become part of a family of heaven and earth.

Week of September 25th

Ephesians 4

Walk worthy of your calling, with gentleness and lowliness, to keep the unity of the Holy Spirit in the bond of peace. Christ's spiritual gifts to the church – some are prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, working together in the unity of faith and in the body of Christ. Do not walk as the other gentiles walk, in darkness of understanding and lewdness. We are a new creation in Christ.

Week of October 2

Ephesians 5

Walk as children of light, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Walking in the light means walking in wisdom. Do not be drunk with wine, but filled with the Spirit. Speak to each other in holy songs. The mystical union between Christ and the church is replicated in the mystical union of marriage. A husband must love a wife as himself.

St. John Youth Group News

September 2017

Bonfire and Cookout!

Saturday, September 30 at 6:30p we will meet at the Cashen home for a Bonfire and Cookout. (5888 N. Reiman Rd. in Curtice) We will play some fall themed games and spend some time talking about Youth Group activities in the coming year.



If you would like to come, please bring a dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet next to Pastor O'Brien's office door. Please sign up with the number coming. As always, friends are welcome!

ECLA National Youth Gathering

June 27 - July 1, 2018 in Houston, Texas

To take advantage of Early Bird Registration (and save us \$20 a person), I would like to complete registration the week of September 18. Therefore I need four things from everyone who would like to attend by the weekend of September 16/17. Those four things are...

1. Medical and Emergency Form
2. Participant Agreement
3. Registration Worksheet (the above three things are available on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office door)
4. \$75 deposit (check to St. John Lutheran can go in the offering plate, but please tell me when you pay so I can keep track on our expense sheet)

Swimming and cookout at the Titgemeyer's

Thank you to the Titgemeyer's for inviting us to their home and hosting our August activity.

First Day of Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 10. Confirmation students and parents will meet in the sanctuary, all other grades meet in their classrooms.

Sunday Acolytes Needed:

In this coming year, we are going to have a shortage of Sunday morning acolytes. If you are willing to serve on the Sunday acolyte schedule (instead of or in addition to Saturday), please contact the church office.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/ Events

September 10 – First Day of Sunday School

September 10 – God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

This is a good opportunity for earning service points.

September 17 – Fall Fest at Luther Home of Mercy

(another opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

September 30 – BonFire & Cookout

(starting at 6:30 pm, bring a friend)

October 15 – Trunk or Treat

(decorate a car or help with food and games to earn community service/confirmation service points)

October - ZOMBIES REVENGE

(Bring your appetite there will be a lot of delicious people... err... I mean... food.)

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

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

“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.

From the Bishop
Daniel Beaudoin..



Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

"To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12).

I was talking with a guy this past week about his craft: he designs and builds wooden chess sets. Each wooden chess board is carefully made and each wooden chess piece is intricately carved... by hand. He tells me that there are no 2 chess sets alike. I asked him how long he's been working at his craft. He's been at it for almost 30 years, saying "It took me 10 years just to learn how." He showed me photos of different chess sets he had carved on his I-Phone. This is a man who has mastered his craft.

There is some truth to the 10-year apprenticeship. It truly takes about 10 years to hone and develop a craft. Early on my ministry, I had a spiritual director offer me some great advice. He said, "Discover what your 3 primary gifts are and then spend the next 10 years focusing on each those gifts." 10 years, fully dedicated to 1 gift.

I took that advice to heart and during my 30's, I spent 10 years learning the art of pastoring and prayer. I read and learned everything I could about leading, modeling, and teaching a life of prayer. Dallas Willard, Richard Foster, Thomas Merton, Henry Nouwen, and St. Benedict were my guides.

During my 40's, I have spent the last 9 years learning the art of leadership. I have watched leaders in action, attended countless seminars and summits, and read (or listened to) every leadership book I can get my hands on. I truly believe that God uses servant leaders to transform churches, communities, and the world.

I leave you with 2 questions, a request, and an invitation:

2 Questions: How are you purposefully tending to the gifts that God has given you? Are you willing to dedicate the next 10 years learning your craft?

A Request: Ask me sometime about the God given gift that I am planning to focus on in my 50's.

12017: 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,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton -Presiding Bishop

Statement on Healthcare Reform

July 26, 2017

Throughout the debate on the effort to “repeal or repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act, Lutherans have joined me in calling on their members of Congress to improve access to health care.

"We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have an enduring commitment to work for and support health care for all people as a shared endeavor. Our commitment comes in grateful response to God's saving love in Jesus Christ that frees us to love and seek the well-being of our neighbor" (ELCA social statement "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor," 2003).

The Senate is now debating health care reform. In the strongest possible terms, I urge senators to oppose any effort to cut funding to Medicaid that eliminates essential health care for seniors, veterans, children and low-income working families.

I ask all Lutherans to pray for our leaders and to be advocates with me. Our collective voices make a difference, and we should raise them to call on our senators to stand with the most vulnerable members of our communities. It is time for Congress to work together to find solutions that ensure health care for all in our nation of God's great abundance.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop



Counting our blessings every day in

SEPTEMBER

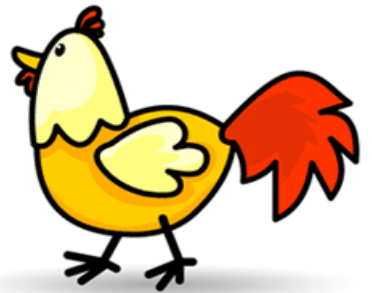
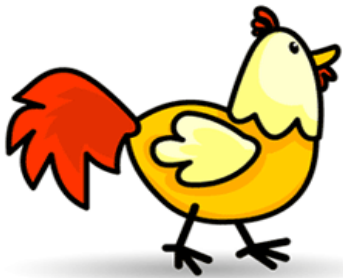
<p>#1</p> <p>What smell are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#2</p> <p>What technology are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#3</p> <p>What color are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#4</p> <p>What food are you most grateful for?</p>	<p>#5</p> <p>What sound are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#6</p> <p>What in nature are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#7</p> <p>What memory are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#8</p> <p>What book are you most grateful for?</p>	<p>#9</p> <p>What place are you most grateful for?</p>
<p>#10</p> <p>What taste are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#11</p> <p>What holiday are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#12</p> <p>What texture are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#13</p> <p>What abilities are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#14</p> <p>What sight are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#15</p> <p>What season are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#16</p> <p>What about your body are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#17</p> <p>What knowledge are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#18</p> <p>What piece of art are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#19</p> <p>What touch are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#20</p> <p>Who in your life are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#21</p> <p>What song are you most grateful for?</p>
<p>#22</p> <p>What story are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#23</p> <p>What tradition are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#24</p> <p>What challenge are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#25</p> <p>What moment this week are you most grateful for?</p>	<p>#26</p> <p>What form of expression are you most grateful for?</p>	<p>#27</p> <p>What small thing that you use daily are you grateful for?</p>
<p>#28</p> <p>What small thing that happened today are you grateful for?</p>	<p>#29</p> <p>What friend/family member are you grateful for today?</p>	<p>#30</p> <p>What talent or skill do you have that you are grateful for?</p>

Chicken BBQ 2017

It was a Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!

A big THANK YOU to all who helped at our Annual Chicken BBQ this year. In all, we counted at least 40 people who took care of anything from set up on Saturday morning to running the drive thru, selling tickets, getting the dinners ready for inside dining, and cleanup on Sunday. Thanks to Brenda Lowe and crew for once again providing us with fall off the bone delicious chicken! Thanks to JoElaine Schimming and her crew for making all the wonderful pies and cutting them up into individual servings. Thanks to Tim

Titgemeyer for putting up the front yard banner and all who posted the information about the BBQ on their Facebook pages. And especially, thank you to all who bought the dinners. After expenses there should be approximately \$1,000.00 to help fund the youth traveling to the National Youth Gathering in Houston next year. Also WELCA will receive \$400.00 from the sale of pies to help with their programs and needs throughout the year. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated! See you next year!



Annual Blanket Raffle Weekends

The Tuesday Morning Quilters have been busy cutting, sewing and tying beautiful blankets again this year.

**Our Annual Blanket Raffle will take place on the weekends of
September 23 & 24,
September 30 and October 1.**

Beautiful blankets will fill the Sanctuary and are for sale. They are available for purchase for a suggested donation of \$25.00.

(Checks may be made out to the church with "Blanket" in memo.)

The blankets up for raffle will be displayed in the Cloister.

Each one for raffle will display a number and you may place your raffle ticket in the box of the number of the quilt you would like to win.

Tickets are \$1.00 for 2 tickets.

Proceeds from these sales are used to continue this wonderful ministry.

In the past, the ladies have answered the call by donating blankets to Impact With Hope for flood victims, by helping disaster victims in Colorado, by making baby quilts for local hospitals and by providing blankets to domestic violence victims and their children in Port Clinton.



The "Blanket Ladies" will be gathering 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!



**Online giving is now available
at St. John.
Never miss a week!**



**With online giving, it's easy to stay on track.
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.

*Not online? See LisaAnne in the office to set up an account
or fill in an "Authorization Form" and return it to the office.*



STEWARDSHIP

MAXIMIZING GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR HIS GLORY

Our Stewardship Prayer for September

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen

Acts 20:35NIV

³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'



Join the fun for a great cause!

Our 6th Annual St. John Benevolent Golf Outing is
Sunday, September 17th!

We are looking for TEAMS and SPONSORS!

This Foursome Team Scramble Event starts with registration at Noon and a shotgun start at 1:00 PM.
Prizes, Prizes, Prizes and Food!

**Call Tom Cashen for details
at 419-836-8028 or 419-205-1942.**



STEWARDSHIP OF RELATIONSHIPS



AT HOME

providing Christian education for our children, living and growing together as a family.



AT WORK

showing our fellow workers the example of Christian behavior and supportive "caring."



IN CHURCH

participating with others in worship, projects, forming friendships.



Join us for

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday
Sept. 10, 2017



WHAT IS "GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY?

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this opportunity and dedicated one day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people.

The date for 2017 is Sunday, Sept. 10. Mark your calendar today! This year we observe the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The ELCA's anniversary theme, "Freed and Renewed in Christ," reminds us of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors.

The idea for the dedicated day of service is this: ELCA members are called to put their faith into action by engaging in a service activity in their neighborhood, surrounding community or designated area. While service opportunities are endless, ELCA members and congregations are invited to conduct their own research opportunities for service that makes sense for their local context and the congregation's service capacity.

In other words, the idea is to deepen a congregation's and the member's experience in their communities and offer a way for congregations to play a critical part in addressing community needs.

**Join the St. John Family for "God's Work. Our Hands Sunday!"
September 10, 2017**

**We will be helping our friends at the Luther Home of Mercy.
Meet for lunch at the church at Noon and then we will
head over to serve at the Luther Home.**

Luther Home of Mercy/Lutheran Ministries News

This month, several residents who live at our Williston campus were sworn in to serve as resident council officers. Elected by their peers, they take pride in having a voice to make decisions about life at Luther Home.

Congratulations to our new leaders! [#enrichinglives](#)



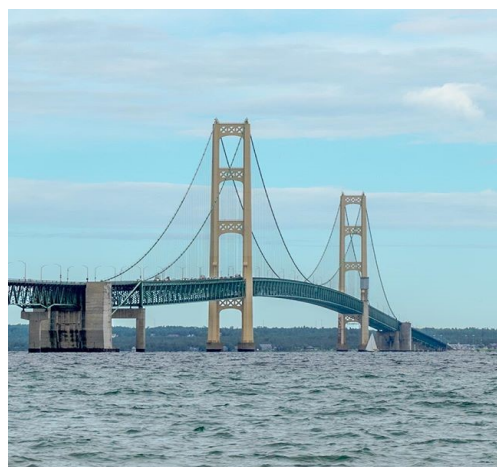
**Vice President
Debbie**



**President
Jason**



**Secretary
Nancy**



The Mighty Mac Bridge Walk is an annual Labor Day Mackinac Bridge Walk on September 4, 2017. The walk raises support for the Filling Memorial Home of Mercy, the Lutheran Home of Mercy and the Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio.

Visit [www. http://www.lutheranministriesofmercy.org](http://www.lutheranministriesofmercy.org) to learn more about the Mighty Mac Bridge Walk or to sponsor someone who is walking.

Genoa Community Food Pantry Needs



**Food Pantry
Donations Needed**

Collection baskets are located near the office and in the Narthex. This list is only a suggestion. You may donate any non perishable food items or personal hygiene items at any time.

Thank you for being a blessing to those in need!

September- Oil

October- Bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo

November- Paper towels, 4 pack bathroom tissue and Kleenex

December- Cereal and dish soap



6th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

Proceeds to benefit St. John Good Samaritan Fund

(Good Samaritan Fund assists with emergency requests from individuals and families of the community.)

Volunteers Welcome and Needed!

Foursome Team Scramble Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017

Chippewa Golf Club

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

12:00pm—Registration

1:00pm—Shot Gun Start

\$65 per player

18 Holes with cart

Includes Meal

**PRIZES PRIZES
PRIZES**

For information: Tom (419) 836-8028 or (419) 205-1942 Church Office (419) 836-5514

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



6th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/17/17

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No



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.

Please complete below and return to your child's teacher
by October 8, 2017.

This will let us know how many parts we can have for the program.

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

Any questions, contact Tammy Mazur or Beckie Goldstein.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Will they be participating in the program? Yes: _____ No: _____

Would they like a speaking part? Yes: _____ No: _____



Pastor's Report: He had 29 hospital/homebound or family visits, 4 committee meetings, 4 community event, 3 clergy meetings, 11 Bible studies, 1 memorial service and 1 funeral. Thanks to everyone that helped work the Chicken BBQ to support the youth. The Chicken BBQ raised approximately \$1000 towards the Youth Gathering. God's Work, Our Hands will be on Sunday, September 10, 2017. Pastor thanked all the volunteers who helped with the Williston Encounter this past summer. There was an average of 70-80 people each week with around 140 people the week of VBS.

Financial Secretary Report: reported that we are at 99% of our budget for income.

Christian Community Life: reported that the committee will provide the luncheon before the God's Work, Our Hands work day at the Luther Home of Mercy on September 10, 2017.

Parish Education: reported that we will have a new High School Teacher, Stefanie Neuman. Ordered the Pre-K through 2nd Grade Sunday School materials for this year.. The 3rd through 5th grade materials have already arrived.

Stewardship Committee: reported the Golf Outing will be on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017 with 6 teams and 5 Hole Sponsors currently. The committee is working hard to increase both of those numbers. The dinner will provided by Blackberry Corners at the event.

Worship Life: The Bell Tower amps have been installed. The committee will be reviewing the contracts for both music directors.

Property: Reported that the lights in the parking lot will be upgraded with new photo cells and timers. The committee has replaced some of the electrical outlets throughout the church. The painting of the parsonage porch has been completed. The power washing of the concrete has been completed. The hot-water tank was installed in 1994 and should be replaced now before we have repair issues. The windows on the west side of the church need to be painted or covered with aluminum. The Tech Committee would like to get a quote for placing Wi-Fi connections in the Social Hall and the basement. There will also, be a cable running to the balcony computer and projector for the Wi-Fi. Also, an additional quote will be provided for a projector and sound system in the Social Hall to make the most use of that Wi-Fi improvement.

Next Committee Meeting- September 14, 2017

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Diana Pfaff

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of: July 31, 2017

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	281,000	25,468	25,174	99%	163,017	164,669	101%	163,422	1%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	21,958	21,958	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	1,017	712	70%	8,217	5,786	70%		
Staff Salaries	106,230	9,086	8,097	89%	62,201	58,551	94%		
Staff Benefits	52,470	4,348	3,729	86%	30,564	27,326	89%		
Operating Expenses	60,900	3,417	3,391	99%	40,388	35,986	89%		
Expense Totals	272,000	20,826	18,887	91%	163,328	149,607	92%		
Income less Expenses	9,000	4,642	6,287		(311)	15,062			

2017 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	3,043
Activity Center Savings	265,662
Memorials	63,463
Music Fund	3,519
Endowment Fund	107,382
Roof Fund	20,478
Scholarship Tank	8,377
Scholarship Younker	5,250
Scholarship Johnson	36,055
Scholarship Parks	38,980
Stephen Ministries	4,138
Other	25,686
Savings	29,737
Total	611,770

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



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 2 AJ Rubeis
- 9 Zack Buhrow
- 16 Andrew Blausey
- 23 Aubrey Lee
- 30 Mallory Nelson

Lectors

- 2 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 9 **Diane Gerkenismeyer**
- 16 Doris Titgemeyer
- 23 Gene Bihn
- 30 Shirley Berger

Ushers

- 2 Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 9 Dean & Mary Lowe, Gerald & Jeanette Lentz
- 16 Ken & Pat Sievert, Al & Beverly Harder
- 23 Carol Vargo, Alice Witt, Gene & Amy Bihn
- 30 Tom Truman, Zack Buhrow, Jack Matthews

Communion Servers

- 2 Amy Schloegl, Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 9 Wayne Bauman, Gene Bihn, Carol Vargo
- 16 Al Brown, JoElaine Schimming, Doris Titgemeyer
- 23 Diane Gerkenismeyer, Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher
- 30 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Gene Bihn

Communion Set-up

- 2 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 9 Carol Vargo
- 16 Dilly Schimming
- 23 Joan Truman
- 30 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

- 2 Shelly Snider
- 9 Joni Hillman
- 16 Ron and Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 23 Kris Lee
- 30 Jo Elaine Schimming

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 9 Ron Gerkenismeyer/Amy Bihn
- 16 Phil and Matt Milbrodt
- 23 Ron Gerkenismeyer /Amy Bihn
- 30 Kurtis Lee/ Traci Brown

SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 3 Sophia Cashen
- 10 Lauren LaRue
- 17 Evan Kessler
- 24 Andy Kessler

Lectors

- 3 Tim Titgemeyer
- 10 Mike Mann
- 17 Elaine Foss
- 24 Kris Johnson

Ushers

- 3 Heather, Sophia and Lindsey Cashen
- 10 The Fred Lammers Family
- 17 The Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 24 Jeff Schimming, Clarence Smithers, Dan Nelson

Communion Servers

- 3 Carol Jensen, Kris Johnson, Jane Phillips
- 10 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 17 Elaine Foss, Pat Delventhal, Wilma Smithers
- 24 Mike Mann, Jill Kao, Karolyn Jansen

Communion Set-up

- 3 Heather Cashen
- 10 Melissa Lammers
- 17 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 24 Diana Pfaff

Door Greeters

- 3 Melissa Lammers
- 10 Linda Schlievert
- 17 Marcia Morgan
- 24 Karen Jeffers

Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 Andrew Titgemeyer
- 10 Alex Lammers
- 17 Joel Mann
- 24 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

- 10 Stef Neuman
- 17 Alex Lammers
- 24 Caira Goldstein

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



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

- 7 Lauren Martin
- 14 Riley Chesson
- 21 Peyton Donnelly
- 28 Anna Sommers

Lectors

- 7 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 14 Tracy Orians
- 21 Beth Johnson
- 28 Shirley Berger

Ushers

- 7 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 14 Dean & Mary Lowe, Gerald & Jeanette Lentz
- 21 Ken and Pat Sievert, Mary and Owen Schloegl
- 28 Carol Vargo, John and Helen Meyer, Alice Witt

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 7 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 14 Dilly Schimming
- 21 Traci Brown
- 28 Brenda Keeley

Door Greeters

- 7 Jack Mathews
- 14 Jo Elaine Schimming
- 21 Linda Bauman
- 28 Dean and Mary Lowe

Sound/Projector Techs

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

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship

Acolytes

- 1 Sophia Cashen
- 8 Lauren LaRue
- 15 Evan Kessler
- 22 Andy Kessler
- 29 Lauren LaRue

Lectors

- 1 Marcia Morgan
- 8 Melissa Lammers
- 15 Christopher Pfaff
- 22 Ann Mann
- 29 Jill Kao

Ushers

- 1 Heather, Sophia and Lindsey Cashen
- 8 The Fred Lammers Family
- 15 Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
- 22 Jeff Schimming, Clarence Smithers, Dan Nelson
- 29 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Bob Kapp

Communion Servers

- 1 Carol Jensen, Kris Johnson, Elaine Foss
- 8 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 15 Jill Kao, Pat Delventhal, Wilma Smithers
- 22 Mike Mann, Ann Mann, Karolyn Jansen
- 29 Jane Phillips, Jill Kao, Carole Beamer

Communion Set-up

- 1 Pam LaRue
- 8 Melissa Lammers
- 15 Deanna Neuman
- 22 Nancy Brittian
- 29 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 1 Marcia Morgan
- 8 Carole Beamer
- 15 Heather Cashen
- 22 Deb Wehner
- 29 Linda Schlievert

Sound/Projector Techs

- 1 Alex Lammers
- 8 Joel Mann
- 15 Andrew Titgemeyer
- 22 Tim Titgemeyer
- 29 Andy Kessler

Children's Moments

- 1 Bells
- 8 Diana Pfaff
- 15 Alex Lammers
- 22 Puppets
- 29 Stef Neuman

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