



FORERUNNER

St. John  Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio

We are the Church
No matter where we meet.

Volume 0664
Issue 289
May 2020

Ask the Pastor

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Dear St. John Family,

Last month I wrote about the desire to have a big celebration when we could all return to worship; a second Easter. It was a good thought, at the time, but as you know things are constantly changing. As the weeks pass, I'm seeing that a "big celebration" is probably not realistic. When we do return, it is not going to be like flipping on a light switch and everything is back to normal. It's going to be more like adjusting a dimmer switch; we turn the dial and some things come back... if that goes well, we turn the dial a little more... but we may have to turn back dial and rethink some things... then we resume a few more things. I'm seeing now our return to parish life will likely take place in phases. It is going to be a gradual process, and when we do resume gathering, things are going to be different.

The Bishop has asked us not to resume in-person worship until **after Pentecost** Sunday; May 31st. In the coming weeks, the St. John Church Council will be "meeting" to discuss the synod's *Parish Plan of Return*. We will work together to figure out a return to parish ministry for St. John... When we do gather, what is it going to look like? How do we maintain 'physical distancing' during worship? Can you sing with a mask on? How are we going to clean and sanitize the building between gatherings? What steps are going to put in place to protect the most vulnerable among us? How are we going to enforce these rules? The Bishop's office has given us a starting place for all this. We need to work out the details.

As Bishop Beaudoin wrote, "We are running a marathon, and not a sprint, so we need to reset our hopes and expectations, accordingly, though always trusting that God has plans for our welfare and future, and those plans are always good."

I ask your prayers and support for both myself and the church council. This is not going to be an easy process. But as I have said from the beginning, God is with us. And God WANTS to do good things in and through this church. So however the next few weeks play out, let us continue to BE THE CHURCH and let God do good things through us.

God's Peace,
Shawn

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.

And now announcements.....

We are continuing our distribution of supplemental food bags on Mondays at 11:00 am. Thank you to everyone who has given their time to help, donated peanut butter and spaghetti sauce, and given financially to support this ministry. I wish we could give away all the bags we have prepared each week, but even if we help 20 or 50 families instead of 100 we are doing God's work. Thank you for being part of it.

Check out the video/discussion from the "Bible Pro-

ject". The topic this week is the Water of Life. I put a link on Facebook and here... <http://go.jointhebibleproject.com/webmail/296292/428412381/d6c31c071bbc75c8fd2cbdec4ce4961b25dc78a63697341e9ba784cae2c81c19>

If you took a page of names to help with our "pray, call, listen, pray" though the membership directory, please consider calling your people again in the coming week. This is a good way to help us stay socially connected while remaining physically distanced. If you need assistance addressing any needs you hear of (prayer, bulletins, CDs, food, etc.) please contact the church office.

Our "virtual worship services" for each weekend are being shared on Facebook and YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1XmInJBf2-nOWytX4KK5yA>

The church office will be open during the week from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm, but we may have the doors locked to help us practice distancing. There are newsletters and devotionals outside the office door. If you need to get inside to drop off an offering envelope, or speak to LisaAnne or me, please ring the "video doorbell" and someone will let you in.

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off or mailed in their offering envelopes. Also thank you to those who have signed up for automated giving. If you want to get started there is a link on the top right corner of the church website. <https://stjohnwilliston.org/> You can also call the church office for help getting that setup.

We are sending out announcements and updates by email and text messaging (through Remind). If you would like to be on either of those lists, please contact the church office.

We will snail-mail a copy of this letter to the members we know don't use a computer. If you know of anyone we may have missed, please contact the church office.

The Parish Education Committee is providing supplemental Sunday school activities during this time we can't gather. Please check those out on the church website.

Although we can't be together physically, we can be together in spirit. And wherever we happen to be, God is with us. Wherever we find ourselves this week, let us continue to BE THE CHURCH.

2020 Scholarships

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen to receive scholarships from St. John Lutheran Church to further their education.

Yunker Scholarship

Owen Schloegl * Son of Marty and Amy Schloegl
St. Francis De Sales High School

Owen will attend Bowling Green State University with a degree with an emphasis in graphic arts and design, as well as some type of architecture degree.

Yunker Scholarship

Caleb Goldstein * Son of Jerry and Beckie Goldstein
Oak Harbor High School

Caleb will be attending Heidelberg University with a major in musical theater and a minor in education, on a track for a masters in business.

Tank, Johnson, and Parks Memorial Scholarships

Bobby Bench * Son of Robert and Kathy Bench
Ohio State University

Bobby is currently seeking a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering.

Tank, Johnson, Parks Memorial Scholarships

Andrew Titgemeyer * Son of Tim and Cebie Titgemeyer
Xavier University

Andrew is double majoring in "philosophy, politics, and the public" and economics, with the hopes of either entering law school or a graduate business program.

A Prayer for Our Students

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of education in every form. As our children prepare to start a new year, may confidence be their foundation, may grace be their guide and may hope be their compass toward a bright future. I pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those around them and a heart to love well. May they face each day with positivity knowing that no matter what comes their way, they don't have to face it alone. In Jesus' name, amen.

The Forerunner

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 by St. John Lutheran Church
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Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

June 2020 newsletter is

Monday, May 25th at 9 AM

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

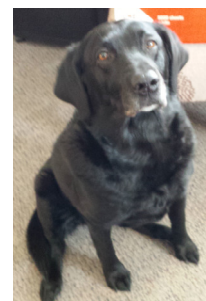
Office Administrator

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



*Bella
 Fredericksen*

*The Greeter of
 St. John*

Memorials and Gifts to St. John



In Memory of Fritz Lau

James and Mona Vogelbacher
Bill and Brenda Hart
Carrie and Greg Howard
Eric and Colleen Hart
Cal and Marvel Nelson
Bernie Blausey
Elaine Gruetter

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



Please watch the weekly
announcements and upcoming
Forerunners for any updates.
All meetings and events are
postponed at this time.

About Bold Café

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.

Although many women in their 20s and 30s con-
tribute in every issue, *Café* can be used and shared
by women of all ages.

Café, and its podcast, are made possible through
regular offerings by women from over 7,000 ac-
tive [Women of the ELCA](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) units in congregations of
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
Please join in support to continue this ministry
for lay and clergy women.

www.boldcafe.org

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR
Thoughtfulness.



Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and the cards
I received during my recent back surgery. It is a bless-
ing to be part of such a wonderful church family. May
God bless each and every one.

Jill Mathews

Dear St. John,

What a wonderful surprise to open that envelope and
see your very generous donation. We have been aver-
aging 90-100 families who need our services each
week. Your donation will certainly assist us help those
in need in our community.

Pastor Mary Sullivan-St. Paul's UMC
Marketplace for all People

Dear St. John,

Thank you for your congregation's generous gift in
support of Bistro 163. Your support is critical for a
ministry like ours, particularly given the challenges we
face in the winter when we operate at a loss due to
lower patron volume and increased needs of those who
are often working reduced hours due to the seasonal
nature of our community. Our challenge is even grater
now in the face of the pandemic which is impacting all
our lives. I am pleased to report that Bistro 163 is
providing free hot pick up meals Weds. through Sat..
Last week, we provided over 1000 meals! We will
continue this schedule as long as we are in lock down
mode. Your gift is truly making a difference.

Ed Carlson,
Board Member
Bistro 163

Dear St. John,

Thank you so much for your contribution to our agen-
cy. We are busy doing so many things-working on the
CASA program, TNT Mentoring, TICKET to Success,
Grandlove and our summer lunch programs in Port
Clinton, Oak Harbor and Genoa. Our mission here is
to stabilize children and families so our kids can be
successful. Blessings to you and Thank You!

Connie Cornett
Ottawa County Family Advocacy



Missing Church? We have the answer!

Worship with St. John ONLINE!

Until we can join together in worship, we will be live streaming our worship services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel on Saturdays at 5PM and will show it again on Sunday mornings at 9:45

Not online? That's ok. Let the office know and we will send you an Audio CD of the latest worship service.

Our links are <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwilliston/>
The "virtual worship service" for this weekend has been posted on Facebook and YouTube. <https://youtu.be/CSO3YF-BCRA>. For continued services, search YouTube for Shawn O'Brien and look for the St. John logo.

Email/Text Reminders

If you would like to be notified about events, activities, schedule changes, etc. through email or text, join St. John on Remind...

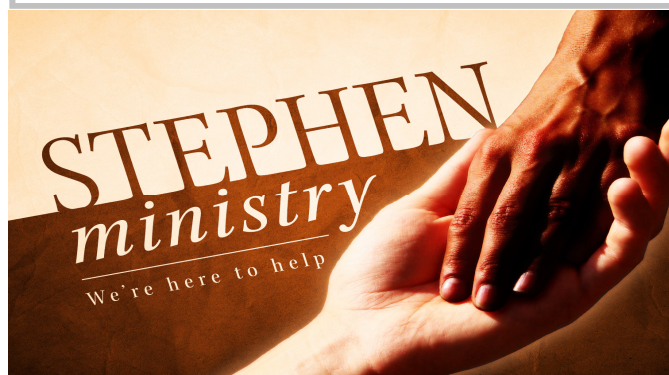
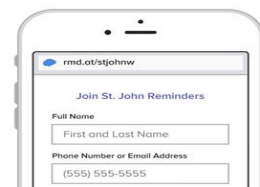
Text @stjohnw to the number 81010. (You'll receive a welcome text from Remind.)

(If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @stjohnw to (419) 679-4578.)

Visit rmd.at/stjohnw to sign up for email notifications.

If none of those work, send a message to the church office.

We can sign you up.



We know these can be times of anxiety and uncertainty, loneliness and pain.

Your St. John Stephen Ministers are here to help.
Need to talk?

Call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at 419-836-5514 and we will put you in contact with one of your St. John Stephen Ministers.

FAITH

Every night in every home



SHARE

highs and lows



READ

a Bible verse or story



TALK

about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows



PRAY

for one another's highs and lows



BLESS

one another

www.faith5.org



What is Faith5?

We are encouraged to take this extended spring break to join together in some time of deepening our faith and listening to how God is calling us to love and serve our neighbor.

Faith5 contains a series of devotional readings and activities prepared for 8 weeks for you to do with those who are isolated with you. If you live alone, call a friend to join you or take time to journal.

The readings, activities and webpages for the activities are grouped by week.

You can access Faith5 by visiting www.Faith5.org OR there is a family devotional available at the NWOS Website. Just visit www.nwos-elca.church and click on the "COVID-19 How Do We Respond" tab.

If you would like a copy of the Faith5 devotional "Pandemic Hope-A Family Devotional for Life during COVID-19" please call or email LisaAnne in the office.

Self-Soothing Practices in Times of Physical Distancing



Visualize God's healing light entering into the crown of your head and flowing and moving through your whole body and out your toes.



Take a hot bath with a fragrance you enjoy.



Wrap a blanket around you and visualize/meditate about God giving you a hug and nurturing touch.



If you have a pet, cuddle.



Enjoy a cup of hot tea or cocoa, sipping it slowly, savoring the flavor.



Read Psalm 121 and be aware of God's loving presence



Listen to your favorite relaxing music.



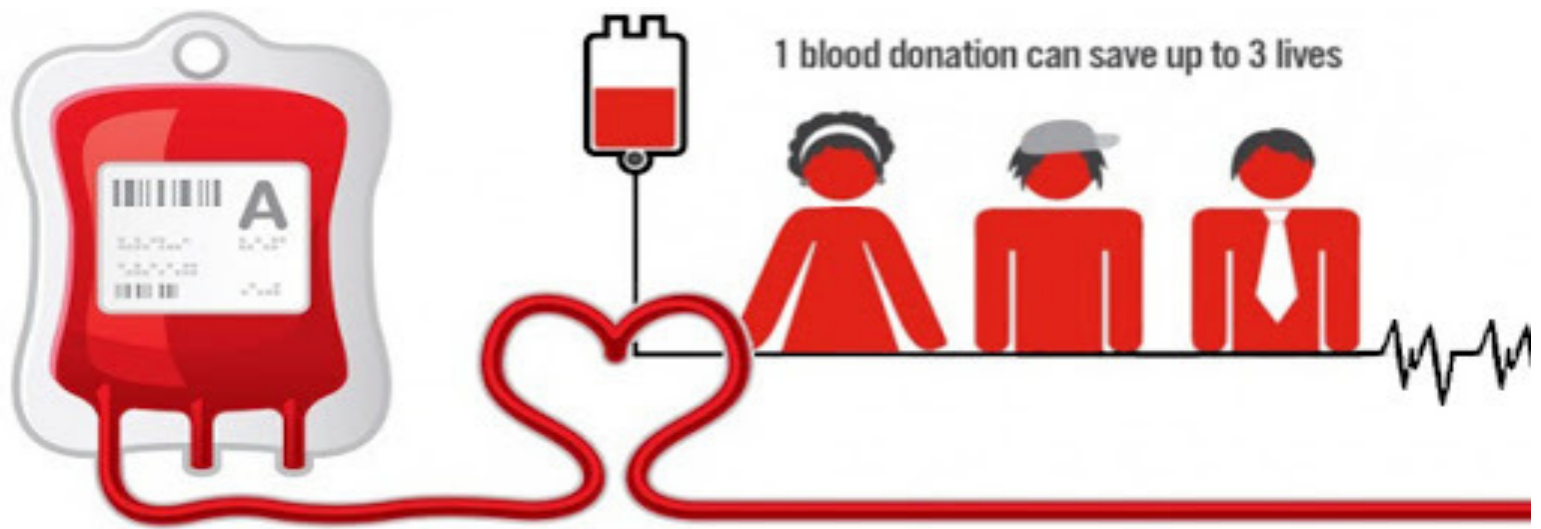
Text or call a friend or loved one.



Spend some time safely outside, breathing in fresh air.



FaceTime or skype with loved ones and friends.



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

+ **COVID-19**
RESPONSE

Once hospitals open for surgery, traffic accidents increase and the world gets back to a new normal, the blood supply will dwindle very quickly and approach a crucial low.

The time for action is now. And you can help!

**A “Socially Distanced” Blood Drive will happen
at St. John Williston
on Friday, May 22, 2020 from 1 PM to 6 PM.**

Additional Red Cross Staff will be on hand to assure everyone is maintaining best safety practices. No volunteers.

Beds will be spaced further apart,
staff will be taking temperatures before allowing anyone in the donor
space and surfaces will be constantly sanitized.

Appointments are required. No walk ins will be accepted.

Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before
your scheduled appointment. Please wear a face mask.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS to make your appointment.
You may also visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and use sponsor code:
STJOHNWILLISTON.



Drive Thru Food Assistance at St. John

We are putting together supplemental food bags for people in our community. Distribution will be MONDAYS at 11:00 AM.

If you want to help with this project, we are seeking donations of 16oz jars of peanut butter and spaghetti noodles. When you go to the store or order your groceries, consider adding some peanut butter, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned veggies, spaghetti or a box of cereal to your cart. We have partnered with the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion to provide this assistance

through ordering from the Toledo NWO Food bank and delivering the food to St. John.

Your financial assistance is also appreciated. We have started a "Helping Neighbors" Fund and thank everyone who has donated so far!



The Blanket Ladies ...Using Talents during Crisis!

The Blanket Ladies of St. John changed their focus from sewing blankets to sewing face masks this week by making hundred of face masks to be shared with area health professionals!

They will continue to make them as long as there is a need, but they need your help!

Each mask requires about 19 inches of 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch elastic, which is difficult to find in stores at this time. If you have some elastic to spare, please consider dropping it off at the church. If you need a mask, stop in at the church.

Your help is appreciated!

During this time of need, please consider a donation to our local Food Pantries.

Here is a list of those close to St. John.

Genoa Area Food Panty- The Genoa Area Community Food Pantry will be open Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 a.m. until noon. We serve residents living in the Genoa Area School District. We will distribute the food as a drive thru again this month. Please have driver's license and piece of mail that corresponds with your address ready. Located at the Apostolic Restoration Center on 4th ST (SR 163) Donations may be sent to Barb Myers 23281 W Holt-Harrigan Rd. Genoa, Ohio 43430

Jerusalem Twp. Food Pantry— Open to residents of Jerusalem Twp. with ID. Drive Thru pantry open Weds. May 13th from 8 AM to Noon. Recipients are asked to stay in their cars. Donations can be sent to Jerusalem Township Food Pantry, c/o Richard Hozak, 11539 Rachel Road, Curtice, Ohio 43412.

The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC-Will be open as a drive thru on Weds. May 6th from 5-7 PM (or until supplies run out). Open to residents of Ottawa County with ID showing residence. For emergency assistance, call LisaAnne at 419-250-1188. Donations of non perishable food items, household cleaners and hygiene items are appreciated. Financial donations may be send to Elliston Zion UMC Attn: L Gregg 18045 W. William St. Graytown, Ohio 43432

Benton-Carroll-Salem Food Pantry at St. Paul's UCC in Oak Harbor.

For the health and safety of food pantry volunteers- The BCS Food Pantry is open Mondays 8:30am until noon. If you are in need of food, please call 419-898-0852, mailbox 4. We will work on a way of bringing food to you at home. Donations to Oak Harbor Food Pantry 165 N. Toussaint St. Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449

The Oak Harbor Alliance Chapel Food Pantry, located at 11805 SR 105, will continue to provide food supplies to anyone in need by appointment only. Call 419-343-0126 for info.



Faith Practice 5: **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus.

Brought to you by your Evangelism Committee: Mark Witt, Madelayne Saionzkowski, Melissa Hays, and written by Franny (Lowe) Cranfield

Some of you may remember my parents, Alvin and Freda Lowe. They loved the Lord, and my mother loved books. Every year for Christmas we got books. In 1966 mom gave us “Words of Life” a religious and inspirational album of 1100 quotations from the minds and hearts of writers of twenty centuries. It was illustrated by scenes of the Holy Land. Here’s one of my favorite selections on being a neighbor:

If there's a stranger in your neighborhood today, better check up on him; he may need a friend. If he's still a stranger tomorrow, better check up on your neighborhood. ~ Burton Hillis

I’m hoping you’ve gotten to **know your neighborhood** better during this pandemic. The people you see everyday pulling out of their driveway to go to work are likely now staying home. Kids that were normally at the babysitter or at school are now playing outside with their home-bound parents. While we can’t visit, we can call or send short notes via mail (that still works – remember cards and letters).

Here’s a sample “kindness postcard” you might want to leave if you don’t know your neighbor yet. Instead of saying “if there’s anything I can do to help, please let me know” try being more direct so they’re more likely to take you up on your offer: “I’m going to Kroger tonight, can I pick up some groceries for you and drop them off?”

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to relay you (for free!)



Pray-Call-Listen-Pray. Before COVID-19 hit, we were already in a mental health crisis. Dealing with physical isolation can cause new types of stress and loneliness.

Be the kind of neighbor that every neighborhood needs. Bring joy and laughter and silliness all the time. Be a good neighbor and check in with the children, friends, family, and neighbors around you. Actually.... do more than check in. Pray before you make the call; listen when your neighbor answers the phone, and pray during or after the call (depending on your level of comfort) about what you heard your neighbor say.

INVITE others into a loving relationship with Jesus.

With less to do, maybe your un-churched neighbor will finally have the time to go to church – on-line at St John Lutheran Church. We have a “great pastor,” “meaningful sermons,” and “a very supportive worship community,” according to the reviews on Facebook. Another review says “Sponsored by God.” which I thought was particularly encouraging. Please make the effort to invite your neighborhood to worship on-line with us via our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwilliston/>.

I am my neighbor's Bible, he reads me when we meet. Today he reads me in my house, tomorrow in the street. He may be relative or friend, or slight acquaintance be. He may not even know my name, but he is reading me.

Stewardship



REPORT



Online Giving

Giving made easy!

An easy, safe, convenient way to support our vision and mission – anywhere, any time!

Get
Started
Today!

Did you know?

Even during these uncertain times, your church continues to serve! When not meeting in person for worship, or while you are on vacation, you can still give to the church you love so much. St. John works with VANCO, a nationally recognized online giving program to make it easy and secure to give...no matter if you are near or far!

It's easy...go to our website at www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the online giving link or fill out an authorization form and send it in to the office.

You can set up for weekly, monthly or special giving! We recommend using a checking or savings account-not a credit card-to avoid process fees.

Questions? Call LisaAnne if in the office and she will walk you through it.

May Stewardship Prayer

Lord, we thank you
for the flowers that grow,
for the birds and the bees,
and the moon's night time glow,
for our Mother's love and devotion
we will always hold dear,
for the beauty of friends
and the memories we share,
for the precious gifts of your
blessings on us you bestow
especially your love
that we certainly know. Amen.

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

STEWARDSHIP OF HEALTH of BODY and MIND

God gave human beings superior minds-- to be used to fullest capacity in discovering God's plan, in understanding self and others.

We were also given bodies in which to accomplish God's work-- bodies to be treated with respect (taken care of), not abused (harmed).



WE PRESENT
our BODIES and
we RENEW our
MINDS as
OFFERINGS
to GOD.

Stewardship is  WORK

S# John Kid's Page

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

Apart for a Time,
Together in Spirit



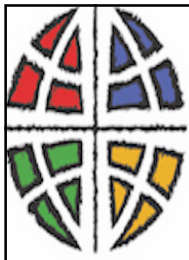
Leave the lesson presentation to your friends at Sparkhouse. Each week Sunday school curriculum developer (and former summer camp Arts and Crafts director) Dr. Dawn Rundman and her family will host Family Sunday School. Each episode presents a lesson based on Lectionary readings that families can watch together. The Bible story, illustrations, and other content are based on Spark: Activate Faith Lectionary Sunday school lessons.

Sunday School
at home!

You are welcome to distribute, post, and reproduce the lesson materials for your church families in whatever way works for you. We'll post a new lesson every Tuesday for the following Sunday. Lessons will be posted through Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020.

www.sparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Earth Day 2020

A Message from the Bishop of the ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Sin and captivity, manifest in threats to the environment, are not the last word. God addresses our predicament with gifts of 'forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation' (Luther, Small Catechism). By the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God frees us from our sin and captivity, and empowers us to be loving servants to creation.

—ELCA social statement *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, p. 5

As I work from home at our dining room table, I look out the front window and see the wildlife at my husband's feeders. God created such beautiful creatures. As Christians we are guided by the promise expressed in our social statement that we are empowered "to be loving servants to creation." It is our duty to care for God's earth.

Established in 1970, Earth Day launched the modern environmental movement, spurring development of landmark policies for a creation in crisis and defining a path toward a more sustainable planet. In this 50th anniversary year, under the theme "Climate Action," the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is joining the [Earth Day Network](#) as a featured faith partner. This partnership expresses our deep love for God's creation and a Lutheran understanding of our profound responsibility for it. The social statement describes our commitment this way:

Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the whole of creation. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth. God's command to have dominion and subdue the earth is not a license to dominate and exploit. ... [It] should reflect God's way of ruling as a shepherd king who takes the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7), wearing a crown of thorns (*Caring for Creation*, pp. 2-3).

We accept that caring for and protecting creation is central to our holy calling, yet we acknowledge our shortcomings in this regard. Our action and inaction are exposed by the despoiling and degrading of the environment. Affected by human activity, our changing climate has brought more severe weather patterns and ensuing destruction. Our waters, land and air are being polluted, and we are alarmed by the devastation. Ecological systems are strained to the point where some species cannot adapt, and face extinction.

Globally, we are dealing with two interconnected crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate change. Both demonstrate the profound consequences of our disrupted, broken relationship with the natural world. According to scientists, species disruption caused by global warming has combined with human encroachment on the natural world to drive wildlife into greater and deadlier contact with people. The COVID-19 outbreak is an urgent warning that our be-

havior opens the door to transmission of new diseases, with devastating consequences.

Our distorted relationship with the earth is borne most heavily by the most vulnerable and marginalized among us, who are ill-equipped to withstand the impact of climate change or implement remedies. COVID-19 and the climate crisis heighten existing racial inequity, economic disparity and social injustices. Our call to care for creation is also a call to right these wrongs.

As Earth Day partners and stewards of creation, we have many ways to lovingly serve the earth:

Explore and use ELCA [Care for Creation](#) resources, including video, study and action guides with information about the Creation Care Ambassadors initiative.

Read the Lutherans Restoring Creation story "[5 Ways to Celebrate Earth Day as Church Together but Apart](#)."

Learn about the [Creation Care Ambassadors](#) program that equips Lutherans to be leaders in settings across the church and in our communities.

Accept the ELCA Young Adults [No Plastics for Lent](#) challenge this Easter season.

Participate in a local clean-up (with appropriate distancing) if permitted by local authorities, or participate in the [Earth Challenge](#) 2020 citizen scientist initiative, focused on plastic pollution and clean air.

On April 21, take part in the Parliament of World Religions' [50th Earth Day Observance With Global Religious and Indigenous Leaders](#).

Join with the ELCA's ecumenical partner [Creation Justice Ministries](#) in advocacy, education and prayer

A [Prayer](#) From Lutheran Disaster Response:

Prepare us, Lord, for what lies ahead. Give us the strength and dedication that we will need in order to serve others unselfishly. Give us the energy we will need to follow through with the task. Give us strength to face our assignment, and put before us people who will support us. Open our ears and eyes and heart, so that we can sustain others and [help creation to recover from this crisis. Bless those who are suffering and give them hope, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Council

HIGHLIGHTS

Council Meeting Minutes Zoom- April 16, 2020

Members Present: Rick Buhrow, Diana Pfaff, Pastor O'Brien, Marcia Morgan, Kent Delventhal, John Mazar, Deanna Neuman, Cheryl Berger, Fran Cranfield, Fred Lammers, Traci Brown, Al Brown, Rosemarie Dickinson, Audrey Milbrodt, Gary Johnson, Melissa Lammers

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm p.m. by President Rick Buhrow

Devotions were from Faith.org, led by Pastor O'Brien
Secretary Minutes for March were approved with one correction

Pastor's Report:

Digital Services

Emails

Phone calls

130 Food Bags have been given

Money and food have been donated, with food from the food bank. Many kudos to Andy Kessler! Andy has made our digital services possible.

Financial Secretary Report /Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report:

Reported that expenses are all down with no services including the gas, electric and phone.

Reported that we are doing quite well with March income slightly down but steady.

Question asked about benevolence giving. Reported with only two services in March we are keeping a watch on benevolence giving. In February we had designated Lenten offering be distributed to both the Luther Home of Mercy and Bistro 163. Stated that stimulus dollars are available but we are not currently seeking. Watching our stats and not wanting to take dollars from a church really in need. .

Christian Community Life reported that decisions depend if we have services for Mother's Day gifts. No food pantry update. Bauman's raffle tickets will be available soon. The banner in the window is in honor of Tim Berger by the Berger family. Two boxes of GFS Pancake mix has been donated to "Just Pancakes".

Evangelism: reported no visitor gift bags were given out since the last committee meeting.(no services)

Easter Basket donations will be held for the 2021 event. Nothing perishable was received.

An *article* for the May Newsletter on Faith Practice 5 "Invite" others into a loving relationship with Jesus" will be submitted to LisaAnne by the Monday, April 20th deadline.

Picture Directory and Member updates: Can we use the Lists of 10 to ask if directory information is correct and if they want to send a picture in? Pastor O'Brien stated that at this point most calls have been made. The Evangelism Committee will move this project forward by contacting people.

The Senior Citizen Circle at Genoa Care Center:

We continue to gather names of ladies who would like to attend a day-time circle at Genoa Care (along with our church seniors and others there who wish to attend).

ELCA: spoke with Brenda Smith at the ELCA, Chicago, IL regarding ideas for Evangelism under Covid-19. She suggested the following (1) Place an ad in the Suburban Press with the "How can we pray for you" theme. (2) add a coloring page to the grocery distribution bags with a place for kid's prayer request. (3) Use the email/phone prayer list to pray for the unchurched. Fran will with Pastor O'Brien complete these suggestions.

Parish Education: reported that all Easter activities were cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Love Garden has been postponed until the fall. The online activities for the kids will be updated.

Board of Stewardship Report: Reported that Substance Abuse Seminar is being planned to be held in the fall.

Worship Life: reported that while we cannot worship all together right now, virtual services have been fantastic. Thank you to all who have made adjustments to assist with this. Special thanks to Andy Kessler for his generosity with his time and tech skills. Special thanks also to Pastor for his guidance and creative flexibility during this time.

Property: reported the replacing the light in basement to LED and on moving the projector in Sanctuary is half done. Boosted the speed to the internet for the digital services. The lawn mower has been fixed. .

OLD BUSINESS-None

NEW BUSINESS: Asked about communion during this time, were there any options. Pastor O'Brien stated that during this time the Bishop has requested us to abstain.

Next Committee Night May 14 , 2020 at 7:00pm
Council Meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ ____</div>	
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: ____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: ____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> </div>	
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.				
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____					

*If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.
 We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.
 Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.*



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 6 Shane O'Brien
- 13 Olivia Martin
- 20 Seidona Brossia
- 27 Aiden Johnson

Lectors

- 6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 13 Shirley Berger
- 20 Tracy Orians
- 27 Gene Bihn

Ushers

- 6 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
- 13 Tom Truman, Madelayne Saionzkowski
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 20 John & Helen Meyer, Jack Mathews, AJ Rubeis
- 27 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 13 Joan Truman
- 20 Traci Brown
- 27 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

- 6 Jack Mathews
- 13 Joni Hillman
- 20 Dean Lowe
- 27 Arline Sabin

Sound/Projector Techs

- 6 Traci Brown./ Amy Bihn
- 13 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 20 Ron Gerkenmeyer/Amy Bihn
- 27 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 7 Lucas Titgemeyer
- 14 Megan Hoeft
- 21 Lindsey Cashen
- 28 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 7 Tim Totgemeyer
- 14 Mike Mann
- 21 Sophia Cashen
- 28 Deanna Neuman

Ushers

- 7 The Titgemeyer family
- 14 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 21 Dan & Evan Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 28 Jeff Schimming, Fred Lammers, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

- 7 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 14 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 21 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 28 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

- 7 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 14 Nancy Brittain
- 21 Melissa Lammers
- 28 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 7 Debbie Wehner
- 14 Margaret Berger
- 21 Jennifer Delventhal
- 28 Linda Schlievert

Sound/Projector Techs

- 7 Andy Kessler
- 14 Tim Titgemeyer
- 21 Joel Mann
- 28 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

- 7 Puppets
- 14 Caira Goldstein
- 21 Stef Neuman
- 28 Bells



*Thank you for
serving the Lord!
If you cannot
make your
Assignment
OR if you do not
feel comfortable
serving at
this time... please
make
arrangements for
a replacement then
let the office know
as soon as
possible.*

**Remember Summer Worship
hours begin on Sunday June 7th.
Saturday Worship at 5:00 PM
Sunday Worship at 9:00 AM
**All plans are tentative at this time.
Please watch for changes.**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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May 2020



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419-972-4003 (home)

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LisaAnne Gregg,
Office Administrator
Monday –Friday
9:00am-3:00pm
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