

FORERUNNER



Volume 0662
Issue 287
March 2020



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Ask the Pastor



"What is Lent?"

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 26th this year) and concludes on Easter (April 12th). The season of Lent represents the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness immediately following his baptism. (If you noticed that the math doesn't quite work out, you should know the Sundays in Lent don't count. Sundays are always a day of celebration so they are excluded from our time of physical/spiritual fasting.) In the early church, Lent was a time of intensive preparation for catechumens (converts in training) who had been set apart to be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

Now days we don't do many baptisms on Easter Sunday, but the season of Lent is still a time when we refocus our spiritual lives, strengthen our faith journey, and reaffirm the baptismal vows we made long ago.

One of the things we do at St. John to assist people in this time of spiritual refocus is our mid-week Lenten worship; Wednesday mornings at 11a. From March 4 through the 1st of April we will gather in the sanctuary for a time of worship. This year we will focus on the topic of change. We will be welcoming different guest preachers from neighboring Lutheran churches to share God's Word with us each week. If you haven't joined us in the past, I encourage you to stop by to worship, refocus your spiritual life, strengthen your faith, and remember your baptism.

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.



Thanks, Andy!

A huge thank you to Andy Kessler for all of his hard work and expertise with our sound system and mixer. Andy researched, reported to council, and installed the new equipment. He has also agreed to help others learn how to use it as well! Our congregation is very blessed to have such a knowledgeable and generous young man!

Sincerely,
The Worship Life Committee
Traci Brown
Joel Mann
Audrey Milbrodt
Deanna Neuman

Thank You,

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and the cards I received during my recent pacemaker procedure. It is a blessing to be a part of such a wonderful church family, May God Bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely,
Carole Beamer

Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed, attended and helped at our "Olive Branch Restaurant." A special thanks to Carol Vargo, Alice Witt, Marilyn Sandrock and Carolyn Lasseter for all their hard work and dedication! It was delicious!

St. John Youth

Thank you for the help!

Thank you for all who helped at the Genoa Food Pantry on Jan. 18th (a very blustery day) and the restocking and shopping day on the following Friday. We are truly blessed and appreciate all God's people who "feed

His lambs and take care of His sheep." (John 21)

Helping this month were Carole Beamer, Barb & Gene Meyers, Jeanne Davies, Gene Bihn, Justin Tank, Ben, Kim, Anna and Ben Sommers, Carolyn Lasseter, Aiden Johnson, Marilyn Sandrock, Karry and Alea Lock, Katelyn and Luke, Dave Imlay, Charlie Steenbergeron and Ernie Killian.

Sincerely,
Becky Tank and Cindy Hartman

Birthday Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who sent birthday cards to Virgil for his 90th birthday. He received over 70 cards! It was a wonderful blessing to hear from everyone and to know you are thinking of him. He hopes to start taking a few steps soon!

Thanks, again.
Virgil and Betty Roecker

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy, for your thoughtful prayers and your recent gift of \$1454. The work of celebrating life would not be possible without the generosity of friends like you. We thank you for your shared partnership in ministry and the joy that you gift brings to those entrusted in our care.

We are truly blessed to have such faithful and caring neighbors!

Sincerely,
Megan O'Brien
Mission Advancement Director
Luther Home of Mercy

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Corner of Main and Toledo St.

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Fall/Winter Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

April 2020 newsletter is

Monday, March 23rd 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."



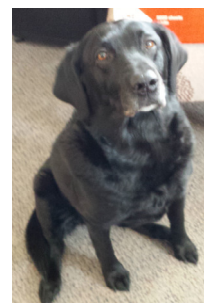
LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator

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 Harriet Tegtmeier
Merle and Shirley Berger

In Memory of Milton Schimming
Mary Schimming

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



ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Doris Titgemeyer
Hostesses: Carol Vargo
JoElaine Schimming

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Carole Beamer

WELCA Board Meeting
Monday March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Hosts for the Lenten Luncheons following

Weds. 11 AM Lenten services this month

March 4– Christian Community Life

March 11– WELCA Board

March 18-Esther Circle

March 25-Rebekah Circle

PRAYERCHAIN



*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 (419-972-4003, cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

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



Celebrating Baptism

Join us as
we welcome

Damien Cardell Allison
into the family of Christ
through Holy Baptism.

Damien is 19 years old and is the son of Angela Moore of Walbridge. His sponsors are Angela Moore and Alice Witt.

Welcome to the family, Damien!

No one should hurt alone.

That's why we have Stephen Ministry.



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.

Lent Midweek Services

Wednesdays at **11:00 AM**



Our Mid-Week Lenten Worship Services begin at 11:00 AM with a message from our “rotating” pastors.

This year, our theme is “Making Change.”

Each week, we will worship at 11:00 AM
and then gather in the basement for food and fellowship.

***March 4-** Pastor Rita Bair – Change of Plans
Lunch by Christian Community Life

***March 11-** Pastor Holli Burkard
Change of Circumstances
Lunch by WELCA Board

***March 18-** Pastor Bob Noble– Change of Heart
Lunch by Esther Circle

***March 25-** Pastor Stephen Bull – Change of Season
Lunch by Rebekah Circle

***April 1–** Pastor Jaci Tiell -Change of Name
Lunch by Church Council

****worship helpers are needed for these
services so please sign up in the Narthex!**

**Our Lenten offerings will support the missions of
The Luther Home of Mercy and
Bistro 163-a local non profit “pay it forward” restaurant.**

Easter Lilies Order by March 18th



Order forms for Easter Flowers will be available in the Forerunner, in the Narthex and in the office.

The order deadline is March 18th. (no late orders, please!)

Please fill out a form, attach your check or cash, and drop it in the offering plate or at the office.

Please mark "EASTER FLOWERS" on your envelope and check and write your name on the envelope.

This year, the white lilies are in 6" pots and contain 5-6 blooms.

They are \$8.25 each.

They will be available for pick up after our Sunday Easter Service.

Easter Lily Order Form

Flowers are white and are in 6" pots -containing 5-6 blooms with gold foil.

Your name _____

Phone _____

Qty. _____ x **\$8.25** each= \$ _____

In loving memory of _____

In Honor Of _____

_____ (check) You may give my Lily (lilies) to one of our Sunshine Friends.

Please place this form and payment in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office. Please remember to write your name on the envelope. Thank You!



**You are invited to join us for
Holy Week Services at St. John**

**Maundy Thursday Service
April 9th at 7:00 PM**

**Good Friday Service
April 10th at 7:00 PM**

**Easter Saturday Worship
April 11th at 5:00 PM**

**Easter Sunday Worship
April 12th at 9:45 AM**

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR



BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

Join us for our Annual **Easter Egg Hunt!**

Saturday, April 11th at
11:00 AM

Children up to 5th grade
are welcome!

Egg Hunt, Goodie bags,
Easter Basket drawing,
Face Painting,
Candy and Lots of Fun!

****Candy is needed.** Please donate
individual wrapped candy pieces
small enough to fit in an egg.
They can be left in the Sunday
School room. Thank you!



Easter Sunday **BREAKFAST**

*Join us for fellowship
and a wonderful
breakfast on
Easter Morning
at 8:30 AM.*

*Scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, sweet
rolls, coffee, tea, milk or juice.
Free Will Offering*

All are welcome!



Join us for a

Love Garden Banquet

Formerly Mother/Daughter Banquet

All Women, Family and Friends

Of St. John's are Invited

April 26, 2020

1:00pm-3:00pm

Tickets:

Adults: \$10.00 - Students: \$5.00 - Children 3 and Under Free

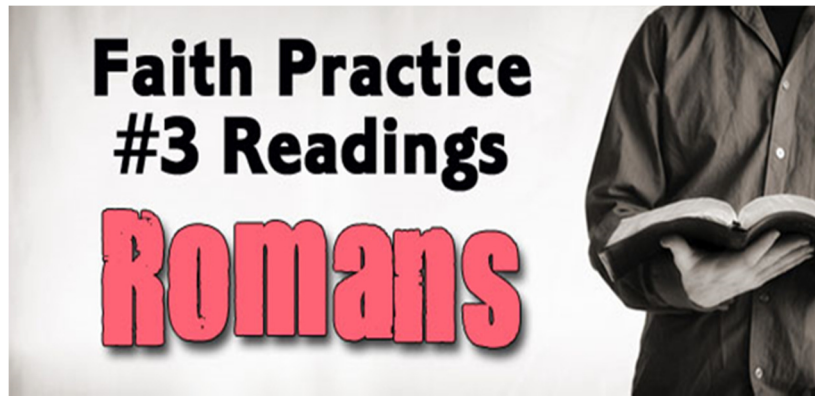
Tickets will be sold before and after church starting:

March 28 to April 19, 2020

If you need tickets contact Tammy Mazur at 419-266-6491

Lunch will be provided

Come celebrate the LOVE within St. John's



Week of March 2

Romans 9

The prophet Hosea (in Hosea 2:23 and 1:10) declares God's right to choose, calling those who previously were not called His people. Isaiah (in Isaiah 10:23 and 1:9) declares God's right to choose a remnant among Israel for salvation.

Week of March 9

Romans 10

Israel seeks to establish its own righteousness rather than submit to the righteousness of God. Whoever, Jew or gentile alike, calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Week of March 16

Romans 11

Has God cast away Israel? Certainly not! God had a specific purpose to fulfill in allowing Israel to stumble – so that salvation would come to the Gentiles. Israel is the root of a tree, whose branches can be removed or grafted on. God's plan for Israel includes their eventual restoration. God's love and calling for Israel still endures.

Week of March 23

Romans 12

Bodies are a living sacrifice to God. You will be transformed by your renewal in the Spirit. Be humble. As a body has many members, so the church has diverse gifts of the Spirit, such as prophesying, ministering, teaching. Treat each other with kindness and toleration. Bless those who persecute you. Do not seek revenge.

Week of March 30

Romans 13

Governments derive their authority from God, and must therefore be obeyed. Christians should do good and be good citizens, paying taxes. Love your neighbor. Let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.



HUMAN LIFE is the **FIRST** and **GREATEST** gift of all and carries great **RESPONSIBILITIES** with it.



LIFE ITSELF IS A STEWARDSHIP

As Christians we know that our lives are sacred trusts.



We are the stewards of those lives; God depends on us to use them to accomplish God's purposes.

MARCH STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that

Yours is “the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.”

We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be.

Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us.

Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.

May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name.

Amen.

When You Think of Stewardship,

What Comes to Mind?

Maybe fundraising or a capital campaign. Possibly taking care of the environment. Or maybe you think it's just a stale old word you've seen in history books. Maybe, if you're being honest, you're not really sure what it means.

The reality is that many people today, including lots of Christians, don't understand the true meaning of stewardship. And that's a tragedy. Why? Because stewardship is our **ultimate calling as Christ followers**.

It's the first assignment God gave the human race in Genesis 1:28. That's when God told Adam and Eve to “have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (NKJV).

Stewardship is managing God's blessings God's ways for God's glory. See, the Bible tells us in Psalm 24:1 that He owns it all: “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof” (KJV).

And if He's the owner, that means we're not. Instead, we're His stewards—His managers. God commands us to be stewards over everything He blesses us with. **Everything. That means our time, talents, treasure, relationships, jobs and, yes, stuff.** It's all God's, and He trusts us with it.

Did you catch that? We *get* to manage all of the *Creator's* stuff. How awesome is that? It's both an honor and a serious responsibility! When we get that in our spirit, well, it changes things. It changes our perspective on our family budgets, our daily decisions, even our purpose in life. When we understand true, biblical stewardship, the trajectories of our lives change with every decision we make.

We begin to build a legacy of stewardship in our families. We treat our spouses and kids differently. We approach our work with a new sense of purpose. We become grateful for everything we have. We live within our means. We have more money to give. And we have hope for the future.

I'm here to tell you that I want to reclaim the word *stewardship* in the church today. But it's up to all of us to make sure every believer understands God's role as owner and our role as stewards. When we get to heaven and have to give an account of how we managed God's resources (1 Corinthians 4:2), I hope God will reply to all of us, “**Well done, good and faithful servant.**”

Taken from Dave Ramsey 3 Minute Reads
www.daveramsey.com

Scrapbooking Crop Fun-raiser!

benefiting Luther Home of Mercy

Saturday,
April 18th

9:00 am- 9:00 pm

Location: Luther Home of Mercy Habilitation Center Gymnasium
5810 N. Main Street, Williston, OH 43468
(See directions on back)

Call your friends to come have some fun as you join us for a day of friendship, fellowship, scrapbooking, card making or your favorite crafting project. Bring your projects and enjoy time with friends. You can have a day of fun and help Luther Home of Mercy, a non-profit for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Included in your fun day for \$35.00:

- Light continental breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Snacks and bottled water
- Full 8 ft. table space
- Raffle prizes (tickets 6 for \$5)
- Help unloading and loading your supplies

\$25.00 Registration option
for Half (4 ft.) table space

Register and pay online at lutherhome.org or make a check payable to Luther Home of Mercy, and mail with registration below to:



Megan O'Brien
5810 N Main St
Williston, OH 43468

Please contact Megan with any
questions at 419-972-4436 or
mobrien@lutherhome.org.

--No Refunds--

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

I need electricity for laptop/Cricut use: Yes _____ No _____ (bring extension cord and power strip just in case)

I would like to be seated near: _____

(We will do our best to accommodate special requests.)

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, April 10th

If you miss the deadline, contact Megan to see if spots are still available.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

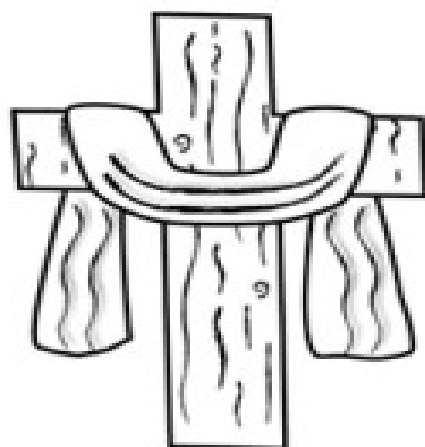
Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?

Lent Prayer with Gestures

- 6, 5, 4... 3, 2, 1 Count the weeks 'til Easter comes. (count on fingers)
- We fast, we give, we always pray. (cover mouth, spread out hands, fold hands)
- Lent means follow Jesus every day. (stand and march in place)
- We rise to life, we die to sin (reach arms up, cross arms over chest)
- Carry your cross. Let us begin! (cross pointer fingers, reach arms up)



© David Woot



Find all ten words:

Jesus
Lent
Ash
Wednesday
Dust
Prayer
Alms
Fasting
Sacrifice
Purple

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | J | E | P | S | A | C | T | A | P |
| E | Q | L | L | U | F | A | W | L | R |
| D | J | G | E | O | R | V | R | M | A |
| N | E | A | F | N | V | P | C | Q | Y |
| E | P | R | R | I | T | E | L | W | E |
| S | A | C | R | I | F | I | C | E | R |
| D | U | S | T | F | W | Y | R | Z | N |
| A | R | Y | H | V | A | L | M | S | D |
| Y | Z | B | J | E | S | U | S | H | U |
| Z | J | F | A | S | T | I | N | G | F |

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD _____

HSESA _____

NLTE _____

TISFGNA _____

One thing I can do during Lent to bring me closer to God...



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



LENT- The Season

I didn't fully appreciate (or understand) liturgical seasons growing up. As a kid, Lent was a baffling time of year that somehow started with a fun pancake party on Shrove Tuesday and took a seriously somber turn PRETTY quickly, culminating in the highly scary Bible slamming during my

church's Good Friday Tenebrae service. Growing up in the deep South, a lot of my Christian friends from non-liturgical traditions didn't observe these seasons or days. It wasn't fair – they didn't give up soda or chocolate or meat for 40 days.

Lent changed for me in middle school when my dad, probably half-serious, half-desperate, suggested that I give up being rude to my sister for Lent. It didn't make any sense to me. What about chocolate?

I was just starting to worry about my waistline anyway, and Lent would be a great time to make a change.

The Word -Isaiah 58: 4 – 9

You fast only to fight.

Is this the kind of fast that I've chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

But this is the fast that I choose:

To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,

To set the oppressed free and break every yoke.

To share your food with the hungry,

To provide the poor wanderer with shelter

When you see the naked, to clothe them,

And to not turn away from your own flesh and blood.

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn and your healing will quickly appear.

Then you will call and the Lord will answer;

You will cry for help and God will say:

Here am I.

The Fast

I heard a (very awesome young adult) pastor, Rev. Erin Coleman Branchaud preach on this text a few weeks ago and explain that this part of Isaiah is about the people of God asking to be recognized for their good fast. God helps them understand what REAL fasting that is pleasing to the Lord looks like.

It looks like fasting from the injustice we participate in every day – knowingly and unknowingly.

Fasting from leaving our neighbors without food and shelter.

Fasting from shame.

Fasting from building walls between us and our loved ones.

Fasting from destroying the earth.

Fasting from fighting with our little sisters.

THIS is part of what Lent is about for us. And maybe sometimes fasting from a specific item or food can be part of this fast. But, as Rev. Coleman Branchaud noted, Lent is not "a baptism of our self-improvement goals".

Lent, a season during which we remember Jesus's 40 days of walking in the wilderness, invites us to reflection, to lament, and to THIS fast – one of

NO PLASTICS FOR LENT

By ELCA Young Adults

justice and peace. Lent welcomes our pain and sorrow and frustration and asks us to lay down the things that keep ourselves and our neighbor in chains. Lent invites us to be intentional, to notice our own habits, and to walk in the liberating steps of our Savior.

The Movement-So why plastics?

This year at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly the body gathered – including a huge number of young adult voting members – called on the ELCA to get serious about its commitment to care for creation.

The **#NoplasticsforLent** initiative, led by young adults across the church, calls us to prayer for creation, to lament the ways we have been complicit in the degradation of the earth, and to action to care for our neighbor in fasting from the things that are hurting our planet.

Our suggestion is that individuals, families, and communities fast for 40 days from single-use plastics.



A few examples of single-use plastics from the World Wildlife Fund

We want this initiative to be accessible to all, and if this is not possible for you in your context or community, we invite you to sustainability practices that make sense for you.

We know that it will take more than giving up plastic cups at communion to heal the earth, but we hope that walking together as the Body of Christ in this initiative during this Lenten season will help us both individually and communally be better neighbors to plants, animals, the earth, and each other in our day-to-day lives. We also hope that it will move us toward more long term justice-seeking for the creation in our care.

We invite you to this Lenten practice of prayer, lament, and fasting as we walk for these 40 days with Christ.

To read the entire blog, visit

<https://blogs.elca.org/youngadults/104/>



Savanna Sullivan serves as the Program Director for ELCA Young Adult Ministries at the ELCA Churchwide Office in Chicago, IL. She was a main stage speaker at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX and gives presentations around the country to ELCA and ecumenical groups about Young Adult culture and empowerment in the church. She is passionate about helping young people seek the Divine in themselves and pushing the church to equip, amplify, and respect the voices of young leaders. She loves banana pudding, the Clemson tigers, and memorizing poems.



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leader's Desk Edition* pg. 617).

I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent...

So, what discipline is God calling you to enter into during this Season of Lent? Self-examination? Repentance? Prayer? Fasting? Sacrificial Giving? Work of Love?

I'm going to spend the next forty days praying with the Jesuits. Bishop John Macholz, who serves as the Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod introduced me to an app called *Pray as You Go*. It is produced by the Jesuits, and I have been "test driving" it for the last few weeks. I like it and will incorporate it into my morning prayer practice during the Season of Lent.

Here is how the *Pray as You Go* app is described on the *Pray as You Go* website.

Pray as You Go is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc.

A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer.

Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.

Our aim is to help you to:

become more aware of God's presence in your life *listen to and reflect on God's word *grow in your relationship with God

The style of prayer is based on Ignatian Spirituality. It is produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives, with material written by a number of Jesuits, both in Britain and further afield, and other experts in the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola. Although the content is different every day, it keeps to the same basic format.

I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent... and I invite you to join me and the Jesuits in prayer using the *Pray as You Go* app.

The *Pray as You Go* app is available for download from *Google Play* and the *App Store*. The icon looks like this:



Bishop Daniel Beaudoin





Substance Abuse Intervention Seminar

St. John Lutheran Church
21140 West Toledo St.
Williston, Ohio

Sponsored by:
St. John Stewardship Committee

Sunday March 15, 2020
5:00pm to ???
Light supper served 5:00pm
Please RSVP

CONTACT: *Mike Mann*
(419) 654-4206

Guest Speakers

Honorable Bruce Winters
Ottawa County
Common Pleas Judge

Mr. Nate Kehlmeier,
Recovery Institute of Ohio



St. John Williston's
STEPHEN MINISTRY
Caring, Sharing & Bearing

Are you in a season of struggle?

Loss, hospitalization, divorce, unemployment, loneliness...
These are just some of the reasons you might need the
support and encouragement of a Stephen Minister.

Learn more & get connected

Council Highlights



What happened at the last meeting?

Council Meeting Highlights- February 20, 2020

Devotions were from Bread for the Day: Psalm 2, led by Pastor O'Brien

Pastor's Report:

Numbers

12 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 4 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events, 4 professional/clergy activities, 2 classes/Bible studies, 1 memorial

Attendance Jan 2019 155 Jan 2020 146

Funeral: I presided at the memorial service for Susan Shrewsbury on January 27th.

Youth:

The youth raised approximately \$1,200 at their spaghetti dinner on February 8th. Thank you to everyone who come our and ate spaghetti. Thank you to parents for all of their hard work and thank you to the younger youth who come to help even though they aren't going on the trip. And a BIG thank you to Carol, Alice, Marilyn and Carolyn for making spaghetti sauce, cooking, serving, cleaning and their many donations.

Ash Wednesday

Worship with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes at 11:00am and 7:00pm

Financial Secretary reported that this position is currently vacant and requested that all council members give suggestions to him to fill this position.

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

reported that expenses are all good and budget figures are based on an average for the year.

The Financial committee is also looking to fill the Financial Secretary position and are hoping to have the position filled next month. A change is being made to the dedicated Fund Balances. The Earl Johnson Future Development money will be a stand alone listing and no longer under the memorial funds. The Financial committee made a motion recommending that the Lenten offering be distributed to both the Luther Home Mercy and Bistro 163.

President requested a motion to accept all committee chairs serving in the first year of their elected term. Motion was approved.

Christian Community Life Gave a BIG thank you to everyone that worked the pantry on Jan 18th. In January the pantry served 29 families with a total of 71 patrons. The next month we serve is June.

We will be selling the Bauman car raffle tickets again in the spring. We talked about what food we were having and decided what items each of us were getting for the Strove Pancake Diner on February 25th. We are very fortunate the Kapp family will be providing the sausage. A BIG THANK YOU TO THE KAPP FAMILY. We have a sign-up sheet out and can still use some HELP. Our committee is in charge of the first Lenten Lunch on March 4th. Plans were made that we are making sider sandwiches and soup. We also discussed ideas for Mother and Father's Day. We will discuss this next month.

Evangelism: reported that the two new members were welcomed to the committee by naming them co-chairs for the 2020 calendar year. Archives and supplies were stored in the area above the church secretary's office. The past four years monthly reports were reviewed to capture past activities and create calendar remainders. Madeline and Mark will continue to hand out gift bags to visitors after Saturday service; Melissa and Franny will hand out gift bags after Sunday services. We are looking for long-times members who would be willing to stand with us to assist in identifying visitors. We are gathering donations for the Easter basket to be awarded at the Easter egg hunt. We are taking suggestions for a logo to be used for pasting in the bulletin insert and newsletter relating to Faith Practice 5, which the committee will be promoting this year as we invite others into a loving relationship with Jesus.

Parish Education: Tammy Mazur is putting together gift bags and preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter breakfast. Souper Bowl Sunday donations collected were \$538.00. Tammy, Melissa and Carol are planning on going through the Christmas Pageant costumes to sort out the old ones and determine what new ones are needed.

Board of Stewardship Report: reported that the Substance Abuse Intervention Seminar will be held on March 15th in the Social Hall here at St John Lutheran church. The speakers will be the Honorable Judge Winters and Mr. Nate Kehlmeier. Thank you to Tom Cashen for

agreeing again to host the next Golf Tournament in September.

Worship Life: reported that we will again have services on Wednesdays at 11am and will have rotating pastors. Sign up sheets are in the narthex for worship assistants. Ash Wednesday still has some open spots and has the sign-up sheets with her. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will be at 7:00pm. The Sound system/mixer installation is completed. Arrangements are being made with Andy Kessler for training. Phil Milbrodt has written up directions for recording with the service and copying to CD's.

Property: reported they are currently replacing the light in basement to LED and on moving the projector in Sanctuary. Committee is also insulating the pipes in West boiler room.

OLD BUSINESS: reported that the Scout flag holder has been found but the Projector is still missing.

NEW BUSINESS: presented the results of the 2019 surplus based on the benevolence ideas made by the congregation; they are as follows:

| <u>2019 Overage</u> | <u>\$\$</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| HVAC | 5,387 | Largest Congregational Recommendation |
| Matt Milbrodt | 2,500 | Still need to understand financial aid, etc. |
| Scholarships | 2,500 | Recommend increasing Tank scholarship |
| Luther Home | 1,500 | Additional to Lenten offering |
| Marching Band | 1,300 | 2 - band uniforms |
| Ottawa C. FAC | 500 | |
| Just Pancakes | 500 | |
| Marketplace for All | 500 | |
| Sleep in Heavenly Peace | 500 | Additional to Lenten offering |
| Bistro 163 | 500 | |
| Foreign Missions | - | Future TBD |
| Total | 15,687 | |

Next Committee Night March 12 , 2020 at 7:00pm
Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 19 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

St John Lutheran Church Council 2020

Rick Buhrow, President
Diana Pfaff, Vice President
Marcia Morgan, Secretary
Open, Financial Secretary
Kent Deventhal, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Fred Lammers
Finance

Cheryl Berger
Community Christian Life

Fran Cranfield and Melissa Hays
Evangelism

Melissa Lammers and Kim Sommers
Parish Education

Mike Mann
Stewardship

John Mazur
Property

Deanna Neuman and Traci Brown
Worship Life

***Meeting Minutes of the
2020 Annual Congregational
Meeting
held on January 19th
are available in
the church office.***

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



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.



March

Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 7 Aidan Johnson
- 14 Shane O'Brien
- 21 Ben Sommers
- 28 David Nissen

Lectors

- 7 Beverly Harder
- 14 Doris Titgemeyer
- 21 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 28 Gene Bihn

Ushers

- 7 John and Helen Meyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 14 Madelayne Saionzkowski, Jack Mathews
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
- 21 Marty and Owen Schloegl
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 28 David Lee Family

Communion Servers

- 7 Gene Bihn, Nancy Strohscher, Al Brown
- 14 Doris Titgemeyer, JoElaine Schimming, Wayne Bauman
- 21 Carol Vargo, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 28 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Al Brown

Communion Set-up

- 7 Dilly Schimming
- 14 Ruth Petersen
- 21 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 28 Brenda Keeley

Door Greeters

- 7 Jack Mathews
- 14 Arline Sabin
- 21 Dean Lowe
- 28 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

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



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 1 Megan Hoeft
- 8 Lindsey Cashen
- 15 Lucas Titgemeyer
- 22 Jake Titgemeyer
- 29 Megan Hoeft

Lectors

- 1 Roland Sandrock
- 8 Marcia Morgan
- 15 Ann Mann
- 22 Melissa Lammers
- 29 Jill Kao

Ushers

- 1 Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 8 Dave Neuman, Heather and Sophia Cashen
- 15 Dan & Evan Kessler, Jennifer Delventhal
- 22 Lammers Family
- 29 Bob Bench Family

Communion Servers

- 1 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 8 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
- 15 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 22 Heather Cashen, Ann & Mike Mann
- 29 Roland Sandrock, Margaret Berger, Bob Kapp

Communion Set-up

- 1 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 8 Diana Pfaff
- 15 Deanna Neuman
- 22 Melissa Lammers
- 29 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 1 Debbie Wehner
- 8 Margaret Berger
- 15 Linda Schlievert
- 22 Tim Titgemeyer
- 29 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

- 1 Paul Beamer
- 8 Andy Kessler
- 15 Joel Mann
- 22 Tim Titgemeyer
- 29 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

- 1 Bells
- 8 Stef Neuman
- 15 Puppets
- 22 Caira Goldstein
- 29 Bells



*Watch for sign up
sheets in the Narthex
for and Lenten Services
and Easter Week
Services worship
needs.
Thank you!*



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

4 Kennedy Donnelly
11 Olivia Martin
18 Seidona Brossia
25 Aiden Johnson

Lectors

4 Diane Gerkenismeyer
11 Shirley Berger
18 Tracy Orians
25 Gene Bihn

Ushers

4 Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
11 Tom Truman, Madelayne Saionzkowski
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
18 John & Helen Meyer, Jack Mathews, AJ Rubeis
25 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

4 Al Brown, Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
11 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, JoElaine Schimming
18 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Diane Gerkenismeyer
25 Wayne Bauman, Al Brown, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

4 Diane Gerkenismeyer
11 Joan Truman
18 Traci Brown
25 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

4 Jack Mathews
11 Joni Hillman
18 Dean Lowe
25 Arline Sabin

Sound/Projector Techs

4 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
11 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
18 Ron Gerkenismeyer/Amy Bihn
25 Phil and JJ Milbrodt

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

5 Lucas Titgemeyer
12 Megan Hoeft
19 Lindsey Cashen
26 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

5 Diana Pfaff
12 Mike Mann
19 Sophia Cashen
26 Deanna Neuman

Ushers

5 The Titgemeyer Family
12 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
19 Dan & Evan Kessler, Bob Kapp
26 Jeff Schimming, Fred Lammers, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

5 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
12 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
19 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
26 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

5 Pam LaRue
12 Nancy Brittain
19 Melissa Lammers
26 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

5 Marcia Morgan
12 Margaret Berger
19 Jennifer Delventhal
26 Linda Schlievert

Sound/Projector Techs

5 Andy Kessler
12 Tim Titgemeyer
19 Joel Mann
26 Paul Beamer

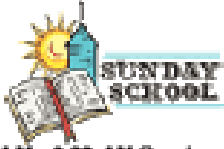










Children's Moments

5 Stef Neuman
12 Caira Goldstein
19 Puppets
26 Bells

*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.*



March 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|-----------|---|
| 1  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting | 2 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study | 3 10:00 AM Blankets 7:00 PM Rebekah and Esther Circles | 4  Lenten MEALS 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lenten Worship and Lunch | 5 | 6 | 7 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 8  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting | 9 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study 6:30 PM Scout Committee Meeting 7:00 PM WELCA Board | 10 10:00 AM Blankets | 11  Lenten MEALS 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lenten Worship and Lunch | 12 7:00 PM Committee Night | 13 | 14 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 15  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting | 16 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study | 17  10:00 AM Blankets | 18  Lenten MEALS Easter Flower Order Deadline 9AM 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lenten Worship and Lunch | 19 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 20 | 21 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 22  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout Court of Honor | 23 9:00 AM FORERUNNER Deadline 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study | 24 10:00 AM Blankets | 25  Lenten MEALS 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lenten Worship and Lunch | 26 10:00 AM FORERUNNER Mail Group | 27 | 28 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 29  SUNDAY SCHOOL Scout Blue & Gold Banquet 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting | 30 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study | 31 10:00 AM Blankets | 1  Lenten MEALS 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lenten Worship and Lunch | 2 | 3 | 4 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Volume 0662 Issue 2287
March 2020**



March 2020



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419-972-4003 (home)

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pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours
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