

**LET JUSTICE  
ROLL ON LIKE  
A RIVER,**

**RIGHTEOUSNESS  
LIKE A NEVER-FAILING  
STREAM.**

AMOS 5:24

**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 7th and 8th**



[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)

November 7th and 8th

Pentecost 23

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**WELCOME  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**I'll Fly Away**

Some glad morning when my life is o'er ... I'll fly away.  
To a home on God's celestial shores ... I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, O Glory ... I'll ... Fly away.  
When I die, hallelujah by and by ... I'll ... Fly away.

Just a few more weary days and then ... I'll fly away.  
To a land where joy shall never end ... I'll fly away.

I'll fly away, O Glory ... I'll ... Fly away.  
When I die, hallelujah by and by ... I'll ... Fly away.

I'll fly away, O Glory ... I'll ... Fly away.  
When I die, hallelujah by and by ... I'll ... Fly away.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**ALL: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Leader: Holy one,

**ALL: We confess that we are not alert for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Leader: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**ALL: Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Amos 5:18-24**

Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

### **SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**GOSPEL****Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**SERMON****Pastor Shawn O'Brien****HYMN****This Little Light of Mine**

This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine  
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Won't let Satan blow it out...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Won't let Satan blow it out...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine till Jesus comes...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine till Jesus comes...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine till Jesus comes...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine...I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

Leader: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Leader: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Hear us, O God

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God

**ALL: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**ALL: Amen.**

## **OUR OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: God of all goodness, generations have turn to you, gathered around your table and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**ALL: Amen**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**



P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

*Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

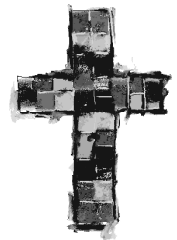
**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**



### **BLESSING**

Leader: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Spirit, be with you

## CLOSING SONG

## I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin. I wouldn't let me dear Savior in.  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I saw the light, I saw the light No more dark-ness, no more night.  
Now I'm so hap-py, no sor-row in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Just like a blind man I wandered along. Worries and fears I claimed for my own.  
Then like a blind man that God gave back his sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I saw the light, I saw the light No more dark-ness, no more night.  
Now I'm so hap-py, no sor-row in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I was a fool to wander and stray. Straight is the gate and narrow the way.  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

I saw the light, I saw the light No more dark-ness, no more night.  
Now I'm so hap-py, no sor-row in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

## DISMISSAL

Leader: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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## Our Weekly Announcements

## ***This Week at St. John***

Tues: Blankets 9:00 AM

Sat: Worship 5:00 PM

Sun: Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sun: Worship 9:45 AM

**WELCA News**

## WELCA Board Meeting

Monday Nov. 16th, 7pm in the Social Hall.



### ***In our Prayers***

Mark Witt-medical concerns  
Mary Schimming– medical concerns  
Marvel Nelson– medical concerns  
Dave Jensen– medical concerns  
Audry S.-medical concerns

### ***Fall Worship Hours***

**Saturday 5 PM \* Sunday 9:45**

We hope you will rejoin us for Worship on Saturdays at 5 PM or Sundays at 9:45 AM, however, if you do not feel comfortable coming to church ...that's ok!

You will still be able to join us on Facebook or on our YouTube channel for a live stream of worship.

The weekly bulletin is also available on our website. **[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org)**

If you or someone you know would like a recording of the worship service, please let the office know and we will drop off or mail you a CD and bulletin.

### ***Altar Flowers***

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Timothy Berger, husband and father by Cheryl Berger, Kelly and Craig Morse, Jeremiah Berger and Shelby Barney.



The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God in memory of Joe Vargo and Al (Bud) Vargo by Carol Vargo, Mike and Tracy, Payton, Kennedy Donnelly, Joey and Denise Vargo, Michelle, Rocky Maix and family.



### ***SUNDAY SCHOOL!***

Sunday School is in progress! You can still join us!

**Classes for all ages begin at 8:30 AM.**

We will be social distancing and sanitizer will be available. Please wear your mask.

## *Office Hours*

At this time, Pastor O'Brien and the office staff will maintain office hours Mon-Fri from 830am to 230pm. If you need something, please call 419-836-5514 ahead of time. If the door is locked, please ring the bell. You may also email/text Pastor O'Brien 419-378-1112  
**[pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org)**

## *Holy Communion during times of COVID*

We have adapted an order for the "Distribution of Holy Communion To Those in Special Circumstances". If you would like share the Lord's Supper with a family member who is unable to be present for our celebration of Holy Communion - and you can do it safely; its someone who lives in your home or someone you provide care for – talk to Pastor O'Brien following worship and he will share how that works.

***\*\*There will be no Esther Circle meeting for November due to Ottawa County being at a RED COVID level. \*\****



## ***The St. John Mini Pantry /Blessing Box is Open!***

The St. John Mini Pantry will be stocked with ready to eat or easily prepared food items and hygiene items available to those in our community who may need a little help. We accept donation of non expired non perishable food items anytime. We are also accepting donations of travel size personal items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, travel size tissues and shampoo.



***Shopping with the Stars***  
*Help bring joy to our neighbors at  
Luther Home of Mercy.*



How? Pick a star from the table located outside the church office and purchase a gift for one of our neighbors at the Luther Home of Mercy.  
No wrapping needed!

Just place the gift in a shopping bag or a gift bag, attach the star, and return it to the church office by ***Wednesday December 4th.***

Most of the gift items are very inexpensive but bring great joy to the residents of the Luther Home of Mercy.



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***HOME OF THE FREE, BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE.***

Thank you to all our military personnel for the sacrifices you have made for our freedom.

Happy Veteran's Day  
Wednesday November 11th.

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**Did you know St. John offers online giving?**

We process giving through VANCO, a nationally recognized leader in church giving. It's easy, it's secure and you can get started today! Just fill out an authorization form and see Amelia in the office.

**Christian Community Life is looking for a Volunteer (or 2) to be on the BOARD for the GENOA FOOD PANTRY ! This would involve going to their meetings and be our church's connection to the upcoming events of the Food Pantry.**

**WORKERS ARE NEEDED!**

**It is our turn to work the pantry on Nov. 21st. from 9:00 am to noon.**

**Please call Cindy Hartman 419-304-0071 or Cheryl Berger 419-345-3941 if you are able to help.**

**Please wear a mask. This would be a good time to see our work in progress, if you are interested in becoming a PANTRY BOARD MEMBER!**



*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!



**The Stephen Ministers at St. John are here for you.  
If you need assistance, support, information or would just like to talk...call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at (419) 836-5514 to be put in contact with one of our Stephen Ministers.**