



April 2024 FORERUNNER



Volume 0711
Issue 336

St. John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

What is our next Faith Practice Reading?

Starting in April, we will be reading the book of Hebrews. The book of the Bible we call "Hebrews" was actually a letter written primarily to Jewish Christians. The recipients were likely Jewish believers in Jesus Christ who were facing various challenges, including persecution and the temptation to revert to their familiar practices under the Mosaic Law. The author endeavors to strengthen their faith, encourage perseverance, and provide a robust theological foundation for understanding the significance of Jesus Christ in relation to the Old Testament scriptures and the covenantal traditions of Judaism. The letter is filled with references to the Old Testament, including the use of Hebrew scripture and the mentioning of key figures and events from Jewish history. This suggests that the audience was well-acquainted with the Old Testament and the customs associated with Judaism. The author aims to demonstrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and types in Jesus Christ, emphasizing that he is the ultimate and superior High Priest, the perfect sacrifice, and the mediator of a new and superior covenant.



Hebrews can be divided into two main sections. The first section (Chapters 1-10) establishes the superiority of Jesus Christ over the angels, Moses, and the Levitical priesthood. The author emphasizes Christ's role as the final and ultimate revelation of God to humanity, surpassing the prophets and angels who played significant roles in the Old Testament. The sacrificial system of the Levitical priesthood is portrayed as insufficient, with Jesus presented as the perfect High Priest who offered himself as the ultimate and eternal sacrifice for the redemption of humanity.

The second section (Chapters 11-13) takes a more practical and persuasive tone, encouraging believers to endure in their faith amidst trials and challenges. The famous "faith chapter" (Chapter 11) highlights the exemplary faith of various Old Testament figures and serves as an inspiration for the readers to persevere. The author also provides practical exhortations for holy living, emphasizing the importance of love, hospitality, and obedience to spiritual leaders. The letter concludes with a call to fix one's eyes on Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of faith, and to remain steadfast in the face of difficulties.

Our reading schedule is as follows: for the week starting...

April 8 – Hebrews 1	May 6 – Hebrews 5	June 3 – Hebrews 9
April 15 – Hebrews 2	May 13 – Hebrews 6	June 10 – Hebrews 10
April 22 – Hebrews 3	May 20 – Hebrews 7	June 17 – Hebrews 11
April 29 – Hebrews 4	May 27 – Hebrews 8	June 24 – Hebrews 12
		July 1 – Hebrews 13

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.



Spring Prayer

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
 For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
 For song of bird, and hum of bee;
 For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky;
 For pleasant shade of branches high;
 For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
 For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Memorials
and gifts



In Memory of Kathryn Wilka

- Lowell and Diane Hartman
- Dennis and Cindy Hartman
- Debbie and Robin Aldray
- Kathy and Steve Wegman
- Jane and Richard Phillips
- LisaAnne Gregg
- Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
- Beth Johnson
- Mary Harmeyer
- Diane Dickinson
- Gertrude Eckerman
- Carol Vargo
- Alice Witt
- Carole Beamer
- Alice Siglar
- Dennis and Bette Wiegman
- Evalyn Witty
- Carolyn Lasseter
- Marilyn Sandrock
- Jeff and Karen Lemke
- Larry and Nancy Strohscher
- Margaret Berger
- JoElaine Schimming
- Darlene Carstensen
- Brenda, Randy and Tonya Carstensen
- Randy Cook and Rite Lemke
- Doris Titgemeyer
- Tom and Joan Truman
- David and Marrilee Hitchen
- Sue Avers and Kenneth Heins
- Diane Krumnow
- Russ Bower
- Wayne and Sharon Lemke
- John & Helen Meyer
- Leslie and Linda Wyse
- Craig & Sharon Traver
- Edna Rideout
- Tim & Cindy Calhoun
- Linda Schlievert
- Elaine Gruetter

In Memory of Rick Polsdorfer

- Linda Schlievert

In Memory of Ronald Schimming

- Carol Vargo

Thank You!

Thank you to my St. John Family for all the prayers, cards, food and visits while I was ill. I am feeling better day by day. I appreciate all your support!

Carolyn Lasseter

Thank you!

Thank you to Pastor O'Brien and the St. John family for the thoughts and prayers during my recovery from knee cap surgery. Special thanks to Margaret Berger for the card, visit and flowers.

Your prayers are a blessing to me!
Amy Bihn

Thank You!

A big thank you to the St. John Painting Crew aka the Property Committee! The ladies room on the west side is now complete and looking fresh! They also painted the Sunday School room used for Confirmation Class which also looks great! The students picked out the paint color and did a great job. Just where will the brushes and rollers go next??

Easter Blessings!

Thank you to all who helped in anyway during Holy Week and at our Easter Events.
Thanks to the St. John Choir for performing the Good Friday Cantata -The Seven Last Days.
Thanks to all who contributed candy, helped stuff eggs and handed out candy at the Easter Egg Hunt.
A big thank you to all who helped, cooked, served and attended the Easter Breakfast. And a big "well done" to those who helped and participated in our Easter Services.
Special thanks to Pastor Shawn for leading us through Holy Week and into the Easter Season with meaning and gratitude.
He is Risen! Alleluia!

The Forerunner
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@stjohnwilliston.org

Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM

Sunday School for the
whole family 8:30 AM
on the first Sunday of the Month

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the
May 2024 newsletter is
Monday, April 22nd 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



LisaAnne Gregg
Office Admin.
9am—3pm
M-T-W
Thurs. hours
may vary
Office closed
on Friday₂

Circle and Board Meetings

April 2024

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 2 at 12:30 PM
Kitchen cleaning, bible study and fellowship

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Group discussion

In March, the pantry was cleaned and refreshed from top to bottom. All shelves have been wiped down and some sorting has been completed. It would be greatly appreciated if everything that is used is put back where it was found. Many thanks in advance for helping up to keep our kitchen clean and tidy!

spring's prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the change of seasons. As I leave behind a winter that wore out its welcome, I step into spring with a fresh heart, ready for nature to take its course. May this season bring joy and light, peace and prosperity, and a spirit in full bloom.



prayables.com

The light shines in the darkness and
the darkness did not overcome it.

~ John 1:5

Be The Light!

*A Gathering for Women of the
North Central Conference of the ELCA NWO Synod
Sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Hope Lutheran Church*

**Saturday, April 27th from 8:30 to 12:00
at Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

220 Cedar Street, Pemberville Ohio 43450

Registration cost: \$10.00 ~ Check-in: 8:30 – 9:00

Breakfast will be provided ~ Bethlehem is handicap accessible

Guests:

Chris Budke - Bible Study Leader

The Light Still Shines: John 1:1-18

Sonfire by the River praise band

NAMI of Wood County staff—QPR Training

Representatives from NAMI Wood County will be presenting QPR Training. QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer. Three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. In as little as an hour, you will learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide, know how to offer help, and know how to get help to save a life. This course is for anyone, including parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, teachers, pastors, doctors, nurses, police officers, supervisors, caseworkers, firefighters, and many others who are strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide.

Offering: A monetary offering will be received at the gathering which will be divided between NAMI of Wood County and NWO Synodical Women of ELCA.

2024 Spring Gathering mail-in registration form

Must be postmarked by April 15.

Mail to:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 344
Pemberville, Ohio 43450

See other side for online registration option

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Church: _____

Payment:

Check included (payable to: Bethlehem Lutheran Women)

Check includes additional \$ _____ for offering (for NAMI & NWOsw)

Will pay by cash at event



In Loving Memory of Kathryn M. Wilka 1928-2024

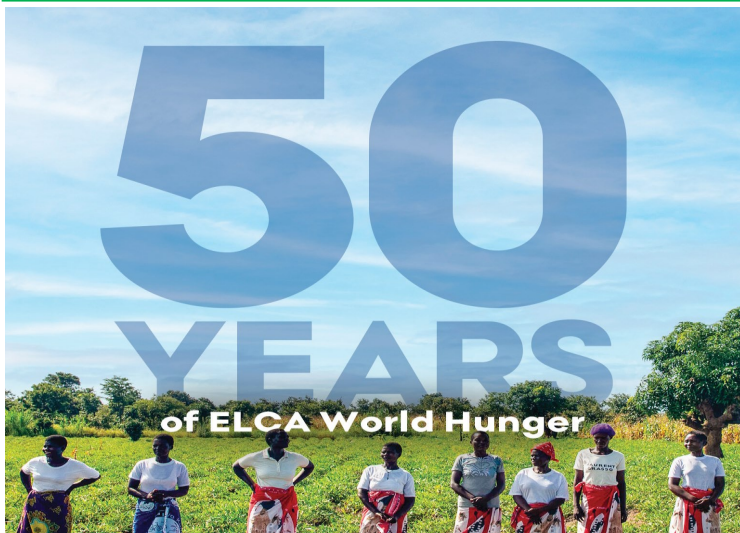
Kathryn Mathilda Wilka, age 95 passed away Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at Peabody Retirement Home, New Manchester, IN. She was born November 19, 1928, in Graytown, Ohio and graduated from Harris Elmore High School in 1946. She married Richard H. Wilka on April 17, 1948, in Elmore and he preceded her in death on March 5, 1977.

She led an active life and had a strong work ethic. As a farmer's daughter she worked in the fields alongside her siblings. During her high school years, she worked part-time for neighbors and friends and at the former Elmore Basket Factory. After graduation she worked at different companies in Toledo. After marriage she was a homemaker for several years before returning to work at several local companies, including the Genoa Area Schools as a secretary - over the years working at all four schools. Her last employment was at Genoa Motors retiring in 2001 at the age of 72, after 30 years of service. Retirement included volunteering at St. Charles Hospital for several years as well traveling to visit friends and family, visiting most of the 48 adjacent states and trips to Germany, Italy, Canada and Mexico. Kathryn had many other interests to fill her days - she was an excellent seamstress making clothes not only for her family but for many others including wedding and bridesmaid dresses. She loved playing cards with friends and enjoyed cooking and baking for family gatherings and friends.

She was an active participant in her church and community activities. As a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, Ohio, she served in a variety of positions including on the church board, The Women of the Church, singing in the choir, and teaching Sunday School. Kathryn was a strong advocate for 4-H in Ottawa county serving as a 4-H leader in Allen Township for over 20 years as well as serving on various county committees and projects promoting 4-H. She was honored to be the first delegate selected from Ottawa county to attend the National 4-H Convention in Washington D.C.

Survivors include: daughter Suzanne of San Diego, CA, son Donald (Hannelore) of Warsaw, IN. granddaughters Nicole (David) Porter of Winona Lake, IN, Adrienne Miller of Noblesville, IN. grandson Eric (Meghan Buchanan) Wilka of Opelika, AL. Great granddaughters Abbigail, Clara and Elizabeth Porter, Else, Mallory and Rosalie Miller and great grandson Vaughn Miller. And many caring loving nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents - William A. H. Lemke and Eva B. (Sampson) Lemke, husband Richard, daughter Lori Jean, sisters - May, Ruth, Irene, Lois, and Lucille, brothers - John, Richard, Walter and Paul.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be directed to St. John Lutheran Church, 21140 W. Toledo St. Williston OH or The Ottawa County 4-H Endowment Fund - 240 W. Lake St., Unit C, Oak Harbor, OH 43449.



For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger.

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Will you join us?

50
years



ELCA
World Hunger

Our Lenten Offerings have been dedicated to ELCA World Hunger. Want to give more? You can give anytime! Just make your check out to St. John and we will make sure your blessing is passed along! Happy 50th ELCA World Hunger!

News around St. John!

April
7th

Join us for SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We host Sunday School for the **WHOLE FAMILY**
on the 1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 AM

Come join us and enjoy music, bible stories, crafts and videos!
It is fun and learning for everyone! See you on April 7th!



McDonalds Breakfast

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



April 14th and April 28th

We will gather following
Sunday worship (11:00ish)

and have pizza while we watch!

We welcome anyone to join us. If you miss an episode or need to catch up, you can find the show at <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>

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

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Matthew 21:22

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (cell phone 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

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



You're Invited!

SEEKERS in SNEAKERS
Discover Jesus!

Will you STEP UP??

Volunteers needed for VBS!

St. John Vacation Bible School

will be held June 3-7 from 9-noon.

Adults and kids 6th grade and older needed to lead groups, run crafts, music, snacks, and games, help with opening and closing.

Please contact Stefanie Hill at shill@stjohnwilliston.org or Deanna Neuman at dneuman2@stjohnwilliston.org.

Service hours can be earned!

Stewardship



Let us pray,

God of love, source of mercy and compassion, weave your dream for the world into the fabric of our lives. Remove the scales from our eyes and lift the indifference from our hearts, so that we may see your vision – a new reign of justice and compassion that will renew the earth.

Transform our lives, so that we may accomplish your purpose. Anoint us with your spirit of love that we might bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim release to the captive.

Give us a new urgency and a new commitment to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and visit those who live in isolation. Help us to reach out to those whom no one else will touch, to accept the unacceptable, and to embrace the enemy.

Surround us with your love, fill us with your grace, and strengthen us for your service. Empower us to respond to the call of Jesus to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses, and to follow. Make us your disciples.

Amen.

-Kurt Struckmeyer

GOD'S WORD

Stewardship Week by Week

April 7 – Easter 2

John 20:19 – “Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” The peace we have in Jesus is what makes a life of good works possible. Since we know that it is Jesus who saved us, and not our works, we are now free to do good works not out of self-interest, but for the right reasons: out of thanksgiving toward God and love for our neighbors.

April 14 – Easter 3

1 John 3:2 – “Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection, but in the meantime, we strive toward that goal because we want to walk in the footsteps of our Lord. By His grace we share His destiny in eternal life, and therefore we desire to share His life of service now.

April 21 – Easter 4

John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord's grace.

April 28 – Easter 5

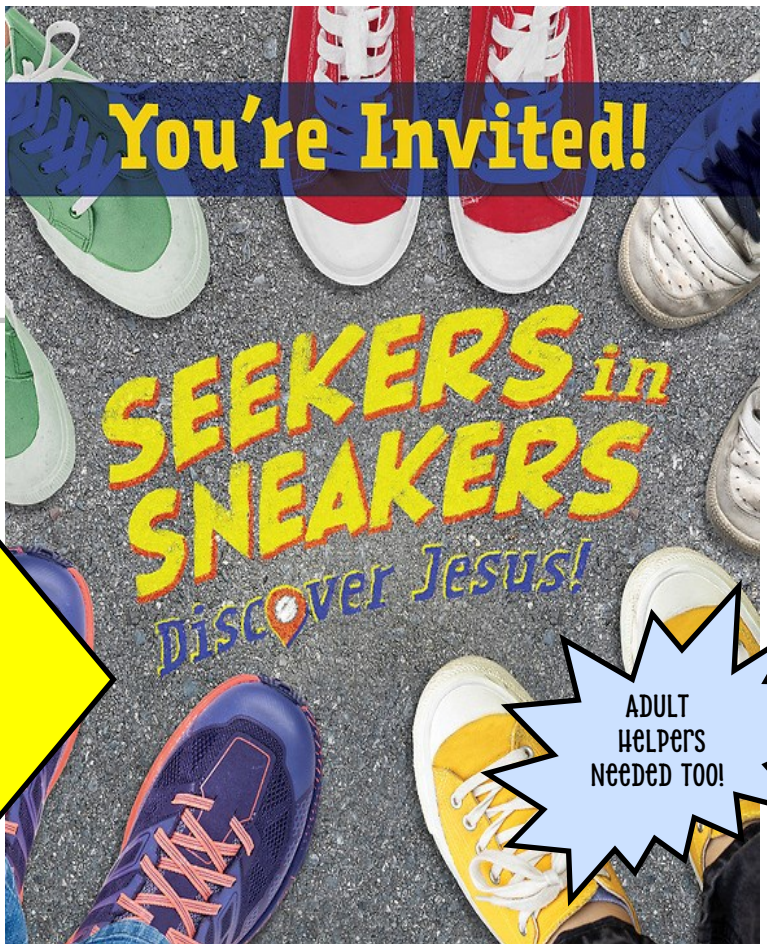
John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.

Online Giving
Easy & Secure Available Now

Online giving is now available at St. John.

Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the “online giving” link at the top of the page.

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

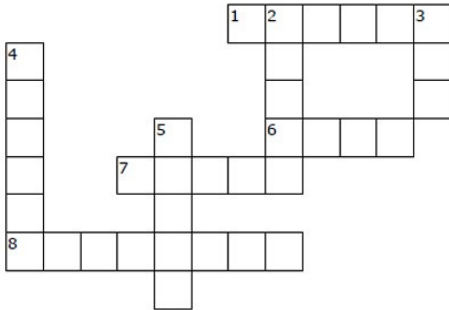


Vacation Bible School is Coming!
Mark your calendar! June 3-7 from 9-noon.
Invite your friends!!

Seeing Is Believing

So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 20:19-31.



ACROSS

- 1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- 6. An entrance into a building or room
- 7. A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
- 8. Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

- 2. The body parts at the end of the arms
- 3. To observe with your eyes
- 4. Not open
- 5. To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH	THOMAS	CLOSED	NAILS
HANDS	SEE	DOUBTING	DOOR



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 But [Thomas] said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." (John 20:24-29)



North Central Conference-Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Rogation Days 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

No Farm, No Food. This popular statement is most certainly true. In Northwestern Ohio farming is a way of life for many who sit in the pews of area Lutheran Churches. We want to honor and celebrate this important work. Without local farms and farmers our lives would be held hostage by huge corporate conglomerates that look out for their own bottom line, not the well-being of consumers.

How can the church assist farmers during the planting season? **Rogation Days** is an ancient church blessing of farms, farm animals, and farm equipment, around the time of Ascension Day, which is 40 days after Easter. Starting in Europe during the time of the Reformation, church leaders would bless the ground, and animals that would provide the food at the fall harvest. Many of our congregations celebrate Harvest days in the fall; we should also do the same at the beginning of the cycle of planting, growing, and feeding what will produce that harvest in the fall.

We have heard from one church member, “my grandfather never planted a seed until after Ascension Day.” This idea certainly comes from the European tradition of Rogation Days. While times have changed and planting is dictated by different metrics, receiving the gift of God’s blessing, for the creation of food for God’s people, is a metric that is timeless. **The pastors of the North Central Conference would like to join together to present the first annual Rogation Days festival.**

Teams of pastors and lay leaders will travel around our conference to different farms which desire to receive a blessing of fields, livestock, and equipment. We will not take too much of your valuable time. The dates for the rogation blessings will be May 6,7, and 8. Times will be determined by the interest generated. Please sign up with your congregation.

Thursday May 9th, 2024 is Ascension Day. Our Conference Dean Pastor Shawn O’Brien would like to invite everyone to a special dinner and worship service at Solomon Lutheran church in Woodville Ohio. The start time for the dinner will be 6:00 PM with worship starting at 7:30. Please set some time away from your work to join us for a time of blessing, renewal.

Yours in Christ, Co-chairs of the Festival,

Pastor Alan Brown Pastor Bob Noble
Solomon Lutheran Church Calvary and Christ Lutheran

There will be a sign up sheet near Pastor O’Brien’s office door.
Sign up today!



A Time for Rest-2024

“Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son, or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it” (Exodus 20:8-11).

How do we keep the Sabbath holy? As Lutheran Christians many of us were taught through Luther’s Small Catechism to keep the Sabbath holy by fearing and loving God, “...so that we do not despise preaching or His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” According to Luther, the Sabbath was less about rest and more about attending public worship and making use of God’s Word and Sacraments. Participating in public worship is important. Taking a day for rest is also important. Both practices (worship and rest) are sacred and draw us deeper into a relationship with the living God. We need to worship, and we need to rest.

In Exodus, the keeping of Sabbath is directly tied to work. **“For six days you shall labor and do your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God, and you shall not do any work.”** God’s people are called to a seventh day of rest, as God rested from creation on the seventh day. And not only did God rest, but God also **“blessed the Sabbath Day and consecrated it.”** God made the seventh day holy, and we keep the Sabbath holy through the spiritual practice of rest.

For thousands of years God’s people have put God’s gift of Sabbath rest into practice. And in this Year of Rest, I’m going to give it a try, or at least “fail forward” in my attempt to keep the Sabbath holy. “Failing forward” is a favorite phrase of mine. When you tinker with a new endeavor, you don’t always succeed the first time. Failing forward is learning from your failure, adapting your approach, and trying it again, and again, and again. Tinker and try long enough and you will learn to master the new practice.

April '24

	Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Spiritual	Physical
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.” <small>Psalm 139:1-2</small>	1 Enjoy a favorite food	2 Write down a moment you tried something new	3 Pray for the people of peace in your life	4 Find local art in your community	5 Write a thank you note to someone	6 Spend 3 minutes being still	
“Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” <small>Psalms 33:3</small>	7 Write down 3 things you’re grateful for	8 Close your eyes, breathe deeply for 1 minute	9 Take some time to be alone today	10 Give someone a compliment	11 Take a walk on your lunch break or after work	12 Ask someone how you can pray for them	13 Add 1 new thing to your sleep routine for the next month
“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.” <small>Psalm 23:1-2</small>	14 Spend 5 minutes de-cluttering your home	15 Find a flower and smell it	16 Check in: How are you really feeling today?	17 Take 1 thing off your calendar	18 Schedule “self-care time” for this upcoming week	19 Spend 1 minute looking at the clouds or the stars	20 Unclench your jaw, release your shoulders, take a deep breath
“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” <small>Psalm 51:10-12</small>	21 Spend 1 hour technology free	22 Take a different route to work today	23 Go for a walk outside	24 Schedule dinner or coffee with a friend	25 Find God in nature today	26 Write down 3 places you saw God today	27 Spend 1 minute deep breathing
“they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” <small>Isaiah 40:29-31</small>	28 Pray for 3 people in your life	29 Open your blinds or go outside & spend 10 minutes in the sunlight	30 Write down 3 things you are good at				

2024: The Year of Rest
Memory Verse
“So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God!”
Hebrews 4:9



You're Invited

2024 Luther Home of Mercy

BID FOR THE ROSES

Kentucky Derby - Theme

Auction & Dinner

Presented by



FRIDAY, APRIL 26 ~ 6PM

THE PINNACLE MAUMEE, OH

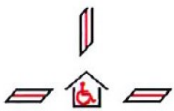
1 772 Indian Wood Circle

Grazing & Dessert Stations

Live & Silent Auctions

Live Music  Cash Bar

Prizes for Best Derby Attire



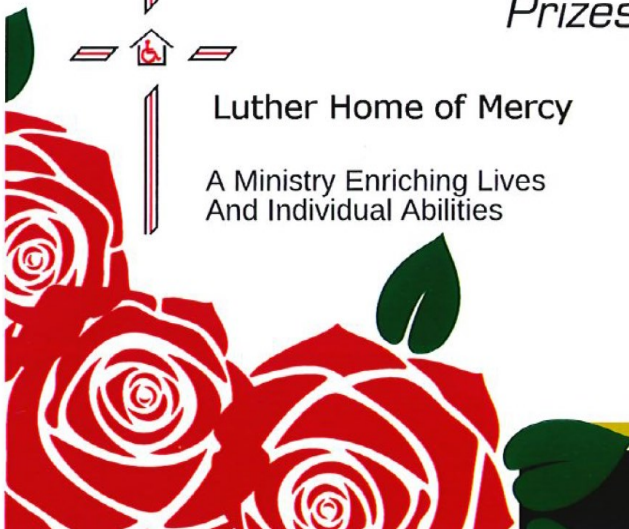
Luther Home of Mercy

A Ministry Enriching Lives
And Individual Abilities

\$50 TICKET

\$350 TABLE OF 8

Visit lutherhome.org or
call 419-836-7741 for tickets





Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Margaret Berger, Dan Kessler, Dave Neuman, Deanna Neuman, Pam LaRue, Kellie Ulrich, John Mazur, Cheryl Berger, and Kristina Wildman

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm: 18

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: Worship

Attendance In person average for Feb 2024 - 108.5 compared to Feb 2023 - 121.5. Online average for Feb 2024 - 65.5 compared to Feb 2023 - 81. **Numbers:** 13 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 3 committee/group meetings, 9 community/youth/fellowship events, 6 professional/clergy activities, 4 special services, 1 baptism, and 1 funeral. **Baptism:** On February 24 I presided at the baptism of Giovanni Nuti (son of Dominic and Kaylee (Buhrow) Nuti). **Funeral:** On February 12 I presided at the funeral of Dean Fondessy.

May Committee Night: The North Central Conference (the group of congregations we are part of) is planning Rogation Days (festival days devoted to special prayers for farm equipment and planting crops) culminating in a Conference wide Ascension Day worship service and meal at Solomon, Woodville. I would like to reschedule May Committee Night so St. John people can attend. The May committee night will be May 2nd, the first Thursday of the month.

Confirmation Sunday: Confirmation Sunday will be May 19th this year. **Membership:** Sandra Toth would like to transfer her membership to St. John. **Vacation:** I will be out of the office April 1 to April 4 (Monday to Thursday).

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 97% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 111% of our monthly budget and 101% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently positive \$8,563. On Wednesday services there are two offerings, our Lenten offering that was voted upon to go to World Hunger for Lenten offerings and the other is a donation during lunch. We have earned \$70 at one and \$59 at the other. Dave Neuman made a motion to donate the cash from luncheons to World Hunger as part of the Lenten offering donation and Cheryl Berger seconded. Motion approved. WELCA uses their money during their weeks for their own donations and purchases. They put money back in the WELCA fund and spent some on improvements for things or things they are in need of like paper products and stools for the kitchen.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was a success with a lot of

help and thanks to everyone! Evangelism and Christian Community Life served luncheon together.

Talked about things to do for fundraisers this year and activities. Talked about Mothers and Fathers day gifts.

Evangelism: Margaret Berger

Decided on the menu for luncheon with Christian Community Life and served. Filled Easter basket for Easter egg hunt. Will be putting an advertisement in the Suburban Press with times and dates of services during Holy Week. Signed up to check pews for envelopes and blue papers on a monthly basis.

Parish Education: Deanna Neuman

VBS materials have been chosen and LisaAnne has been emailed what to order. Easter Egg Hunt plans have been finalized (Saturday, March 30 at 10:30). Easter Breakfast plans have been finalized. Attendance at Sunday School this month was 6 kids plus their adults

Stewardship: Pam LaRue

Talked about the Stewardship page for the news forerunner and talked. Talked about the golf outing and to ask people of the congregation for donations of creative things.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Palm Sunday services, March 23rd and 24th /Sat. Buhrow family will give out palms and Sun. Titgemeyer family. In search of 2 additional readers for the Palm Sunday service. Palm Saturday readers are all set. Would also welcome more to join the choir for Good Friday service, please let Becki G know if you would like to participate in this. Easter: Saturday and Sunday worship assistants are in place. Lenten Luncheons concerns/suggestions for discussed. Average of 30 in attendance per week. In June LisaAnne will be filling in on June 1 and 2, July 20 and 21. Looking for coverage for August 24 (La Rue wedding).

Property: John Mauzr - Bathroom got painted. The Sunday school room got painted. Upstairs meeting room getting led lights. Blades off of the lawn mower to be sharpened.

New Business: Rainbow Acres Childcare came to check out the space and some comments were that there was no outside access from rooms and we would have to put in doors but the heaters make that not possible and the bathrooms being on the second floor were an issue. They will send an architect for a walk through. Additional comments/concerns about Lenten Luncheons were discussed. The May committee night will be May 2nd, the first Thursday of the month.

Next Committee Mtg: Thurs. April 11, 2024 @7pm

Next Council Mtg: Thurs. April 18, 2024 @7pm

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, (substituting for council secretary, Diana Pfaff)



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

6- need one
13- Jack Mathews
20-Buhrow Family
27-Donnelly Family

Lectors

6- Nancy Strohscher
13-Beverly Harder
20- Amy Schloegl
27-Jonah Danhoff

Acolytes

6-Jacob Higginbotham
13-Nolan Delventhal
20-Liam Delventhal
27-Jacob Higginbotham

Communion

6- Alice Witt
13- JoElaine Schimming
20-LisaAnne Gregg
27-Al & Traci Brown

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

7-Jim Vogelbacher
14-The Titgemeyers
21-Diana P/Riley B
28-Jill Kao

Lectors

7-Jill Kao
14-Diana Pfaff
21-Kellie Ulrich
28-Deanna Neuman

Acolytes

7- Logan Hays
14-Lauren Hoeft
21-
28-Logan Hays

Communion

7-Dave Neuman
14-Tim Titgemeyer
21- RoseMarie Dickinson
28- Margaret Berger



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

4- Jack Mathews
11- Donnelly Family
18-Buhrow Family
25- Ron Gerkenmeyer

Lectors

4- LisaAnne
11- Nancy Strohscher
18-Tracy Orians
25-Beverly Harder

Acolytes

4-Nolan Delventhal
11-Liam Delventhal
18-Jacob Higginbotham
25-Nolan Delventhal

Communion

4-Nancy Strohscher
11- Carol Vargo
18-JoElaine Schimming
25-Al & Traci Brown

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5-Jim Vogelbacher
12-The Titgemeyers
19-Diana P/Riley B
26-Jill Kao

Lectors

5-Cebie Titgemeyer
12-Melissa Lammers
19- Tim Titgemeyer
26-Kellie Ulrich

Acolytes

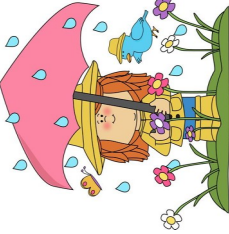
5- Logan Hays
12-Lauren Hoeft
19- Logan Hays
25-Mila McQueary

Communion

5-Diana Pfaff
12-Tim Titgemeyer
19- Roland Sandrock
26- Margaret Berger









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

We need more worship assistants! Would you like to help with communion, read scripture or be an usher? Just let Pastor or the office know. No experience is needed!



APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  April is NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH <small>DonateLife.net</small>	1 	2 Esther Circle 12:30 Cleaning Party 9:00am Blankets 7:00pm -8:00pm Rebekah Circle	3 No breakfast meeting today	4	5 Office closed	6 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
7  8:30am Confirmation Class 8:30am -9:30am Sunday School for ALL AGES 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	8	9 9:00am Blankets	10 7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	11  7:00pm Committee Meeting	12 Office closed	13 Memorial Service/Luncheon for Ann Tschappat 11AM 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
14 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am -12:00pm The Chosen Movie 2:00pm -4:00pm West End Bunch 4-H (SH) 4:00pm -6:00pm Livestock Unlimited 4-H (SH) 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	15 	16 9:00am Blankets	17 7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	18  7:00pm Church Council Meeting	19 Office closed	20 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
21  Natalie Orian's baptism 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	22 	23 9:00am Blankets	24 7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	25	26 Office closed	27 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
28 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am -12:00pm The Chosen Movie 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	29	30 9:00am Blankets	1 7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	2 7:00pm Committee Meeting	3 Office closed	4 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street
P. O. Box 235
Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

**Volume 711 Issue 336
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Coming in June!
Vacation Bible School
June 3-7 9 AM to Noon



Pastor Shawn O'Brien
419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:
pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours
LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator
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 the whole family
8:30 AM 1st Sunday of the month.
Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

Our Seven Faith Practices

I will strive to...

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