

FORERUNNER

FEBRUARY

Volume 0697
Issue 322
February 2023

For God
So loved the world
that He gave His
only
begotten
Son So
that whoever
believes
in Him shall
have everlasting
life.
John 3:16

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Ask the Pastor

The question I have been asked most since returning is, **"How was your trip to the Holy Land?"**

It was fantastic! You can't help but have a deeper understanding of scripture as you read the Gospel stories *in the place* where they happened. Standing in the remains of the synagogue in Capernaum and reading what Jesus said when he was *in that place* is an amazing experience. Someone referred to the Holy Land as the "fifth gospel" and I thought that was a fitting description; the geography, the history, the liturgy, and the people all come together to inspire your faith in a new way. And not only the people who live there, we saw groups from Germany, Korea, France, and a few other places I couldn't identify by language. It's amazing to think that millions of people from all over the world have been coming to these places for thousands of years to walk where Jesus walked, or see where Jesus was born, or touch the empty tomb. It was certainly a trip of a lifetime. But honestly, I'm still processing the experience. I'm not sure I can really put it all into words! I keep coming back to Jesus' words in our Gospel reading this past week (1/15); he told Andrew and the other disciple, "Come and see". That's good advice in this case. For me it was being in the places, the "coming and seeing", that made this an incredible experience.

And on that note, I can't wait to bring friends back. I want everyone to be able to "come and see". Good Shepherd Travel was amazing, and I am looking to organize a trip in the summer of 2024 and would love for anyone who is interested to come to see the Holy Land with me! I would love to share this adventure with others!

The follow-up question is, **"Are you going to have a slide show or make a presentation about your trip?"**

Yes! It was an incredible experience and I would love to tell people about my trip. Some of you saw some pictures on Facebook, but there are a few thousand more. Literally... 3,715 pictures to be exact. But I promise not to show you all of them. 😊 Megan suggested finding someone who could cater middle eastern food so we could have the full experience and I thought that was a great idea. We are working on making arrangements and will let you know when we schedule a date.

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.

TACKLE



HUNGER

Super Bowl of Caring is a youth-inspired movement working to tackle hunger in our nation. St. John will participate in this event by collecting money for the Genoa Food Pantry. There will be a soup kettle for donations in the church sanctuary on February 11th and 12th. You can also drop off or mail your donation to the church office.

Thank you for being a blessing!

Don't Miss the



FORERUNNER NEWS

The deadline for the March Forerunner is on Monday, February 20th at 9:00 AM.



LIGHTS OUT!!!!!!

Due to rising electric costs, please be mindful that ALL (4) restroom lights go on and off automatically. Please DO NOT switch these lights or they will lose their 'memory' to turn off.

Also, we would ask that the last person leaving the sanctuary makes sure the ceiling lights are turned off. Please note, these are not bright lights and are often inadvertently left on. (Note: The switches are at the front of the sanctuary near the east and west doorways.)

Thanks for being alert to these cost savings!

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Fall/Winter Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

March 2023 newsletter is

Monday, February 20th

**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 (M & F)

Lori Buhrow (T, W & Th)

Office

Administrators

9am—2pm

Monday—Friday





Gary J. Carstensen

September 7, 1939 - January 17, 2023

Gary J. Carstensen, 83, of Williston, Ohio, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at Edgewood Manor, Port Clinton, Ohio. Gary was born in Curtice, Ohio September 7, 1939, to Leonard and Mildred (Jensen) Carstensen. He attended Genoa High School and served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1965. On May 25, 1963, he married Darlene Zunk. Mr. Carstensen was a plumber by trade and partner in Siglar & Sieving Plumbing & Heating of Genoa, Ohio, retiring in 2018. Gary was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio and enjoyed restoring antique cars, attending car shows, woodworking, and traveling with his family.

Gary is survived by his wife of 59 years, Darlene; children, Randy (Tonya Maix) Carstensen and Brenda (John Weber) Carstensen; grandchildren, Douglas Hoar, Amanda (Bobby) Boris, and Nathan Hoar; great-grandchildren, Layla, Landen, and Leo Boris; siblings, Robert (Carol) Carstensen, Dennis (Dianne) Carstensen, and Sharon (Ron) Potter; along with many nieces, nephews, loving family members, and dear friends. Preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends at the Eggleston Meinert & Pavley Funeral Home, Millbury Chapel, 1111 Woodville Road (east of I-280) Friday, January 27, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Funeral services Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Lutheran Church, 21140 W. Toledo Street, Williston where the family will receive friends after 10:00 a.m. Interment, Williston Cemetery, Allen Township. Expressions of sympathy may be directed to St. John Lutheran Church or the Allen-Clay Joint Fire District.



Memorials and Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Carl Titgemeyer
Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer and Family

In Memory of Michelle Maix
Robert Lebowsky
Evelyn Witty

In Memory of Emory Lasseter
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock

In Memory of Carol Tank
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

In Memory of Leon Maix
Alice Witt

In Memory of Jim Witty
Evelyn Witty

If your name has been inadvertently left off the list, please let the office know.



Edna Rideout has moved to the Genoa Care Center.
Her address is:

**Genoa Care Center
300 Cherry Street #413
Genoa, OH 43430**



Thank You,
Paul and anyone
who helped
salt & shovel!

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

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

Circle and Board Meetings

FEBRUARY 2023

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, February 7, 2:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Diane Dickinson
Hostesses: Diane Dickinson

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Group discussion

Bake Sale

Saturday & Sunday, February 11 & 12
St. John Cloister

ESTHER CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall
Tuesday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall
Tuesday, April 4 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

Please note that all the women of St. John are listed in a circle. You may get a call at some time to help with a project of the Women of St. John, such as baking a cake for a luncheon. We warmly invite you to attend the circle of your choice. Circle presidents will let us know of any changes needed.

Monthly meetings will include a bible study.



The "Blanket Ladies" will be gathering to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am.

Bed sheets (Queen size) 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!



**The Annual
WELCA BAKE SALE
will be held on
Saturday, February 11th and
Sunday, February 12th.
(before and after services).**

Both Esther and Rebekah Circles
will be sponsoring the
congregational bake sale.



See page 11 for the Baking Day details.

News around St. John!



McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship at the Northwood McDonald's on Wednesdays. We will gather starting at 7:00 AM and if you are available, I would like to invite you to stop by and have breakfast with your St. John friends.

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!
Bring your bible!*



Prayer Requests

*St. John Prayer Chain is
there for you....*

*"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

(cell phone 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!



Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Get those pitching arms ready! Join us for fun on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM as the Western Ottawa County Dartball League continues its season. All are welcome. No experience is needed. All are welcome to come and cheer on our St. John Team, too! See or call Jeff Schimming for more info. 419-224-2374

Upcoming games:

Feb. 7 Bye Week

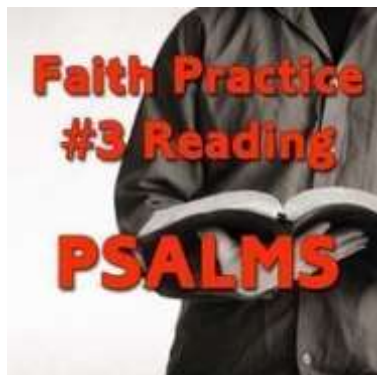
Feb. 14 7:30 PM HOME vs Millbury St. Peter UCC

Feb. 21 7:30 PM at Elliston Zion United Methodist

Feb. 28 7:30 PM HOME vs Rocky Ridge St. John Lutheran

Mar. 7 7:30 PM at Elmore St. Paul Methodist

BOOK #4



The fourth book (Psalms 90–106) focuses on how God is above us. Psalm 90 is the one psalm credited to Moses. In it, he speaks of how our lives on this earth are brief, so we need to number our days right. God, on the other hand, is eternal, and God will reign forever and ever.

Week of January 30- Psalm 95

Week of February 6- Psalm 96

Week of February 13- Psalm 97

Week of February 20- Psalm 98

Week of February 27- Psalm 99

THE STORY OF JESUS

The Synod Office has published a Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2023 entitled, “The Story of Jesus”. It is designed to lead us through the life and ministry of Jesus. Most of the readings are of reasonable length (multiple verses instead of multiple chapters) so it should be easy to stay on track even if you miss a day. I will have copies of the reading guide available at the church, and I will share the document electronically when it becomes available.

NWOS Daily Bible Reading Guide: The Story of Jesus -February

Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee (According to Mark: Part One)

- Feb. 1 Ministry in Galilee Mark 1:15; Matt. 4:13-17; Luke 4:15; John 4:43-45
- Feb. 2 The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth Mark 6:1-6; Matt. 13:54-58; Luke 4:16-30
- Feb. 3 The Call of the Disciples Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-51
- Feb. 4 Teaching in the Synagogue at Capernaum Mark 1:21-22; Luke 4:31-32
- Feb. 5 The Man with the Unclean Spirit Mark 1:23-28; Luke 4:33-37
- Feb. 6 The Healing of Peter’s Mother-in-law Mark 1:29-31; Matt. 8:14-15; Luke 4:38-39
- Feb. 7 Healing in the Evening Mark 1:32-34; Matt. 8:16-17; Luke 4:40-41
- Feb. 8 Jesus Leaves Capernaum Mark 1:35-38; Luke 4:42-43
- Feb. 9 Jesus Preaches in Galilee Mark 1:39; Matt. 4:23; Luke 4:44
- Feb. 10 Jesus Cleanses a Leper Mark 1:40-45; Matt. 8:1-4; Luke 5:12-16
- Feb. 11 Jesus Heals a Paralytic Mark 2:1-12; Matt. 9:2-8; Luke 5:17-26
- Feb. 12 Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew) Mark 2:13-17; Matt. 9:9-13; Luke 5:27-32
- Feb. 13 The Question about Fasting Mark 2:18-22; Matt. 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39
- Feb. 14 The Question about the Sabbath Mark 2:23-28; Matt. 12:1-8; Luke 6:1-5
- Feb. 15 The Man with the Withered Hand Mark 3:1-6; Matt. 12:9-14; Luke 6:6-11
- Feb. 16 A Multitude by the Sea Mark 3:7-12; Matt. 12:15-16; Luke 6:17-19
- Feb. 17 The Choosing of the Twelve Mark 3:13-19; Matt. 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16

The Sermon on the Mount (According to Matthew)

- Feb. 18 The Setting Matt. 4:24-5:2; Luke 6:17-19
- Feb. 19 The Beatitudes Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-23
- Feb. 20 Salt of the Earth Matt. 5:13; Mark 9:49-50; Luke 14:34-35
- Feb. 21 Light of the World Matt. 5:14-16; Mark 4:21; Luke 8:16; John 8:12
- Feb. 22 The Law and the Prophets Matt. 5:17-20; Mark 13:31; Luke 16:16-17
- Feb. 23 Concerning Anger Matt. 5:21-26; Luke 12:57-59
- Feb. 24 Concerning Adultery and Divorce Matt. 5:27-32; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:18
- Feb. 25 Concerning Oaths Matt. 5:33-37
- Feb. 26 Concerning Retaliation Matt. 5:38-42; Luke 6:29-31
- Feb. 27 Love for Enemies Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-28, 32-36
- Feb. 28 Concerning Alms Matt. 6:1-4



Scholarships for continuing education are available from St. John Lutheran Church. Applications may be picked up from the church office and are also available on the church's website. **The application deadline for all scholarships is March 31st, 2023.** You may return the completed forms to the church office any time before that date. **If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Pastor O'Brien, Deanna Neuman, and Al Brown.**

Below is a brief summary of the scholarships available. The scholarship committee recommends that anyone that has graduated high school within the last five years take a close look at the application requirements. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.

TANK SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in 1997 and is provided through the generosity of Carol Tank and the late Robert Tank.
- In order to be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must be an active voting member of St. John Lutheran Church for at least three years before the start of the college semester that the applicant is applying for this scholarship.
- The applicant must attend a four year accredited college or university.
- The scholarship is a one year scholarship for \$500 that can be applied for by the applicant for their first or second year.
- A second scholarship is available for those attending Capital University.

ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP (Lutheran Partners)

- The purpose of this scholarship fund is to aid in the education of our students who will be attending an ELCA related college.
- The applicant must be a voting member of St. John Lutheran Church.
- The grant will be \$500 for each qualified student contingent upon the dollars available in the scholarship fund.

YOUNKER SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship began in 2006 and is made available by an annual contribution from the Younker Scholarship Fund and is solely dependent on that annual contribution for the scholarship program to continue.
- The student must be a confirmed church member who is actively involved in the life of the Church and who demonstrates their faith.
- Recipient will be a recent high school graduate. Recent defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- The student will attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.

EARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in January 2016 from a portion of Earl's estate bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church during their high school years.
- Scholarship value will be up to \$1,000 and determined by the applicant's church worship attendance as well as church and community activities.
- The applicant must attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.
- Applicants must be a recent high school graduate. Recent shall be defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- Recipients can apply more than once, but can only receive the scholarship once.
- Scholarship recipient and value will be determined by the St. John scholarship committee.

PHYLLIS PARKS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Phyllis Parks Scholarship Fund was established in August, 2016 from the estate of Martin Parks bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.

- The maximum individual scholarship will be \$1,000.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church.
- Special preference will be given to the applicant's church worship attendance.

Chicken & Biscuit DINNER



St. John Lutheran Church

450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd, Oak Harbor, OH

Sunday, February 19, 2023

Serving time: 11:30–1:30

Dine In OR Carry-Out

Free-will Donations

- **Chicken and Biscuit**
- **Green Beans**
- **Homemade Desserts**





February Stewardship

Our February Stewardship Prayer

Loving Father,

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

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

Help us to be grateful and responsible.

You have called us to follow your son, Jesus, without counting the cost.

Send us your Holy Spirit to give us courage and wisdom to be faithful disciples.

We commit ourselves to being good stewards.

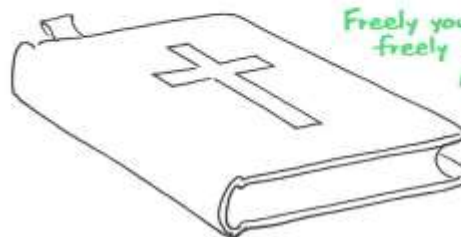
Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase.

Help us to make stewardship a way of life.

AMEN.



A Christian steward serves GOD out of love and gratitude for these gifts knowing that it's NOT how much we have but what we DO with WHAT WE HAVE that is important.



Freely you have received;
freely give.
Matt. 10:8

February Stewardship Verse

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)



Start the new year with one less worry!
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.

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

Stewardship is...

... not a program . . . it is a way of life..... not an activity . . . it is the way we live our life every day.
not the latest fad . . . it is biblically based..... not a way to raise money . . . it is a way to attain holiness..... not just a decision of the head . . .
it requires a conversion of the heart..... not an option . . . integral to our faith..... not another thing to do . . .
why and how we do what we do.not about our generosity . . .
about our response to God's generosity.what you do after you say, "I believe".

St. John KIDS



Love the Lord,
your God, with
all your heart,
and with all your
soul, and with
all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:5

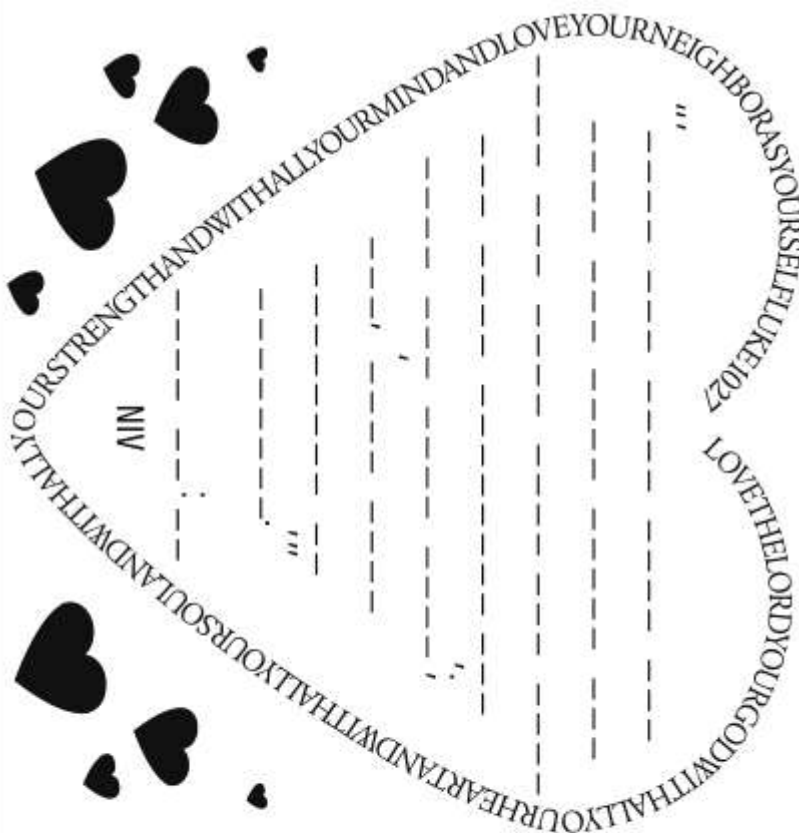


Jesus Loves me,
this I know

© CRI • www.ChurchArt.com

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV



Souper Bowl of Caring Chili and Soup Lunch and Annual Ping-Pong Tournament!

Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of fun,
food and fellowship...and a great way to support the

LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry!

We will be accepting financial donations and donations of non perishable food items, laundry soap and bathroom tissue.



Sunday, February 12, 2023 11:30 AM
Elliston Zion United Methodist Church
18045 W William St. (Off Elliston Trowbridge Rd.)
Graytown, Ohio 419-862-3166
www.ellistonzion.com



Baking and Bake Sale

**Ladies, please join us at 9 am on
Friday, February 10th, for our
baking party!**



WELCA (both Esther and Rebekah Circles) will be sponsoring a congregational *bake sale on February 11 and 12th* (before and after services).

In preparation for this sale all women of St. John are invited to help bake in the church kitchen at **9 am on Friday, February 10.** Come and join the fun!

We would love to have a big group baking — we have five ovens available. All baking supplies will be furnished. Please bring cookie sheets, drip pans for pies and pie crust shields.

Lunch will be provided.

The ***Thrivent Action Team program*** is sponsoring this project. Part of the profits will be shared with Helping Hands of St. Louis, Genoa Food Bank, Elliston Food Bank, Salem Lutheran Church and other local charities.

Ladies, please join us for this fun and enjoyable event.

Please call Diane Gerkenmeyer (419-836-7052) if you have any questions in this regard.



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to 2023: The Year of Story. We recently had our grandchildren visit with us, and in the evening as they prepared for bed, the request came every night. "Read us a story. Tell us a story".

I love stories and I love storytellers: Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, Norman Maclean, but also Louise Penny, Colson Whitehead, and Louise Erdrich. Who would you add to the list of great storytellers?

In addition to those listed above, I would add Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The writers of the four Gospels. And lest we forget... Jesus. Jesus could spin a yarn. Jesus could tell a tale. Jesus could narrate a great story. And Jesus also knows how to star in a great story.

Our focus in 2023: The Year of Story will be on learning and telling the Story of Jesus. A story that many of us have been learning and telling our entire lives. The Gospel Story of Jesus matters. As St. Paul reminds us in Romans 1:16, the Gospel "...is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith...".

The stories of Jesus that I learned in Sunday School, heard proclaimed from the pulpit, read in my illustrated Children's Bible, loomed huge in my imagination when I was a kid. And that's what great stories do. They loom. They challenge. And they inspire. Great stories have a way of enlightening our minds, moving our hearts, healing our relationships, and transforming whole communities.

During 2023: The Year of Story, I want to encourage you and your parish to learn and tell the transforming Story of Jesus.

Let us pray, "Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord". Amen.

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship pg. 72)

As we begin 2023: The Year of Story, I invite you to start with two simple practices related to the Story of Jesus.

Memorize Scripture: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". Acts 1:8 is the Year of Story Memory Verse.

Read Scripture: Join a host of others across the Northwestern Ohio Synod as we focus on the Story of Jesus! In 2023, we will read through the writing of the Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This week we are working our way through the Birth Narratives of Jesus.

2022: The Year of Vision Memory Verse

Revelation 21:5a ***"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"***



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



American
Red Cross

St. John- Williston Church & Community Blood Drive

St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo St. (SR 579)
Williston, Ohio 43468

THURSDAY, March 9, 2023
1 PM to 6 PM

Appointments are required!
Please make your
appointment today
At www.redcrossblood.org
Or by calling
1-800-RED CROSS



We give blood. Will you?

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



Love Garden Banquet

Formerly Mother/Daughter Banquet

All Women, Family and Friends

Of St. John's are Invited

April 16, 2022

1:00pm-3:00pm

Tickets: \$10.00 per person

3 and under free

Tickets will be sold before church
starting March 4th to April 1st, 2023

If you need tickets, contact
Tammy Mazur at 419-266-6491 or
email jtam97@hotmail.com

Buffet Lunch will be provided

Come celebrate the LOVE

within St. John's



BAKE SALE

February 11th &
February 12th
(before & after church)

Sponsored by WELCA



Looking Ahead...



Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

St. John Lutheran Church-Williston

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

4:30-6:30 PM

Carry-out available*Free Will Offering

Proceeds will benefit the Blessing Box



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

Services at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

at St. John



Our Community Lenten Worship Schedule begins

Wednesday, March 1st at 11:00 am.

Every Wednesday during Lent, we will meet for worship at St. John led by one of our area Pastors.

Then we will join for lunch and fellowship in the basement.

Here are the groups responsible for each lunch.

March 1– WELCA

March 8– Esther Circle

March 15– Rebekah Circle

March 22-Church Council

March 29-Community Life/Evangelism Comm

January Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Kim Sommers, Kent Delventhal, Gary Johnson, Kellie Ulrich, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, Ron Gerkenmeyer, Stefanie Hill, Dan Kessler, Natalie Szymanski & Pam LaRue

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm: 27

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In person average for Dec 2022-109 compared to Dec 2021-103 Online average for December 2022-88 compared to December 2021-109.5 2022 Christmas Eve Service in person-135 and online-133 2022 Christmas Day Service in person-17 and online-56

Numbers: 14 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings- 2 committee/group meetings- 8 community/youth/fellowship events- 7

professional/clergy activities- 5 classes/Bible studies- 1 funeral (Connie Rounds (Rocky Ridge) on Dec 10th).

Voting Members: As of this week St. John has 240 voting members, therefore, the quorum for our Annual Meeting is 24. **Installation:** We will install our newly elected AND currently serving committee members and officers at BOTH services- Jan 28th and 29th.

Year of Prayer: What is something we (the church) could do to encourage people to pray? What practices or resources have been beneficial to your prayer life? What would be helpful to you personally to encourage prayer? Resources? Classes? Reminders?

Suggestions: posting ideas in the church or on social media including: favorite prayers for dinner, before bedtime and for families in general, or apps to use!

Holy Land Thank you again to St. John for supporting my trip to Israel and the generous anniversary gift that helped Shane to go too. It was an amazing trip. I will be scheduling a slideshow soon to talk about the journey for any who are interested.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 86% of the monthly budget and 91% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 135% of our monthly budget and 98% of our year to date budget. Made modifications for the proposed budget (operating expenses adjusted to increase water and property tax budget lines and decrease telephone budget lines based on further info received after the Dec council mtg.) The overall budget is staying the same and it balances out with the increase and decreases between the areas. There is an \$8169 income overage from 2022 and that income will go into the Endowment Fund to use for future outreach. \$1981 was made in interest from the Endowment Fund and that has to be distributed each year. Jennifer Nelson motioned to recommend that the \$8169 income overage

be put
the En-



into

dowment Fund at the annual mtg and Kristina Wildman seconded the motion, motion passed. Jennifer Nelson motioned to donate the interest from the Endowment Fund of \$1981 to the Luther Home of Mercy, Elliston Zion Neighborhood, and Nightingale's Harvest split evenly. Gary Johnson seconded motion, motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Susie Mathews

Food pantry: Donations for Dec were \$4,167.50. They still need someone from St. John to sit on the board. Discussed the meal for the Annual Congregational meeting on Feb. 22nd. Flyers and sign up sheets for Shrove Pancake supper on Feb. 21st are being made and will be posted soon.

Evangelism: Melissa Hayes (absent)

Discussed the date for Lenten Lunch this year.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers

Soup kettles will be out the Feb 11th & 12th services for SouperBowl Sunday. Donations are collected for the Genoa Food Pantry. Discussed the Easter egg hunt (Sat, April 8th) and Easter breakfast (Sun, April 9th). Volunteer hours will be available at both events. Tammy Mazur has begun preparations for the Love Banquet (formerly known as Mother Daughter Banquet), scheduled for April 16th.

Stewardship: Pam LaRue

On Dec 10, St. John rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Miller's New Market and raised \$726.01, the most for one day at Miller's this year. The goal for the Salvation Army for Ottawa County was \$89,000 and they raised over \$100,000.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Discussed Lenten Services - Feb 22nd (Ash Wed) at 11am & 7pm & 11am on Wednesday's. Church Council provides lunch March 22nd & March 29th Christian Community Life & Evangelism will provide luncheon. Discussed communion prep proportions. Looking for mentor ushers to volunteer to teach new ushers. Hoping to make a substitute server list. Trying to plan a Chris Everett event in Aug. or Sept.

Property: Gary Johnson

Nativity taken down and put away. Replaced part for carburetor for lawn tractor. Replaced bulbs for front sign. Replaced flame sensor for boiler (east/Lochinvar) Replaced booster pump between boiler and social hall. Continuing assessment of thermostat for sanctuary.

2023 Church Officers and Board Members

Church Officers	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2024
President	Tim Titgemeyer	until January 2025
Vice-President	Dave Neuman	
Secretary		Tracy Orians (1st term)
Financial Secretary		Kristina Wildman (1st term)
Treasurer	Dan Kessler	

Board Members	New Nominee	Still Serving till Jan 2024
Finance		Jennifer Nelson (1st term)
Community Christian	Cheryl Berger Deb Wehner	Donna Mathews (1st term) Susie Mathews (1st term)
Evangelism	Margaret Berger Beverly Harder	Melissa Hays (1st term) Barb Wolf (1st term)
Parish Education	Stefanie Hill (Neuman) Natalie Szymanski	Jennifer Delventhal (1st term) Deanna Neuman (1st term)
Stewardship	Pam LaRue Marty Schloegl	Tom Cashen (1st term) Ron Gerkenmeyer (1st term)
Property	John Mazur Dave Huber	Gary Johnson (2nd term) Wayne Bauman (2nd term)
Worship Life	Jill Kao Tracy Donnelly	Amy Schloegl (1st term) Kelly Ulrich (1st term)*

Nominating Committee	Jack Mathews Heather Cashen JoElaine Schimming Carol Beamer	Cindy Hartman Helen Meyer Holly Delventhal Julie Stahl
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Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Representatives	Gene Bihn and Amy Bihn	
Lutheran Homes Society Representatives	Karolyn Jansen and Owen Jansen	
NW Ohio Synod Representatives	Gene Bihn and Janice Sheahan	

Thank you to the members of St. John who have committed to sharing their talents and time as a member of our various ministry boards or as an officer of the Council! The New Nominees noted above will begin their service after the annual meeting on January 22. Be sure to thank these incoming folks as well as those who continue to serve and those who are completing their term of office.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee- Holy Delventhal, Cindy Hartman, Helen Meyer, Julie Stahl and Pastor Shawn for their hard work and persistence to complete our list of nominees!

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 banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			
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 Total	AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.			
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	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.*



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

4 The Donnely Family
11 Wayne Bauman
18 Jack Mathews
25 Ron Gerkenmeyer

Lectors

4 Beverly Harder
11 Amy Schloegel
18 Aidan O'Brien
25 Nancy Strohscher

Acolytes

4 Emma Morgan
11 Jacob Higginbotham
18 Mila McQueary
25 Lindsay Krumnow

Communion

4 JoElaine Schimming
11 Al Brown
18 Nancy Strohscher
25 Amy Schloegel

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5 Jill Kao
12 The Titgemeyers
19 Jill Kao
26 Diana Pfaff

Lectors

5 Deanna Neuman
12 Tim Titgemeyer
19 Jill Kao
26 Diana Pfaff

Acolytes

5 Logan Hays
12 Lily Sondergeld
19 Lauren Hoeft
26 Caleb Hays

Communion

5 Pam LaRue
11 Diana Pfaff
19 Tim Titgemeyer
26 Dave/Deanna Neuman



Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

4- Buhrow Family
11- Donnelly Family
18- Wayne Bauman
25- Jack Mathews

Lectors

4- Tracy Orians
11- Beverly Harder
18- Amy Schoegl
25- Aidan O'Brien

Acolytes

4- Emma Morgan
11- Jacob Higginbotham
18- Mila McQueary
25- Lindsey Krumnow

Communion

4- Ron Gerkenmeyer
11- Carol Vargo
18- JoElaine Schimming
25- Al Brown

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5- Titgemeyer Family
12- Diana Pfaff
19- Jill Kao
26- Titgemeyer Family

Lectors

5- Kellie Ulrich
12- Melissa Lammers
19- Mina Steinmetz
26- Roland Sandrock

Acolytes

5- Logan Hays
12- Lily Sondergold
19- Lauren Hoeft
26- Caleb Hays

Communion

5- Roland Sandrock
12- Kellie Ulrich
19- Cebie Titgemeyer
26- Pam LaRue



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

February

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	2 	3	4 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship 6pm Scout Pinewood
5 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:45AM Choir Practice	6 10 AM Bible Study	7 9:00 AM Blankets 2PM- Esther Circle 7PM- RebekahCircle No Dartball	8 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	9 7:00 PM Committee Night Meeting	10	11 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Souper Bowl WELCA Bake Sale
12 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:45AM Choir Souper Bowl WELCA Bake Sale	13 10 AM Bible Study	14 9:00 AM Blankets 7:30PM Dartball- Home 	15 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	16 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	17	18 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
19 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:45AM Choir Practice	20 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline! 10 AM Bible Study 	21 9:00 AM Blankets 4:30-6:30PM Strove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 7:30PM Dartball @Zion United	22 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11AM Ash Wed Service 7PM Ash Wed Service 	23	24	25 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
26 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship 10:45AM Choir Practice	27 10 AM Bible Study	28 9:00 AM Blankets 7:30PM Dartball- Home				

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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February 2023



Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow,

Office Administrators

Monday –Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

***Visit us on Facebook**

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday School for all ages 8:30 AM

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM