

FORERUNNER

Volume 0643 Issue 268
August 2018

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From 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 2016) but I would like to share the article’s responses to some other popular adages. The author’s name is posted at the end.



“God must have needed another angel”

I don’t understand. Are these words of comfort? Really? So what you’re saying is that God couldn’t handle being God so God had to recruit a little help? And my son was just the right person for the job so God took him from me? Sorry, but I’ve got some big problems with that.

“God must have needed another angel” would be on my top 10 list of things not to say to a grieving parent. When my son, Max, died more than two years ago, my family experienced all kinds of responses. The majority of them have been beautiful and have carried us through the darkest times. But occasionally someone will throw us a zinger. This statement is one of them. Yes, the Bible speaks of angels, but not in the way this statement infers. Angels were and are messengers of God, extensions of the Spirit if you will, rather than repurposed people.

I’m in the deepest pain that a parent could ever experience. There really isn’t anything you can say that will make that pain go away. I know you love me and want my pain gone. But don’t try. No, really, don’t try to take my pain away — live in it with me. You don’t need to say anything. Just be with me in my grief instead of trying to use words to cheer me up. Being is better than words.

However, do I believe Max had angelic qualities? Absolutely. Does God’s Spirit remind me regularly that Max is always with me? You bet. Is Max resurrected with Christ? A resounding yes.

– Tom Schwolert

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.



INTRODUCING...ARNOLD THE PIG!
 Parish Education is supporting ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge outreach. This worldwide program provides farm animals and assistance to families around the world, to end hunger and poverty. All money donated at the gathering will be **MATCHED!**
So, Meet Arnold the Pig!

Arnold the Pig will be traveling this summer to yards in our community.

The plan is this:

- Insurance to never get Arnold...\$30**
- To Remove Arnold...\$10**
- To request a friend get Arnold...\$10**
- To never get him back...\$10**



These are suggested donations; you are welcome to donate more! Remember, your donation will be doubled.

To "make a move" with Arnold, please contact Melissa Lammers at 419-836-3079

Share Your Stuff

IT IS TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS & SHARE ITEMS YOU NO LONGER WANT !!

We would like to help out the people in the Ottawa County area. Our donations will go to The Portage Resale Center in Port Clinton. The RUTH ANN'S HOUSE will give the people that are ready to get a start on their own, vouchers to get items for FREE !

We are collecting the following items:
GENTLY USED CLOTHING, SMALL APPLIANCES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, ANTIQUES and MONETARY DONATIONS (Please note "Share Your Stuff" on the check)

COLLECTING DATES:
AUGUST 11 thru AUGUST 26, 2018

PLEASE PUT COLLECTIONS IN THE PRESCHOOL S.S. CLASSROOM

Any questions call Cheryl Berger 419-345-3941

The Forerunner
 is published monthly
 by St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien
Home Telephone:
419-972-4003

pastorobrien
 @stjohnwilliston.org

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

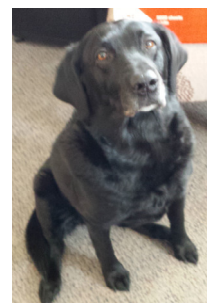
Deadline for the
September 2018 newsletter is
AUGUST 19th
Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.



"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."



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



Bella
Fredericksen
The Greeter of
St. John



In Memory of Kris Johnson
NWOS-ELCA Synod
In Memory of Rick Waldron
Tivis and Victoria Slone
Carol Tank
Marlene Brinkman and Robin Hoeflinger

If your name was inadvertently left off the list, contact the office.

Thankful, Grateful & Blessed

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for all your spiritual and monetary support for college and life. I really like majoring in Chemical Engineering and going to the University of Toledo. It means the world to me to know my church family and community are supporting me. I'm also growing a lot in my relationship with Christ in college and it is all thanks to my great church.

**Thank you,
Jacob Lammers**

To The St. John Lutheran Church Congregation,

I would like to thank the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church because I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of this year's Younker Scholarship. It means a great deal to me to have the support of congregation as I continue my college education. The church has always felt like family to me. This Younker Scholarship will help me remember that even though I will be living in Ada, the church will have my back as I pursue my career as a pharmacist. Thanks again for this wonderful gift of money for my college education.

**Sincerely,
Christopher Pfaff**

Dear St. John Family,

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and visits during my surgery and recovery. A special thank you to Pastor O'Brien for his visits and prayers. Also, a warm thank you to the "Blanket Ladies" for the cozy and colorful quilt.

Ken Sievert

Dear St. John,

Thank you for the scholarship. This scholarship will help me get one step closer to realizing my dream!

**Thanks again,
Joshua Buhrow**

To the Great People of St. John,

Thank you to Pastor Shawn, LisaAnne, Ann Mann and her fantastic army of angels! From the bottom of our hearts-thank you for everything, for lightening our load and taking us in with open arms. Everything was perfect. From Joel and his technical stuff, to Ann and all the wonderful women helping in the kitchen. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Deana Waldron, Kim Tobias and Kris Gerber

(A funeral and meal were held at St. John for Mr. Rick Waldron after problems arose with the planned funeral location)

Carnival Games thank you!

The Carnival Games Day at Williston Encounter started with heavy rain showers. It did "rain on our parade," but it didn't stop the fun when the venue was moved to the social hall.

Many thanks to Marilyn Sandroock and Carolyn Lassiter for the countless hours they dedicated to this endeavor prior to the day. Thanks also to the crew members they enlisted to carry out the many activities of the day. There was approximately 65 in attendance and lunch was served to all who wished to partake. What great fellowship!

At the Carnival, there were snow cones, cotton candy and popcorn for all to enjoy. The many games included the pop-a-balloon board, duck draw from the tub of water, sucker pull from a panel, a choice of tattoos, ring toss, shoot the monkey, balloon animals and catch a fish. Prizes were awarded to all winners and included stuffed animals, suckers, crackers, crayons, Cheese-Its, and Animal crackers, etc.

All the kids went home with a bag overflowing with prizes. Everyone was a winner many times over!

There was a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. What an entertaining and enjoyable time for the kids and a fun day for all— even the "crew!"

Again, many thanks to Marilyn and Carolyn and crew for making this a successful and entertaining event!

Diane Gerkenmeyer

Thank you,

I would like to thank Pastor O'Brien for his prayers and hospital visits for my recent surgery. Also, thanks to everyone for their prayers, cards and calls.

Thanks be to God for His many blessings.

Mary Harmeyer

Thank You!

I want to thank the St. John Congregation for their well wishes and prayers during my recent emergency operation. I especially want to thank Pastor Shawn for seeing me at the hospital, praying together and taking communion. Also, I would like to thank Jon and Brenda from Stephen Ministries for visiting me at home and bringing me copies of recent sermons along with a throw. It is making recovery easier but not necessarily faster.

Hoping to see everyone soon.

**God Bless to All!
Bernie Pohlrad**

Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with the Williston Encounter Carnival. We couldn't have done it without your help!

**Thanks Again.
Carolyn and Marilyn**

Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

The following is an excerpt from www.boldcafe.org.

Café is an online magazine and podcast for and with young adult women who identify as Lutheran or not. Café shares stories written by bold young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of Café include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use Café as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.

Sharing Our Faith Story

The Bible records countless times crowds gathered around Jesus, and times when individuals came to learn from him and to be healed by him. How did they know to show up? They didn't read a post about Jesus that went viral on social media. Jesus didn't have flyers up in the local coffeeshop. They likely showed up because someone they knew shared their story.

Mark 1:21-28 tells the story of Jesus, early in his ministry, teaching on the sabbath in Capernaum. There he encounters a man with an unclean spirit, which Jesus banishes from the man. And then, verse 28 says, "At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee." Jesus' fame spread because the people who had gathered that day in the synagogue and shared the good news of the teacher, of the healer, they had encountered. As a result, the people around them wanted to encounter Jesus too.

In Mark 5:24b-34, Jesus is on his way to save a young girl's life. As the crowd pressed in on him, a woman who had been hemorrhaging for twelve years took the risk of going into the crowd where she knew she wasn't welcome, according to the rules the community lived by. She did so because she believed Jesus could heal her.

She hadn't watched a YouTube video of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand. The teachings of Jesus were not on Kindle for her to read in her free time. How did she know to follow the crowd to see Jesus that day? Mark 5:27 said she had heard about Jesus. That's how she knew it was worth it for her to be among the crowd that day.

This woman, according to the Levitical standards of her time, would have been ritually unclean, untouchable. So who told her about Jesus? Perhaps someone had been willing to put their own concerns aside to go share a word of hope with her. By sharing what they knew about Jesus, they participated in God's plan for healing this woman.

Sharing the story, one person at a time

Recently I was at the local university, meeting with graduate students in a Christian fellowship group. One student talked about hearing from another student about some things they had been dealing with lately. He told the group that he was able to tell his classmate about his own struggles and how his faith sustained him in the midst of them. He said to his friends around the table, "We're not ordained or anything, but we do have a story to tell and we can pray for each other, support each other."

He is right. We all have a story to tell about our encounters with Jesus. Faith conversations are not limited to those who have been to seminary. When we tell our stories, we strengthen and encourage those around us . . . and I believe we strengthen ourselves too.

The students in the fellowship group that day shared stories of financial worries and unexpected provision; stories of struggling with confidence in class, continuing to work hard, and later realizing they were as good as everybody else; stories of maintaining healthy relationships in school. They shared how they experienced God at work in their lives. They shared their faith stories.

How has God called you to participate in God's mission by sharing your faith story? Who would benefit from a word of hope from you today? Who would be encouraged by hearing about the ways the Lord has shown up in your life? Have you ever shared how God is active in your life? Have you ever shared with someone about God's love? Have you ever invited someone to see God active in their life as well? By simply sharing our stories, we participate in the plan of God. With whom do you sense God calling you to share your faith story today?

Discussion questions:

1. Who has shared their faith story with you over the years? How has it nurtured your faith?
2. What story do you have to share? Write it out. It may help you become more comfortable with telling your story to others.
3. Sometimes sharing our story can feel very vulnerable. Are you willing to become vulnerable in order to share your faith with someone else? (If vulnerability is a struggle for you, check out Brene Brown's TED Talk on "The Power of Vulnerability.")

Closing prayer

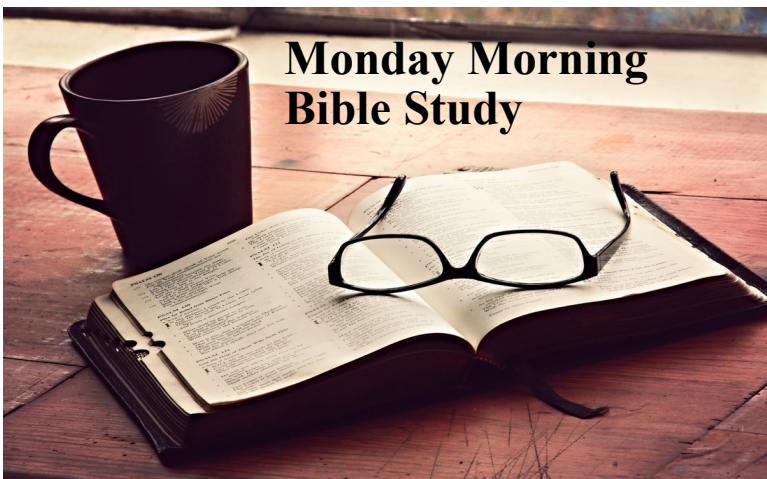
Gracious and loving God, as unique as we all are, so are our stories. Each story is intricately woven with the fine details of life, seasoned with memories – some pleasant, others not so pleasant. In every detail, every memory, every element of our story, you are present. As we share our faith, we witness to your ever-present, ever-faithful, ever-loving accompaniment on our journey. Help us, Lord, to share our faith stories in ways and with people who might come to know you all the more as a result of our witnessing. Show us those with whom you would like us to connect. Thank you for those you have sent to share their stories with us. Together, all our stories are a part of your story, for which we are grateful. Amen.

The Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney is pastor and mission developer of Gathered by Grace, a synodically authorized worshipping community of the ELCA, serving the cities of Montgomery and Tuskegee in Alabama.

Weekly Events @



Monday Morning Bible Study



Did you know....

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

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

No experience needed
and all are welcome!

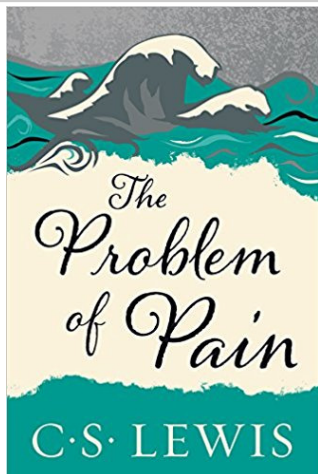
NEW Reading Encounter – Wednesdays at 10:00 A.M.

Beginning August 15, the group will study *The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis, one of the most renowned Christian authors and thinkers.

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

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

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



PRAYERCHAIN



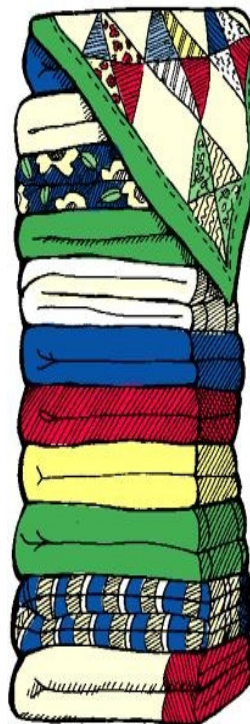
"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John.

If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003, cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on.

Thank you!



The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on

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

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

Bed sheets are needed for quilt backings

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

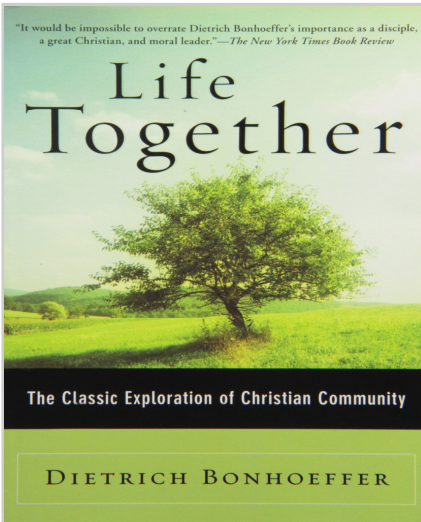
Come join us! You only need to know how to tie a knot!

Who's ready for SUNDAY SCHOOL?



New Sunday School Classes begin September 9th!

There is a class for you! Sunday mornings at 8:30!



New Adult Sunday School Class: **LIFE TOGETHER**

In his book *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer offers the Christian means with which to cultivate authentic Christian community. Having been imprisoned (and later hung) by the Gestapo for his participation in the political and military resistance against Nazism in Germany, the author writes with the authority of experience of Christian community. He asserts that communal life, the physical presence of other Christians, is a gift of grace, that it is the “extraordinary, roses and lilies” of the Christian life. He aims to describe the nature of Christian community through five concepts and devotes a chapter to each: Community, The Day with Others, The Day Alone, Ministry, and Confession and Communion. Join us Sunday mornings at 8:30.-upstairs.



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

Parents Sunday School Class
This year, we will be exploring ENGAGE.

Raising children in a tech-obsessed social media world is tough. What limits do you put on it? Is it safe?
Why can't kids just put their phones down?

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



New Worship Times begin September 9th.

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday School for All Ages 8:30 AM

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

St. John Youth Group News

August, 2018

ELCA Youth Gathering, Houston TX

Thank you again to the entire congregation for their support in making this trip possible! It was a great trip with a great group



ELCA Youth Gathering 2021

(June 29-July 3, 2021)



Yes, this event is three years away, but it is not too early to begin planning. Everyone who went to Texas had a great time and expressed interest in going again. PLUS we will have a new group of youth eligible to attend; this is open to youth who will be entering High School in 2021 through graduating seniors,

i.e. students entering 6th grade this year through Sophomores. Because we could potentially have a really big group we are going to begin fundraising early. Our first event will be helping with the Chicken BBQ on August 12. If you have other ideas, please let Pastor O'Brien know.

Fall Youth Group Kick-Off Pool Party!

Mark your calendar! Monday, September 3rd at 12:00 we will meet at the home of Tom and Heather Cashen (5888 N. Reiman Rd.) to welcome our new youth group members and enjoy some swimming, food, and fun.

Chicken BBQ

The majority of the chicken dinners tend to be "to go" orders. We will need lots of help with drive-thru runners and servers. Please arrive after Sunday worship; about 10a on August 12. Proceeds from this event will be used to support our trip to Minneapolis in 2021.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

August 12 – Chicken BBQ at St. John

(this is good opportunity to help your church and earn service points)

September 3 – Fall Kick off Pool Party, 12:00

September 9 – Sunday School/ Confirmation Begins

(confirmation students meet in the sanctuary, Senior High students meet in the Lounge.)

September 9 – God's Work Our Hands Sunday

(we will be serving God by serving our neighbors)

Bulletin Board Pictures

If you would like any of the pictures from the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office, and they have been there longer than a week, feel free to take them home. (Help make room for more!)

If you HAVE any pictures from our Youth Group activities, please send them to Pastor O'Brien

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>

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher. You don't want to start your 8th grade year with a deficit.

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



ELCA presiding bishop responds to Supreme Court decision on travel ban

Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow ... (Jeremiah 22:3).

I am dismayed by the Supreme Court's recent decision concerning the president's authority to restrict travel into the United States. It applies to travelers from certain countries based on those countries' inability to provide information necessary for immigration vetting. Strong vetting procedures have already been authorized by Congress and reviews of applications for possible links to terrorism are also in place. Therefore, restricting all travelers from certain countries simply because they are citizens of those countries is deeply troubling. In the past, we have seen the sometimes horrific effects of excluding and marginalizing (or worse) whole classes of people based on their ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender identity or other characteristics.

Our social statement, "For Peace in God's World," provides theological guidance for the church to respond by offering wise words of caution:

Citizens need to give careful attention to how we in the United States perceive our national interest and interpret our national identity, since what states do depends in large measure on their views of their own interests and identity. Sin's power often makes itself felt in arrogant and self-righteous views of national identity, and in narrow, short-term, and absolute views of national interest.

We expect expressions of our nation's identity to build on the best of our traditions, to respect others' identity, and to open up paths for mutual understanding. For the sake of a greater good or for reasons of conscience, citizens may need to oppose a prevailing understanding or practice of national identity and interest.

With this court decision, we are again reaching a point where the assertion of "national security" by the executive branch of government results in the rejection of all other considerations in national policy discussions. Our social statement also reminds us: "In bondage to sin, we fall captive to fear." Jesus taught us to love one another. The social statement calls us to "a dynamic vision of difference in unity."

In a time ... when an idolatrous allegiance to one's own community endangers our oneness, we must voice with clarity the powerful vision of difference in unity. This vision calls us to engage differences, not to ignore or fear them. The hope for earthly peace challenges people to strengthen their own particular communities in ways that promote respect and appreciation for people in other communities, for all share a common humanity.

Let us recall that all people are created in God's image and, therefore, rather than have suspicion be our assumption, let us attribute to them honor and respect as God does.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

What's distinctly Lutheran about our witness to the gospel?
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton talks about what it means to be a Lutheran in the 2018 Synod Assembly video.

Visit the video at <http://bit.ly/WeAreLutheran>



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



A Message from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Current Learning with Bishops

A number of ELCA Bishops are currently reading the book, *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire*, by Alan Kreider, who is Professor Emeritus of Church History and Mission at the Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana.

Dr. Kreider argues that four key factors played a role in the growth of Christianity in the first four centuries:

1. **The Virtue of Patience**, which produced a hopeful, resilient, and distinctive lifestyle, which non-Christians found attractive.
2. **Habitus**, which is the embodiment of the teachings of Jesus. The behavior of the early Christians, was congruent with what they believed. People experienced Jesus by the way the followers of Jesus lived.
3. **Catechesis and Worship**, where Christian habitus was formed, supported, and sustained. The early Church placed great emphasis on careful formation and teaching, in preparation for baptism. Worship sustained the people of God, who were renewed to live lives of "*patient habitus*".
4. **Ferment**, which is a metaphor Dr. Kreider employs to describe the way patience, habitus, catechesis, and worship, worked together (like yeast in dough) to produce a culture-changing spiritual energy, that caused Christianity to "rise".

Dr. Kreider concludes *The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*, by focusing on the policies of Emperor Constantine and the theology of St. Augustine, to ask, "What happens to the ferment of patience when Christians attempt to control change and force its pace?"

A Few Comings and Goings

I will be taking some vacation days this week to spend time with my son, Elijah and daughter-in-law, Chelsie. Elijah and Chelsie will be moving to Japan in early August. Elijah will be teaching English in a small town called Sarufutsu, on Japan's northern most island, Hokkaido.

2018: The Year of Prayer Memory Verse

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

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



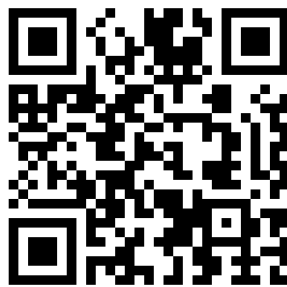
Simple, Safe and Just a Click Away!

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

**Simply visit our web site at
www.stjohnwillistion.org
and click on the “online giving”
link at the top of the page.**

**You may give one time or set up reoccurring donations to
automatically give from your checking or savings account.**

You may scan this QR code to visit
our mobile giving site.

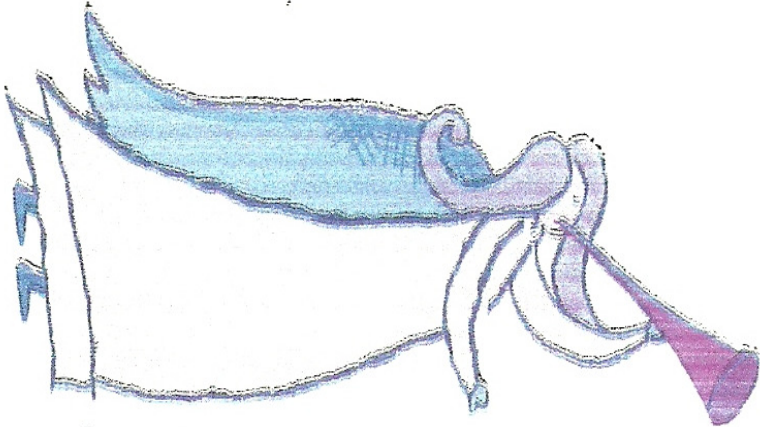


*Not online? See LisaAnne
in the office to set up an account
or fill in an “Authorization Form”
and return it to the office.*

Thank you for being a blessing to St. John!



August Stewardship



STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

Lord,

We know that

you give out

earth and its

people all of

life. Let us pray

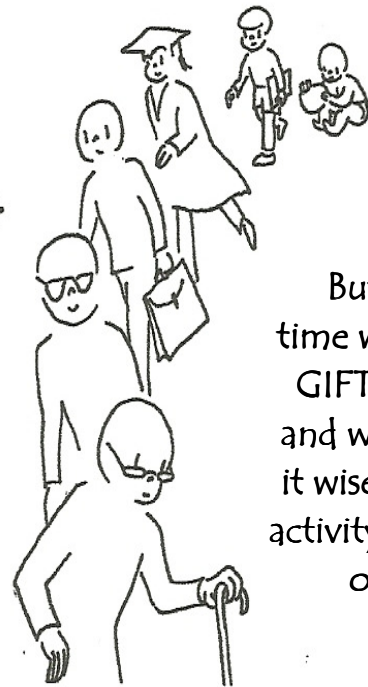
that we use our

time wisely in

your Holy name.

Amen

When God gives
us LIFE, we don't
know how much
TIME we have to
use that life.



But, whatever
time we have is a
GIFT from God
and we must use
it wisely in every
activity through-
out the day.

We must budget
our hours so that we are able to
GIVE OF OUR TIME
to fulfill God's plan.



Annual St. John Chicken BBQ

**Sunday,
August 12, 2018
10:30 am until Sold Out**

Dinners- \$ 10.00

**1/2 chicken, baked potato, coleslaw,
roll/butter, beverage and
homemade pie.**

Eat in or drive thru available!

**Pies provided by the Women of the ELCA
Proceeds will benefit the Ministries of St. John**



CAN YOU HELP AT THE CHICKEN BBQ?

Our annual Chicken BBQ will be held Sunday, August 12th.

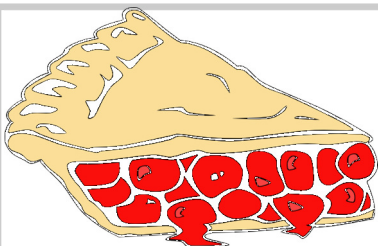
Helpers will be needed for the following: set up on Saturday morning, working the drive thru, serving the meals and clean up on Sunday morning and early afternoon.

Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex starting in mid-July.

If you have questions, please contact Ann at 419.360.3474.

WELCA will once again provide delicious pies for this event.

Proceeds this year will go to support St. John ministries.



CAN YOU BAKE A PIE?

We need pies for the chicken BBQ on August 12th.

St. John has become famous for our delicious home made pies
- supplied by the donations of people like you!

There will be sign up sheets in the narthex also in mid-July.

It takes a lot of pies to fulfill all the orders, so please consider helping.
See our pie lady, JoElaine Schimming for more information. Thank You!



7th 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.)

All Golfers Welcome and Needed!

Foursome Team Scramble Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018

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**

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



7th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/16/2018

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 Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 19 from
1 PM to 6 PM**

Due to the wonderful response of our community, please make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org or see LisaAnne in the church office.

Walk Ins are welcome but there may be lengthy waits.

Those making appointments will receive a \$5.00 Amazon Gift Card via email! Please make sure you have a good email address on file when you make your appointment. This offer only applies to those making appointments via www.redcrossblood.org



Food Pantry News

Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

Needs for August

**Canned Fruits and Veggies
(no expired products, please!)**



Worship Helpers needed!

We are running low on volunteers to assist in worship!
Where would you like to help?

We need ushers, lectors, communion servers, greeters and audio/video techs.

Do you like kids?

You could help with children's moments on Sunday mornings!

Do you like computers? Sign up to help upstairs with the computer and sound system.

Like working behind the scenes?

How about setting up communion?

Whatever your gift, there is a place for you!

No experience needed!

Just see Pastor, Worship Life, or LisaAnne in the office!



stephen MINISTRY®

Provides you with one-on-one confidential care, prayer, and support.

When we're going through a tough time, we often feel pressured to "be strong." But pushing down your feelings to put on a brave face often only makes things harder. True strength isn't being unemotional and completely independent; it's letting yourself be human. Stephen Ministers are here to help you through the process.

For more information, please call or see Pastor O'Brien or contact the church office.





Luther Home of Mercy

Happenings at the Home



Careers to Smile About!

Open Positions in:

Oak Harbor &
Port Clinton



A
P
P
L
Y

T
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Y

Full-Time & Part- Time Positions Available For

Supported Living Providers (SLP)

Supported Living Providers provide in-home care to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

-Openings for individuals looking
to make a difference!

-We offer competitive compensation
& benefits including dental, health & vision

- paid time off & premium holiday pay

- STNA NOT Necessary

Apply on our website: lutherhome.org

419-836-7741

Fun Facts! Did You Know??



Did you know that our day program, the Genesis Community Center, operates its own t shirt printing business?

No order is too large or small!

Contact Kim for details: 567-249-4283

Did you know that we offer an evening and weekend recreation program for individuals with developmental disabilities?

Dubbed "On the Move", participants can choose from a full calendar of events including cooking club, Bible studies, area attractions and events.



2018 Luther Home of Mercy Golf Outing

Date: Friday, August, 17, 2018

Time: 8:00 a.m.(Shotgun Start)

Place: Maumee Bay Golf Course

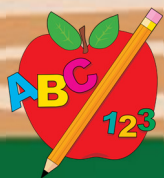
at Maumee Bay State Park

1750 State Park Road #2, Oregon, Ohio

Cost: \$75.00 per golfer Register or for more info visit

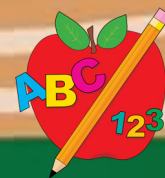
www.lutherhome.org

Proceeds from the outing will be used to purchase new beds for residents living at our Williston campus.



Praying Your Child Off to School

A-Z Prayers for Boldness



A – Afraid (Psalm 27:1) “Please impress upon my children’s hearts, that You desire to be their light and salvation and the strength of their life. With You, they do not need to be afraid.”

B – Boldness (Proverbs 28:1) “May my children be bold as lions and always know that the righteous are safe within Your will.”

C – Courage (Joshua 1:9) “Please fill my children with strength and courage. Help them know that courage and integrity will protect them. Allow them to choose to do the right thing, even when others do not.”

D – Defense (1 Peter 3:15) “Go with them, Jesus. Help them to spend time with You in their private life so that they always have an answer to those who ask of the hope within them. May they always give a grace-filled answer.”

E – Eternal (Ephesians 3:11-12) “Make known to my children Your eternal purpose accomplished through Christ. You can provide them boldness and confidence through your eternal plan.”

F – Faith (Ephesians 6:16) “Help my children to daily take up the shield of faith, so that they can defend themselves from the fiery darts of the enemy.”

G – Gird (Ephesians 6:14) “Allow them to gird their waist with Your truth. We live in a world with no absolutes. Help them never to compromise the truth found in Your Holy Word.”

H – Helper (Hebrews 13:6) “Heavenly Father, be my children’s Helper right this very moment. Help them to know that with You, they don’t have to fear.”

I – If (Romans 8:31) “As my children may question their strength at times, help them to know that You are for them and no one can stand against them.”

J – Jesus (Hebrews 10:19) “Because of Your blood, Jesus. All because of Your blood on the cross. As my children enter and walk the halls of their school, may they know that any good in their life comes from the perfect and complete work on the cross.”

K – Kindness (Ephesians 2:7) “May kindness be what my children are known for. Because of the kindness You first showed them through salvation, may they always be kind to others, especially the children that are left out. May they always include others and never bully others.”

L – Lusts (Titus 2:12) “Help my children to deny ungodly behavior and worldly lusts.”

M – Marvel (Acts 4:13) “May others marvel because of my children’s choice to obey God rather than man. May they see a difference in my children, because they’ve spent time with Jesus.”

N – Noble (Philippians 4:8) “Please fill my children’s minds with things that are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.”

O – The One (Deuteronomy 31:8) “You are the One true God. You are the one who goes before my children and prepares their steps. Please be with them even now and empower them.”

P – Pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17) “Help my children to know that prayer changes everything. Help them to always know, they can talk to You at any moment.”

Q – Quench (1 Thessalonians 5:18-19) “Please show my children that their power and strength comes from living a life of walking in the Spirit. Help them not to quench Your Spirit’s power in their life.”

R – Rock (1 Samuel 2:2) “When my children need strength to stand, help them to know that there is no one holy like You, oh God. There is no rock like You, Jesus.”

S – Stand Fast (1 Corinthians 16:13) “Help my children have the strength to be a leader. When others are choosing to do evil, may my children stand fast, have faith, and be brave.”

T – Take Up (Ephesians 6:13) “Help them to take up the whole armor of God. Please help them learn throughout their life, that spending time with You will give them boldness and strength.”

U – Utterance (Ephesians 6:19-20) “Cause my children to be confident to open their mouths boldly about Your greatness. Please give them great pride in Your amazing power and love. If they boast, may it be in You alone.”

V – Victory (1 Corinthians 15:57) “Please remind my children that the victory has already been won through Your Son, Jesus Christ.”

W – Wait (Psalms 27:14) “Help my children to learn that waiting on You will give them strength and courage.”

X – X-Rated (Psalms 119:37) “Please help my children to turn away from looking at any worthless thing. Protect my children’s eyes from sexual sin and immorality.”

Y – Youth (1 Timothy 4:12) “Empower my children as they go through their day. Help them to know that You love children and don’t want anyone to despise them. Let them be an example to others of what You can do through them.”

Z – Zealous (Titus 2:14) “Please help my children to run from evil and despise it, and be zealous of good works.”



BAUMANN AUTO GROUP

16TH ANNUAL BIG CHARITY RAFFLE

100% Of Vehicle Donated By Baumann Auto Group

WINNER WINS CHOICE OF

NEW CHEVROLET CAMARO



NEW FORD MUSTANG



NEW DODGE CHALLENGER



100% Of Proceeds To Benefit

- Liberty Center of Fremont - SCAT of Tiffin-
- Community Hospice Care Tiffin-
- ProMedica Hospice - Safe Harbor of Sandusky -
- Ruth Ann's House of Port Clinton - Parker's Purpose -
- CASA of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Co. -
- First Step of Seneca, Sandusky, Wood & Wyandot Co. -
- Back To The Wild - Easter Seals -
- NAMI of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot County -
- The Salvation Army of Ottawa County -
- Riders Unlimited - Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund -
- F.A.C.T. of Seneca Co. - Genoa Area Food Pantry -
- Oak House of Port Clinton - Arc of Ottawa Co.-
- Village House of Fremont -

\$5.00 PER TICKET

100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY!

**TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN
THE PAST 15 YEARS \$913,832**

Tickets will be available at the church before and after various worship services and in the office Mon-Fri.



Church Council Highlights

Council Meeting Highlights- June 21, 2018

Pastor's Report: Average attendance for April was 175.6. Last year's average attendance 167.0
Pastor had 9 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family visits, 4 committee group meetings: 2 community/youth/fellowship events, 6 professional/clergy activities, 6 classes/Bible studies & 1 baptism
Baptism: Presided at the baptism of Ataliena Joy Szymanski, daughter of Natalie and Kevin Szymanski.
New Members: We had a new member class on May 7 and welcomed new members on the 12th and 13th. Ben and Katie Sommers; Ben Sommers Jr., Jason, Stephanie, Everett and Owen Tank: Mark and Lucy Witt; and Judy and Allen Yocky.
Confirmation: Confirmation was Sunday May 20th. five young women affirmed their baptism...Aubrey Lee, Lauren Martin, Kara Quigg, Mallory Nelson and Lauren LaRue

Christian Community Life: We are selling tickets for the Baumann Auto Group Big Charity Raffle. Ticket are \$5.00 and 100% of the tickets we sell goes to Genoa Food Pantry. You could win a Camano, Challenger or Mustang. Drawing will be October 13. Tickets will be available in the office and before various services between now and September 1. Planning on sending popcorn to the Veterans in September.
Three of the Wall of Honor posters on display in the basement are completely filled out and two more are ready to fill. If you have someone you would like to submit, contact Cheryl Berger [419.345.3941](tel:419.345.3941).
August 11 -27 we will be collecting new and gently used equipment for Life Bridge. More to follow.

Evangelism: St. John participated in the parade for the Genoa homecoming. We thank all who donated candy, helped with the float, rode or walked at the parade. We will be meeting August to send out letters to those with children of Sunday School age and to the children that attended The Williston Encounter. Cards have been sent to people that we have not been seeing in church.

Stewardship Committee: reported no current update on the Pfeiffer House. Tom Cashen is working on the golf outing to be held in September. Several holes have been sponsored and the golf balls have been donated. Please contact Tom if you will sponsor a hole or can volunteer in anyway. Stewardship page in the forerunner continuing. Shirley has been working with a group at Pat Catan's store in Oregon every Monday evening at 5:00pm. You can take your left over yarn to the store and place them in the barrels outside the classroom. For more information please contact Shirley Berger 419-836-3311

Property: Reported three additional roof quotes have been received. Next steps are to review quotes using a spreadsheet so all quotes are apples to apples. Spreadsheet was reviewed and additions were made. After completed the property committee and Janice Sheahan will decide on a vendor. Wojo's discovered that the outside thermometer is not working and needs repaired. The box for the air conditioner had a loose connection and has been replaced.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2018at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary



Finance Report

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of: June 30, 2018

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	280,000	19,958	22,577	113%	132,136	136,501	103%	139,499	-2%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	4,208	4,208	100%	19,000	19,000	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,100	1,175	1,912	163%	7,050	5,960	85%		
Staff Salaries	96,999	8,083	7,657	95%	49,500	46,913	95%		
Staff Benefits	53,807	4,483	4,197	94%	26,883	25,169	94%		
Operating Expenses	74,100	6,022	4,828	80%	41,288	36,056	87%		
Expense Totals	277,006	23,971	22,802	95%	143,721	133,098	93%		
Income less Expenses	2,994	(4,013)	(225)		(11,585)	3,403			

2018 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	1,007
Activity Center Savings	272,307
Memorials	71,799
Music Fund	3,016
Endowment Fund	111,792
Roof Fund	39,712
Scholarship Tank	7,769
Scholarship Younger	11,250
Scholarship Johnson	36,239
Scholarship Parks	36,764
Other	9,001
Savings	30,325
Total	630,981

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

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



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 4 Aubrey Lee
- 11 Peyton Donnelly
- 18 Lauren Martin
- 25 Aidan O'Brien

Lectors

- 4 **Need one**
- 11 Matt Milbrodt
- 18 Tracy Orians
- 25 Amy Schloegl

Ushers

- 4 **Need two**
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 11 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow
- 18 Gene & Amy Bihn, **Need Two**
- 25 Marty & Owen Schloegl, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt

Communion Servers

- 4 Al Brown, **Need two**
- 11 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Matt Milbrodt
- 18 Carol Vargo, Diane Gerkenmeyer, Wayne Bauman
- 25 Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming, Nancy Strohscher

Communion Set-up

- 4 **Carol Vargo**
- 11 Joan Truman
- 18 Brenda Keeley
- 25 Traci Brown

Door Greeters

- 4 Mary and Dean Lowe
- 11 Jack Mathews
- 18 Jo Elaine Schimming
- 25 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer

Sound/Projector Techs

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



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

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

Lectors

- 5 Mike Mann
- 12 Sophia Cashen
- 19 Melissa Lammers
- 26 Marcia Morgan

Ushers

- 5 Lammers Family
- 12 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 19 Dan & Andy Kessler, Dan Nelson
- 26 Jeff Schimming, Cebie & Tim Titgemeyer

Communion Servers

- 5 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 12 Heather Cashen, **Need two**
- 19 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 26 RolandSandrock, Wilma Smithers, Karolyn Jansen

Communion Set-up

- 5 Pam LaRue
- 12 Heather Cashen
- 19 Melissa Lamemrs
- 26 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 5 Marcia Morgan
- 12 Melissa Lammers
- 19 Carole Beamer
- 26 Nancy Brittan

Sound/Projector Techs

- 5 Andy Kessler
- 12 Alex Lammers
- 19 Joel Mann
- 26 Andy Titgemeyer

*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.
Those in BOLD
indicate needs or
changes.*



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 1 Aubrey Lee
- 8 Peyton Donnelly
- 15 Lauren Martin
- 22 Aidan O'Brien
- 29 Anna Sommers

Lectors

- 1 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 8 Gene Bihn
- 15 Nancy Strohscher
- 22 Doris Titgemeyer
- 29 Shelley Snider

Ushers

- 1 Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 8 Jack Mathews and AJ Rubeis
Tom Truman and Zack Buhrow
- 15 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
- 22 Gene & Amy Bihn, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 29 Dave Lee Family

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 1 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 8 Dilly Schimming
- 15 Carol Vargo
- 22 Ruth Petersen
- 29 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 1 Kris Lee
- 8 Joni Hillman
- 15 JoElaine Schimming
- 22 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 29 Dean and Mary Lowe

Sound/Projector Techs

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

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Sophia Cashen
- 9 Evan Kessler
- 16 Tucker Fredericksen
- 23 Sophia Cashen
- 30 Lauren LaRue

Lectors

- 2 Tim Titgemeyer
- 9 Ann Mann
- 16 Deanna Neuman
- 23 Roland Sandrock
- 30 Cebie Titgemeyer

Ushers

- 2 Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 9 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 16 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 23 Jeff Schimming, Cebie & Tim Titgemeyer
- 30 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Andy Kessler

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 2 Pam LaRue
- 9 Heather Cashen
- 16 Deanna Neuman
- 23 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 30 Diana Pfaff

Door Greeters

- 2 Marcia Morgan
- 9 Melissa Lammers
- 16 Linda Schlievert
- 23 Karen Jeffers
- 30 Deb Wehner

Sound/Projector Techs

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

Children's Moments

- 9 Caria Goldstein
- 16 Puppets
- 23 Alex Lammers
- 30 Stef Neuman



*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.*