



Volume 0704 Issue 329  
September 2023

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**Fall Worship Hours**  
**Begin September 10th**  
**Saturday Worship 5pm**  
**Sunday Worship 9:45am**  
**Confirmation Class:**  
**Sundays 8:30am**  
**Sunday School:**  
**Oct-May 8:30am**  
**(First Sunday of the month)**

## Ask the Pastor

As you know, the book of Genesis starts with the story of God creating the universe, the world, and everything in it. As we go through the creation story, there is a pattern... God creates something and then says that it is good. Seven times Genesis says "God saw that it was good."

Now the Hebrew word for good is "tov" and can mean "goodness" or "beauty." That means when God created land and vegetation and creepy crawling things and "God saw that it was good" it doesn't just mean that creation was morally good or working properly, but that it was inherently beautiful. Creation was gorgeous, a work of art flowing from God's love.

And consider... in the Genesis narrative humans don't arrive on the scene until the very end. That means, "God saw that it was good" six times before Adam or Eve or art critics or theologians even showed up. God's work of creation was beautiful with or without external appraisal. I think that tells us that there is inherent value in art and beauty even if there is no one there to see it.

And by extension, I suspect if that means if you create a work of art, whether a mural, or a painting, or short story, or novel, or song, or sculpture, or dance, or musical piece, or poetry... if you create a work of art, and no one sees it – no one but you and God—that that's enough.

In our world we typically define how good something is by how much we can sell it for. In our "utilitarian" way of viewing art; it's like art is a product. We tend to think the really good art is what sells at Sotheby's for millions of dollars. But the Bible tells us God values creation and beauty by its very nature. God created a whole bunch of things (stars, land, vegetation, animals) that did not receive an excellent rating on Rotten Tomato or Billboard magazine. God created a whole bunch of things that could not audibly speak of him. Only through their nature and beauty could they speak of God and God love. And God saw them as good. Art and beauty have inherent worth.

So I hope, in the future, when we see the beauty of creation... will be reminded of God the artist. I hope that you will see all of creation as goodness flowing from God's own love. That not just natural creation, but all created works of art will remind you of the sacredness of all things

And that, you will remember the inherent worth of art and beauty. Because we need to feed our souls sometimes, too.

*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.*



# memorials & gifts

In Memory of Norma Jean Gast  
Terry Gast

If we inadvertently missed your name, please let the office know.



## *Thank you*

The last Sunday for coffee and donuts is August 27th. Thank you all that came for fellowship and for those that helped in anyway. We averaged 15-20 people per week. Its purpose was for socialization and fellowship, so consider it successful.

*Stewardship Committee*



### **St. John's Church-**

We would like to "Thank You" for your generous donation of backpacks for our elementary students! We will put them to good use. Thank you for thinking of our students!!

Sincerely,  
Brenda Murphy  
Genoa Elementary Principal

### **The Forerunner**

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

Telephone: 419-836-5514

e-mail:

office@stjohnwilliston.org  
stjohnwilliston.org

### **Pastor Shawn O'Brien**

**Cell Telephone:**

**419-378-1112**

pastorobrien  
@stjohnwilliston.org

Fall Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the  
September 2023 Forerunner is  
Monday, September 18th

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  
(419) 836-5514  
office@stjohnwilliston.org



Monday—Friday  
9am—2pm

### Circle Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting in the Social Hall

Bible Study: Diane Hartman

Hostesses: Evalyn Witty

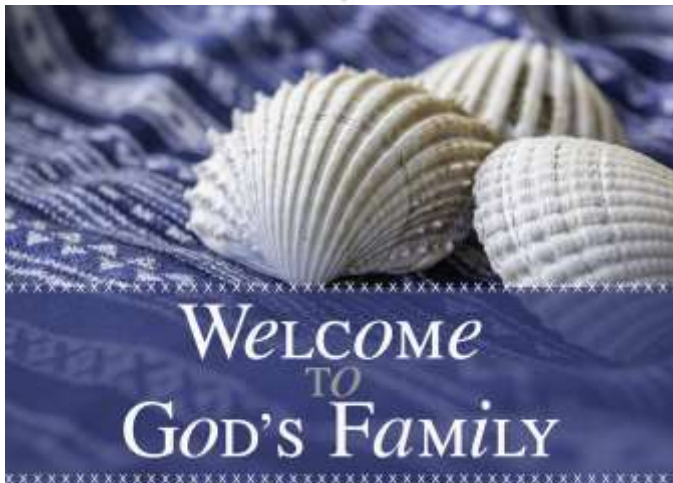
REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting in the Lounge



Coffee and Donuts  
Sundays at **8:30 a.m.**

Last Day— Sunday,  
August 27th!



### *Jimmy Alan Hyde*

*Was welcomed into the St John Family  
through Holy Baptism  
on August 12, 2023*

Parents: Patrick & Rachel Hyde

Sponsors: Erica Brown & Pat Conlin

### *Ashley Taylor Hodulik*

### *Hailey Alexis Hodulik*

*Were welcomed into the St John Family  
through Holy Baptism  
on August 19, 2023*

Parents: Troy & Jennifer Hodulik

Sponsors: David & Jennie Hodulik

*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 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!



Fall Worship Hours  
Return September 10th

Saturday-  
Contemporary Service  
5 PM

Sunday-  
Confirmation 8:30 AM  
Traditional Service  
9:45 AM



## *Annual Blanket Raffle Weekends*

Bid early! Bid Often!

The Blanket Ladies will again be displaying their many, many blankets starting the weekend of **September 30-October 1** and again on **October 7-8**. They will again be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 each. Plus having a silent auction on some. Yes, we do have Ohio State and University of Michigan. Also a "home divided" one. Raffle tickets and auction will continue for another two weeks for a total of four weeks. Blankets will be sold for a **donation of \$30.00**. Baby and small children size are \$20.00. These will be placed in the front rows of the church. Remember you must mark any monies turned into the offering plate or office "blankets". You can also give the money to the ladies selling raffle tickets, before and after services. The raffle, silent auction and sale of blankets is the only funds we receive to purchase filler and backs for the blankets. This year we have already give or sold 60 blankets. Some went to earthquake victims in Turkey and the Nightengales Harvest. If you know of an organization or person who could use a blanket let one of the ladies or the office know. We will distribute after October 8, but always have some available all year long. We tie each Tuesday morning from 9:00am-11:30am. We invite you to join us or just stop to visit and see how it is done. Thanks to all for the donations of sheets (any size), fabric, thread and yarn we find in our blanket room.

## **2024 Holy Land Tour Opportunities**

Have you ever wanted to see the places where Jesus walked and taught in the New Testament? Well, 2024 is offering you not one, but two opportunities to join with other Northwestern Ohio Lutherans in traveling to the Holy Land. The first trip is in late January 2024 (January 30-Feb 9th) with Bishop Beaudoin and the other trip will be in June of 2024 (June 17-27) **led by Pastor O'Brien**. There will be an in-person information meeting on September 20th at 7:00p at St. John. Of course, if you have **any questions before then you can speak to Pastor O'Brien any time**. For more information (and trip brochures), contact Pastor O'Brien at [pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org).



The January tour is \$4,190, the June tour is \$4,090. Both include all meals, accommodations, sight-seeing in a modern air conditioned bus, English speaking tour guide, and airfare from Detroit.

If you would like more information, I will be glad to talk with you about the trip. -Pastor Shawn O'Brien



## **The Blessing Box needs your help!**

Needed:  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Applesauce  
Fruit (canned)  
Snacks (small)  
Cereal

**Thank you for your help and support to continue to keep our Blessing Box full!**

### ***Our Seven Faith Practices***

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily
2. **WORSHIP** weekly
3. **READ** and study the Bible
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others

## **Faith Practice #3 Reading PSALMS**

## **BOOK #5**

Week of Aug 28- Psalm 125  
Week of Sept 4- Psalm 126  
Week of Sept 11- Psalm 127  
Week of Sept 18- Psalm 128  
Week of Sept 25- Psalm 129  
Week of Oct 2- Psalm 130

## **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.

The Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem (According to John)

- Sept. 1 Journey to Jerusalem John 7:10-13
- Sept. 2 Jesus Teaches in the Temple John 7:14-24
- Sept. 3 Is This the Christ? John 7:25-31
- Sept. 4 Officers Are Sent to Arrest Jesus John 7:32-36
- Sept. 5 Rivers of Living Water John 7:37-39
- Sept. 6 Division and Disbelief John 7:40-52
- Sept. 7 The Woman Caught in Adultery John 7:53-8:11
- Sept. 8 Jesus Is the Light of the World John 8:12-20
- Sept. 9 Jesus Foretells His Death John 8:21-30
- Sept. 10 True Disciples John 8:31-38
- Sept. 11 Jesus and Abraham John 8:39-59
- Sept. 12 Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind John 9:1-41
- Sept. 13 Jesus the Good Shepherd John 10:1-18
- Sept. 14 Division and Demons John 10:19-21

### **Jesus' Ministry in Judea**

- Sept. 15 Teaching About Divorce Matt. 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18
- Sept. 16 Jesus Blesses the Children Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17
- Sept. 17 The Rich Young Man Matt. 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30
- Sept. 18 The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard Matt. 20:1-16
- Sept. 19 Jesus is Rejected in Jerusalem John 10:22-42
- Sept. 20 Jesus Raises Lazarus John 11:1-44
- Sept. 21 The Plot to Kill Jesus John 11:45-57
- Sept. 22 Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection Matt. 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34
- Sept. 23 The Sons of Zebedee Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45
- Sept. 24 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men Matt. 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43
- Sept. 25 Jesus and Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10
- Sept. 26 The Parable of the Ten Pounds Luke 19:11-27; Matt. 25:14-30
- Sept. 27 The Anointing at Bethany Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8
- Sept. 28 The Plot Against Lazarus John 12:9-11

### **Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem**

- Sept. 29 The Triumphal Entry Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19
- Sept. 30 Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem Luke 19:41-44



Monday, September 4th  
The church office will  
be closed

### Prayer/Contact Cards...

You will see new blue Prayer/Contact cards in the pews. Please fill them out if you have a prayer request, a change in your contact information, would like to join the St. John family or to speak with the Pastor. Just place them in the offering plate.



### SACK FOR A SACK

St. John will be supporting **SACK FOR A SACK** again this year. Every time the Genoa defense sacks the opposing team's quarterback, St. John will donate a \$50 sack of groceries to the Genoa Food pantry. If you would like to contribute to "Sack for a Sack" and the Genoa Food Pantry, mark your donation "Sack for a Sack" and place it in the offering plate. You can also drop off a donation at the church office.



October—May at 8:30am  
1st Sunday of each month  
Children and Parents invited!



JOIN US at ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, More details to come.....



### USHERS NEEDED

Why anyone want to be an usher? Unlocking doors and standing in the back handing out bulletins may not seem like much, but some of our current ushers share that it is actually rewarding. One usher commented they feel like they have accomplished something when they can greet people, make them smile, and make them feel welcome when they enter for worship. Another shared they like being able to assist with worship, but they don't necessarily want to read in front of people. Therefore, working in the back is the perfect job. Plus, when it comes to serving at your church, being an usher is about the easiest job there is. Another usher shared for a person who can't sit still, being an usher is a good way to stay moving yet still be involved in worship. We would like to add more ushers to both our Saturday and Sunday rotation. If you would like to discover your own reasons for being an usher, contact Pastor O'Brien or the church office to learn more or be added to the rotation list.



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



**September 10  
2023**

**GOD'S WORK  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**LUNCH  
PROVIDED!**



**LUNCH- 11:45 AM  
WORK- 12:30 PM @  
LUTHER HOME OF MERCY  
SIGN UP BY PASTOR'S OFFICE  
OR CALL  
CHURCH OFFICE 419-836-5514**



**September 13th-  
6:30 pm- 8:30 pm  
We need 7-8 helpers  
to prepackage the food**

**September 16th  
8:30 am- 11:45 am  
We need 10 -12 helpers  
for the distribution of the food**

**Location is 303 W. Fourth St.  
in Genoa**

**(the old Genoa junior High)**

**If you can help or  
have any questions,  
please call:**

**Cheryl Berger 419-345-3941  
Donna Mathews 419-350-2883**



## **BAUMANN AUTO GROUP 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BIG CHARITY — RAFFLE —**

**100% OF VEHICLE DONATED BY THE BAUMANN AUTO GROUP  
WINNER WINS THE CHOICE OF:**



**OR CASH OPTION OF \$20,000  
\* MSRP UP TO \$27,000**

**\$5.00 PER TICKET**

**100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY  
TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN THE PAST  
20 YEARS IS \$1,183,997**

Tickets for the 21st Annual Baumann Auto Group Charity Raffle are available in the church office. (M-F 9-2)

Tickets are \$5.00. When you buy your ticket at St. John, 100% of the proceeds go to the Genoa Food Pantry.

## **NWO Region 6 Gathering**

**The Women of NWO invite you to our "Here I Am Lord" Gathering on October 27, 28<sup>th</sup> at the Findlay Inn, in Findlay, Ohio. Dr. Lisa Chavers will be speaking on Friday, "Hearing God's Rhythm and Answering the Call"**

**On Saturday, Pastor Melanie Haak from ST. Paul's, New Rochester and St. James Bradner will present, "I Am She", she will also lead closing worship.**

**Chris Budke will lead Bible Study on Saturday, "Answering the Call".**

**Friday Night Banquet. "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY".**

**Registration form in church office, "SONLIGHT".  
Questions?**

**Contact Sharon Moenter, 419-704-2193**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Please join us in our new Sunday School format!**



Bring the whole family for a bible story, craft, snack, video, and music! (Yes, we want parents too!)



**We will meet every first Sunday of the month, October through May, in the basement. See you October 1st at 8:30!**



Confirmation Parent/  
Student Meeting  
September 10th  
at 8:30a.m.



BLESSINGS TO YOU  
TODAY AND  
*all year.*  
AMEN

## MAUI DISASTER RELIEF

Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires

You can give online... <https://community.elca.org/uswildfires>

By mail...

Make checks payable to  
Lutheran Disaster Response.  
Write "U.S. Wildfires" on your  
check's memo line and send to:  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Or by phone...

800-638-3522  
Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.





# September Stewardship Page

## Stewardship of Talent

*There are a variety of services, but the same Lord: and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

*1 Corinthians 12: 5-6*



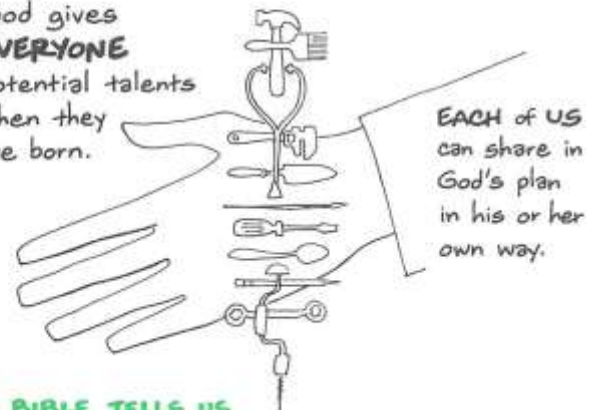
4 Questions that will help you to discover your talent:

1. What do you enjoy doing?
2. Is there something in your life that leaves you feeling accomplished or at ease when you do it?
3. What kind of activities do you engage in when you are free?
4. What things or areas do people acknowledge you for?



## STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS

God gives **EVERYONE** potential talents when they are born.



## THE BIBLE TELLS US

that if we use our talents wisely, we will be better able to use them and will develop others--but if we don't, we may lose even those we do have.



## September Stewardship Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father,  
I want to thank you for the gift of life. Thank your for everything that You're doing in my life. Thank you for the talent that You've given to me.*

*Amen*

# CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

# The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



... TO THOSE WHO  
BELIEVED IN HIS NAME,  
HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME  
CHILDREN OF GOD.

JOHN 1:12, NIV

## PUZZLE

### A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA

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1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV

# Puzzle!

Starting on the bold word, follow the maze to read a Bible passage. Move from one box to another if the sides or corners touch. Some boxes are used multiple times.



out and  
 for call search silver the knowledge of  
 insight aloud you look for hidden find God.  
 and cry for if as it treasure and LORD  
 understanding and then understand the  
 you will of fear

PROVERBS 2:3-5, NIV

Answer: If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:3-5, NIV

JESUS  
LOVES  
ME

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## Kickoff



**Join us for Sunday School!**  
**Sunday, October 1st- 8:30 AM**  
**Invite a friend to Sunday School!**

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

**1 Corinthians 12:4-7**

in Tanzania, but I also received an important reminder that these gifts and strengths are not our own doing but are rooted in the loving grace of our God.

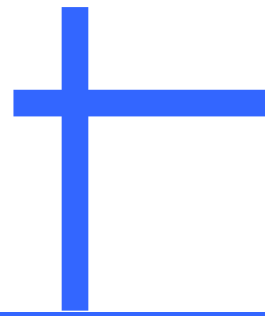
I had the joy of joining a congregation for worship on our second Sunday in Tanzania and when I realized that I would be helping to serve communion, I turned to the assisting minister, Frank, and asked him what words I would need to serve communion in Swahili. He quickly taught me, "Twa mwili wa Kristo," or "the body of Christ," in between prayers at the start of the service, so that I could repeat it in my head until it was time to serve. Eventually the time came, and everything was going perfectly! I felt so much joy in the Spirit, serving this tangible gift of God's grace to those at the rail and speaking those promises aloud in their mother tongue. I was overwhelmed by the sacredness of each encounter. But, as I said before, we must remember these gifts are rooted in the grace of our God, not in anything we have done on our own.

As we finished serving the congregation, the time came to serve the worship leaders. It was at that point that I realized three of the four of us had knelt at the rail, and only one of us still had elements in their hand to serve - me. I served the wafers to these other leaders in Swahili, and then picked up the wine, went to serve it... and realized I did not have the Swahili words. After a moment of hesitation, I said the words in English, and then I knelt at the rail to be served myself.

Perhaps in another scenario I might have been ashamed or embarrassed or gotten down on myself for not being enough, but in that particular moment, I was much too grateful for our God who speaks to each through promises beyond language. My gifts with language may have felt insufficient to me in the moment, but the Good News is that it was never my own power that mattered in the first place, it was always reliant on the gift of God. The relationships, the bread, the wine, each provided sacred, holy space because of the God who was present within them, not because of anything I could or could not do. It is true that we each possess a variety of Spiritual Gifts to use in our lives following Christ, but how wonderful to remember the gift of grace that is offered to all through Jesus Christ. A gift that is offered as a constant companion and foundation, so that even when we feel like we have failed with our own gifts, we always have a God who was there all along, grounding us in promises of grace.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ashley Rosa-Ruggieri  
Trinity Lutheran, Wauseon





***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**  
**Saturday, September 23, 2023**

**Chippewa Golf Club**

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

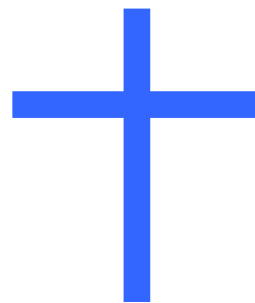
8:00 am—Registration

9:00 am—Shot Gun Start

**\$65 per player**  
**18 holes with cart**  
**Includes meal**

**PRIZES PRIZES**  
**PRIZES**

**For more information: call Tom 419-836-8028 or 419-205-1942**



**Saturday, September 23, 2023– Chippewa Golf Club**

**FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM**

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

Sign up soon! You may drop this form off at the St. John Williston Church Office or mail to  
St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, Ohio 43468. For more info call 419-836-8028

## July Church Council Highlights

**Members Present:** Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Dan Kessler, Deanna Neuman, Dave Neuman, Melissa Hays, Kristina Wildman, Deb Werner, and Ron Gerkenmeyer

**Devotions led by Pastor:** Matthew 6:13, Luke 11:4 and Luther's Small Catechism - The Sixth Petition

**Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance:** In person avg. for July 2023-116.6 compared to July 2022-93.2. Online avg. for July 2023-88.4 compared to July 2022-94.

**Numbers:** 12 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family mtgss. 2 committee/group mtgs. 3 community/youth/fellowship events. 5 professional/clergy activities. 2 Baptisms. 1 Funeral

**Funeral:** I presided at the funeral of Danny Jeffers on June 10<sup>th</sup>

**Baptism:** I presided at the baptism of Nora Louise Sheahan (daughter of Dakota and Rylee) on July 8<sup>th</sup>. I presided at the baptism of Sutton Rene Dieter (daughter of Michael and Jena) on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**New Members:** In June we welcomed Dominic Nuti, Ben and Robin Perkins, Judy Encheff, Ashley Hodulik, and Hailey Hodulik as St. John members.

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:** St. John will be participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, again this year on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be helping/serving at Luther Home of Mercy with a variety of projects, some inside and some outside. Lunch will be served at the church at 11:45a. Work at LHM begins at approximately 12:30.

**Vacation:** I will be out of town Aug 26<sup>th</sup> - Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deacon Jennifer Heinze will be leading worship on August 26/27. There will be a video sermon on September 2/3 with Melissa Lammers leading worship on Sunday and the Saturday worship leader is TBD. Pastors Bob Noble and Matt Musteric are available for pastoral emergencies.

**Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report:** Dan Kessler and Kristina Wildman

**Expenses:** We are 94% of the monthly budget and 97% of the year to date budget. **Income:** We are 95% of our monthly budget and 93% of our year to date budget. **Income over expenses:** On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$16,554 compared to our budget of negative \$8,869. Will send out a year to date giving statement. Purchased a new riding lawn mower (\$6609) out of the Building Development Fund and out of the Gary Carstensen Memorial Fund.

**Christian Community Life:** Deb Werner

Food pantry report for June and July: Gas line is complete for the driveway, just waiting for Bergman to finish putting in stone. Peaches were given out in July to patrons. Meijer was out of the ones on sales and once again helped by giving us the more expensive ones. The pantry is doing a rotation on meat of pork chops, beef roast, smoked sausage and turkey. Since eggs are down, we will be able to give out 2 dozen again. The Spring Simply Give Program raised a total of \$18,160.00. Double match raised \$8,380.00 and \$4,680.00 from the LPGA. The pantry is getting thank you cards for the patrons to sign. Counts for June: patrons-58, families-32 donations \$2,488.12. Plus a grant of \$10,000.00 and expenses \$2,529.70. Counts for July: patrons-67, families-32 donations \$250.00, expenses

\$1,035.67. We will be serving a luncheon on Sept 10<sup>th</sup> for the Gods Helping Hands. It is our turn to serve the food pantry on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. And we need to prepackage the food on Wed Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. Help is needed for both days. We filled 75 backpacks with supplies, 25 have been given to Genoa Schools. We will be doing the sack for a sack. Every time a Genoa football player sacks the opponent's quarterback we will donate \$50.00 to the Genoa Food Pantry. This will be at every home game and the church's name is announced at the time of the sack.

**Evangelism:** Melissa Hays

We discussed a sign and a map. We also discussed making a basket for the Trunk or Treat.

**Parish Education:** Deanna Neuman

Parish Ed met Saturday morning to discuss Sunday School plans for 2023-2024. We will be having Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month, October through May. We are inviting the whole family for a bible story, craft, snack, and probably a video and music. We will keep the time the same, beginning at 8:30 and we will meet in the basement. We are going to get the info out via announcements, weekly email, forerunner, bulletin, and social media. We are also going to contact Andy to look into another smart TV, DVD player, and stand.

**Stewardship:** Pam LaRue

Tom Cashen reported last year there were 13 teams in the Golf Outing and they are taking registrations now. They are also taking Hole Sponsors and prize donations. Donuts and Coffee before Sunday Service is coming to an end with two more weeks.

**Worship Life:** Kellie Ulrich

Aug 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> will be the blessing of the backpacks. We discussed some upcoming dates: Trunk or Treat Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Thanksgiving Eve service we are discussing having this service on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Will need to check with musicians. It is our year to host this service and we would invite other local churches as done in the past. Christmas eve service is on a Sunday this year. We are discussing revising the times, particularly the late evening service due to having many services on one day. Possibly 9:45, 4:00, 7:00 and 9:00. We discussed recognizing our member who is active military, Christian Griffith. He will be on a leave and would like to recognize him at service. Diana is planning to contact the family.

**Property:**

We had some tree removal done on the property.

**New Business:**

Next meeting approve the May minutes. Lutheran Disaster Relief is looking for contributions for support for the wildfires in Maui, Hawaii. We will use special donation envelopes at church services. Pastor O'Brien motioned to donate \$2500 to the Lutheran Disaster Relief (Wildfires, Maui, Hawaii) from the Good Samaritan Fund and Deanna Neuman seconded, motion passed.

**Next Committee Mtg:** Thurs., Sept. 14, 2023 @7pm

**Next Council Mtg:** Thurs., Sept. 21, 2023 @7pm

Deb Werner moved to adjourn the meeting and Dave Neuman seconded, motion passed.

**Minutes submitted by:** Tracy Orians, Council Secretary

# ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org) (419)836-5144 email: [office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org)



<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		<b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
<b>Type of authorization:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
<b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b> ____/____/____		<b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>		<b>FUNDS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees <div style="text-align: right;"><b>Total</b> \$ _____</div>	
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	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: _____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b>  Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">                     6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 0 0 1                      └─ Routing Number      └─ Account Number      └─ Check Number                 </div>	
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
<b>CREDIT / DEBIT CARD</b>	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**

2- The Donnelly Family  
9- The Buhrow Family  
16-Jack Mathews  
23-The Buhrow Family  
30-Ron Gerkenmeyer

#### **Lectors**

2- Nancy Strohscher  
9- Beverly Harder  
16- Amy Schloegl  
23-Christine Danhoff  
30-Nancy Strohscher

#### **Acolytes**

2- Mila McQueary  
9- Lindsey Krumnow  
16-Emma Morgan  
23-Jacob Higginbotham  
30-Mila McQueary

#### **Communion**

2- No Communion  
9- Carol Vargo  
16-Al & Traci Brown  
23-JoElaine Schimming  
30-Alice Witt

### **Sundays 9:00am**

#### **Ushers**

3- Titgemeyer Family  
10- Jill Kao  
17- Titgemeyer Family  
24-Diana Pfaff/Riley B  
1- Jill Kao

#### **Lectors**

3- Tim Titgemeyer  
10- Jill Kao  
17- Kellie Ulrich  
24-Melissa Lammers  
1- Roland Sandrock

#### **Acolytes**

3- Logan Hays  
10- Lily Sondergeld  
17- Caleb Hays  
24-Lauren Hoeft  
Logan Hays

#### **Communion**

3- No Communion  
10- Roland Sandrock  
17- Cebie Titgemeyer  
24- Diana Pfaff  
1- Margaret Berger

### **Saturdays 5:00pm**

#### **Ushers**

7- The Donnelly Family  
14- The Buhrow Family  
21- Jack Mathews  
28-Wayne Bauman

#### **Lectors**

7- Beverly Harder  
14- Amy Schloegl  
21- Christine Danhoff  
28- Nancy Strohscher

#### **Acolytes**

7- Jacob Higginbotham  
14- The Buhrow Family  
21- Jack Mathews  
28- Mila McQueary

#### **Communion**

7- Ron Gerkenmeyer  
14- Nancy Strohscher  
21- Amy Schloegl  
28- Carol Vargo

### **Sundays 9:00am**

#### **Ushers**

1- Jill Kao  
8- The Titgemeyer Family  
15- Diana Pfaff/Riley B  
22- Jill Kao  
29- The Titgemeyer Family

#### **Lectors**

1-Roland Sandrock  
8- Cebie Titgemeyer  
15- Diana Pfaff  
22- Deanna Neuman  
29- Tim Titgemeyer

#### **Acolytes**

1- Logan Hays  
8- Nolan Delventhal  
15- Lauren Hoeft  
22- Mina Steinmetz  
29- Liam Delventhal

#### **Communion**

1- Margaret Berger  
8- Pam LaRue  
15- Rosemarie Dickinson  
22- Dave/Deanna Neuman  
29- Kellie Ulrich



*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.*

**More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!**








# SEPTEMBER



2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:00 PM Contemp Worship
3 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	4 Church Office Closed 	5 9:00 AM Blankets Esther Circle 2PM Rebekah Circle 7PM	6 7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	7	8	9 5:00 PM Contemp Worship
10  8:30 AM Confirmation Class 9:45 AM Traditional Worship 11:45AM Lunch 12:30-God's Work	11 	12 9:00 AM Blankets	13 7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering 6:30PM- 8:30PM Food Pantry Packing	14 7:00 PM Committee Meeting	15	16 8:45AM- 11:45AM Food Pantry Distribution 5:00 PM Contemp Worship
17 8:30 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM Traditional Worship	18 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!	19 9:00 AM Blankets	20 7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	21 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	22 	23 8AM St. John's Golf Outing 5:00 PM Contemp Worship
24 8:30 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM Traditional Worship	25	26 9:00 AM Blankets	27 7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	28	29 	30 5:00 PM Contemp Worship

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Volume 0704 Issue 329

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SEPTEMBER 2023



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419-378-1112 cell

E-mail address:

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Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow,

Office Administrators

Monday –Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

[office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org)

## In person and online!

Fall Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday- Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class- start September 10th at 8:30 AM

Sunday School- resumes October 1st at 8:30 AM

Sunday- Traditional Worship 9:45 AM, starts September 10th

\*Visit us on Facebook