

2026
**THE WAY
OF LOVE**
1 JOHN 4:19

St. John - Williston
Forerunner
September 2026

Inside this issue:

Thank You/Choir	2
WELCA/Blanket Ministry	3
Sunday School/Confirmation News	4
Luther League CPR/AED Training	5
Around the Community	6
2026 GOLF Outing	7
Golf Registration Form	8
North Central Conference Praying for congregations	9
Stewardship and Service	10
Kid's page	11
NWOS News and GOATS!	12
Council Highlights	13
Finance Ministry	14
September celebrations	15
Worship Helpers	16
September Calendar	17



**FALL Worship
Hours 9/13**

Sat @ 5PM

Sun @ 9:45 AM

Ask the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year, the Northwestern Ohio Synod has invited us to reflect on **The Way of Love**, which is the way of Jesus. Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Those words are familiar to many of us. The greater challenge is learning to live them.

To help us do just that, the synod has created a five-session Bible study on 1 John, a letter that beautifully explores God's love for us and our call to love one another. Again and again, 1 John reminds us of this simple but profound truth: *"We love because God first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

I'd love for our congregation to offer this study - but I can't do it alone. I'm looking for people, a couple, or even a small team who would be willing to host and facilitate different Bible study groups.

Please don't let the word *lead* intimidate you. You don't need to be a Bible scholar or have years of teaching experience. This study is designed for anyone to facilitate. I will also be happy to help you every step of the way. We can walk through the entire study together before your group begins. I'll also be available to answer questions, offer encouragement, and provide whatever support you need along the way.

The best part is that the study can take whatever shape works for you. You choose the location, whether that's your home, a coffee shop, the church, or somewhere else. You decide the day and time that fits your schedule. Gather a few friends, invite neighbors, or welcome anyone who wants to join. The goal is simply to create a place where people can gather around God's Word and discover together what it means to live the Way of Love.

If you've ever wondered whether God could use you to help others grow in faith, perhaps this is your invitation. Sometimes all it takes is a willing heart and the courage to say, "I'll give it a try." If you would be interested in leading, or even if you'd just like to learn more before deciding, I would love to talk with you. Together, let's discover anew the truth that shapes every Christian life: *"We love because God first loved us."*

Grace and peace,
Pastor Shawn O'Brien

With Thanks and Gratitude



Dear St. John Family,
Thank you for all the prayers and cards and a special thanks to the Blanket Ladies for my beautiful quilt. I appreciate all of you!

Jennifer Nelson

St. John Friends,
Thank you for the cards and prayers during my time in the hospital and now that I am home and slowly on the mend. And, thank you for your patience while I have taken your Office Admin away from the office! Thank you!

Gary Gregg

St. John,
Nightingale Harvest wishes to acknowledge your donation of 41 beautiful quilts, bathroom tissue and a large amount of canned goods to our organization. Rest assured your donations were appreciated and your continued generosity makes an impact in the lives of our cancer patients and families.

May God bless you one and all.

Nightingales Harvest



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

Telephone: 419-836-5514

e-mail:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

www.stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-378-1112

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

@stjohnwilliston.org

Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM

Sunday School for the whole family!
Beginning
September 13th
Adults/Confirmation 8:30 AM
Kids age 3-5th grade 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship
9:45 AM beginning Sept. 13th

Deadline for the
October 2026 newsletter is
Monday, Sept 21nd 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."



Join the CHOIR

Everyone is Welcome!

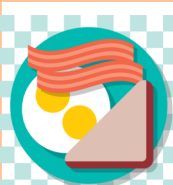
We need voices to sing and bells to ring!
If you would like to join the Sunday Choir and/or the Bell Choir this fall and Christmas season, we would love to have you join us!
We practice following worship on Sunday.
For more details, see Beckie Goldstein after worship!

Do you ever wonder?



How stuff gets done?

Committee Nights
are held on the
Second Thursday of
each month at 7 PM.
All are welcome to
participate, ask
questions and join
our committees!
"Many Hands
Make Light Work!"



JOIN US

FOR

BREAKFAST!

Join us for BREAKFAST & FRIENDS!
Come have a cup of coffee with your St. John Family and others at the
GENOA McDonald's!
Every Wednesday 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



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

WELCA Circle Meetings Return in September

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 8 2:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Social Hall
Bible Study: Marvel

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Lounge

Please join us! You ARE welcome here!



*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), Margaret Berger (419-340-2150) or the church office who will begin the prayer chain. Prayers are sent out by phone message and by email. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. Thank you!



Blanket Ministry Weekends

The Blanket Ladies will again be displaying their many, many blankets starting the weekend of September 26 & 27th and again on October 3rd and 4th. Blankets will also be on display for three days, Sept. 29th, 30th and Oct. 1st from 9 am to noon. Please feel free to stop in and shop! Blankets will be sold for a donation of \$30.00. Baby and small children size are \$20.00. The children's blankets will be displayed in the front rows of the church. They will also have special blankets on a silent auction!

Those will be hanging in the cloister. Bids are to increase by \$5.00 increments on these special auction items.

There will also be several blankets placed by the windows up for raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 and are to be placed in the container corresponding to the number on the blanket. Please write your name and phone number on each raffle ticket.

Please remember to mark any donations turned into the offering plate or office as "blankets".

You can also give your donation to the ladies selling raffle tickets, before and after services.

The donations received from the raffle, silent auction and sale of blankets are used to to purchase filler and backs for the blankets.

Because of the generosity of our church members and Thrivent Action, we are able to keep the price of the blankets the same as in previous years. This year, since October 2025, we have already given away or sold over 100 blankets and still have lots and lots to display!

Help is needed on Tues. Sept. 22nd at 9 am to put the blankets out for display. Your help is greatly appreciated! And, we will be taking down the display on October 6th at 9 AM and dividing them up to take to area charities.

As always, the Blanket Ladies invite you to join them on Tuesday mornings at 9 AM. You only need to know how to tie a knot! And, if anyone would like to sew blanket tops at home, just stop in and we will give you the blocks and instructions! And, the coffee is always on!



On Sunday, September 13th, at 8:30 a.m., there will be a meeting for **confirmation students and parents** at the church to provide you with a little more information about the confirmation program, let you know what to expect, as well as what will be expected in the coming year. It is important that at least one parent/guardian from each family attend this meeting with the students.

If you are unable to attend, please contact me to let me know if your child is going to participate in the program, and to receive the parent information. Also, when you see other parents of 6th, 7th and 8th graders, please mention this meeting. I think our mailing list is complete, but this is an important program, and I don't want to see anyone left behind. Pastor O'Brien



Sunday School for KIDS
age 3 thru 5th Grade will resume
EVERY SUNDAY
beginning Sept. 13th from
9-9:30 am!
We will meet in the
Sunday School rooms on
the main floor.
Invite a friend and join us!!

Fall Worship Hours return
Sunday, September 13th!

Saturday Worship 5 PM
Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Adult Class-Sundays at 8:30 AM
Confirmation Class- every Sunday at 8:30 AM
Confirmation Parents Meeting
on Sept. 13th at 8:30 AM
Sunday School for kids age 3-5th Grade
Every Sunday from 9 to 9:30 AM



On Monday, **September 21** we will meet at the church at **8:30a** to travel to Frankenmuth, MI to eat Bavarian food and wander the streets to see the “charming shops and boutiques”. Before we head home, we will stop at Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland to see the world’s largest

Christmas store. Meals are in the \$20-25 range. We will be renting a van for the day that can hold 15 passengers. The cost to ride with the group is **\$15** (you may also travel in your own vehicle). If you would like to attend, contact the church office sign-up outside Pastor's office door. \$15 deposit reserves your spot in the van. If you want to drive yourself, please indicate when you sign up.



On **Wednesday, October 21** we will meet at the church at **10:30a** to travel to Rockside Station to ride the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic

Railroad. *(The train leaves at 1p; the ride is approximately 4 hours.)* The cost for tickets is **\$35**. We will be renting a van for the day that can hold 15 passengers. The cost to ride with the group is **\$15**. There is a food car on the train, but we can stop for dinner afterwards depending on the wishes of the group.

If you would like to attend, sign-up near Pastor O'Brien's office door or call the church office. A \$15 deposit reserves your spot in the van. Total payment of **\$50 is due by September 27**. If you would like to drive yourself, please indicate on the sign up.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor O'Brien.



Did you know with have warm, comfy fleece blankets available to give to someone who needs a little hug?

They are located at the end of the hallway on a rack. Leave us a note and let us know where the blanket is going and we can pray for that person, too!



CPR/AED TRAINING

For those who
signed up for
CPR/AED
Training, our
training will be
held on

**Tuesday October
27th at 6:30 PM at
St. John.**

There is some hands
on
participation,
so please wear
comfortable
clothing. Watch for
more info to come.

100 CARING HEARTS

OF OTTAWA COUNTY



Tuesday,
September 8th
5:30 PM
Registration
6:00 PM Meeting

LaPointe United
Methodist Church
7285 W Harbor Rd,
(SR 163) Just east
of Oak Harbor.

Want more info?

See LisaAnne in the
office at St. John!

What is 100 Caring Hearts? We are glad you asked! We are a group of women who reside or work in Ottawa County who simply gather 4 times a year to support area non-profits and charitable organizations. We meet for 1 hour (or less). We hear presentations from 3 different agencies. We take a vote on which organization we will support with our financial donations for the quarter and we each write a check for \$100 directly to that charity. It's that simple!



**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 6, 2026**

11:00AM – 2:00PM

**OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL
"BONOFESE"**

**50/50
RAFFLE**

**DRIVE-THRU
ONLY**

1105 Elliston Rd.
Just off St. Rt. 2 – Bono/Martin, OH
Phone: 419-836-7681

1/2 CHICKEN DINNER - \$15

½ Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Green Beans, Cole Slaw,
Roll/Butter & Dessert!

PRE-SALE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

BENCH'S – RT. 2
BLACKBERRY CORNERS
JACK'S SUPERETTE
MR. EMBLEM

OTTAWA COUNTY SUMMIT on Aging



OTTAWA COUNTY
TASK FORCE ON AGING

**PROTECTING INDEPENDENCE:
250 WAYS TO SAFEGUARD OUR FUTURE**

LEARN. PROTECT. EMPOWER.

Join older adults, caregivers, professionals, financial institutions, law enforcement, and community partners for a dynamic half-day summit focused on protecting older adults from scams, fraud, and financial exploitation.



**THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**



**8:30 AM –
12:00 PM**



**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
122 W. Ottawa Street
Oak Harbor, OH 43449**

WHY ATTEND?



PROTECT YOURSELF

Learn how to recognize and avoid scams, fraud, and financial exploitation.



EXPERT PRESENTERS

Hear from banking professionals, attorneys, law enforcement and more.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

See how local organizations work together to keep seniors safe.



PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Take home tips and resources you can use right away.



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Share your ideas for our 250 Ways to Safeguard Our Future initiative!

Register Today!

- 1 Scan the QR code
- 2 Visit the link below:
<https://tinyurl.com/2026SummitQA>
- 3 Call 419-898-6459



REGISTRATION IS
\$5
SUGGESTED DONATION
SPACE IS LIMITED.
REGISTER TODAY!



RAFFLE ITEMS

Don't miss your chance to win great raffle items!



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Help build our "250 Ways to Safeguard Our Future" campaign!



CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Enjoy a light breakfast and network with others in our community.

SUPPORTED BY

- Magruder Hospital
- Elara Caring
- Ottawa County Senior Resources
- Ottawa County Job and Family Services
- Gerber Plans LLC
- Genoa Retirement Village

- Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Edgewood Manor Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
- Elora Counseling Services LLC

QUESTIONS? Contact Ottawa County Senior Resources
419-898-6459 | ottawacoaging@gmail.com

Together we can protect independence, empower our community, and prevent exploitation.



Monthly @ Elliston



**Elliston Zion
United Methodist
Church**

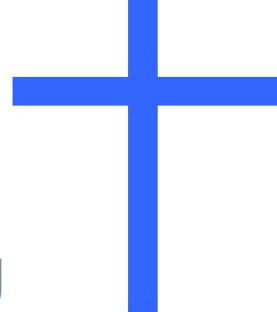
**18045 W. William St
Graytown, OH**

**3rd Mondays at
11 AM**

**Lunch provided.
Bring a side dish to
share, if you like.**

Join us every 3rd Monday for an interesting speaker with information specially focused on our more mature community members. Invite a friend and join us. All are welcome!

- September 21:** Sandy Adcock, NACC,
"Spiritual Care Department in a Hospital Setting"
October 19th: Kelly Chany with Hospice of NW Ohio,
"The Art of Medical Decision Making: What Guides our Choices"
November 16th: Marsie McLaury, Magruder Hospital,
"The Role of the Community Health Worker"
December 21st: Rita Sowinski, RN, CDCES, Mercy Health,
"Diabetes Education"



13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

Proceeds to benefit St. John Good Samaritan Fund
(Good Samaritan Fund assists with emergency requests from individuals and families of the community.)

All Golfers Welcome and Needed!
(Hole sponsors also needed)

Foursome Team Scramble
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Chippewa Golf Club

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

8:00 am — Registration

9:00 am — Shot Gun Start

\$75 per player
18 Holes with cart
includes Meal

PRIZES PRIZES
PRIZES

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT
YOUR BUSINESS! \$50 each hole. Your business
name will be displayed at the hole!
Email: office@stjohnwilliston for details!

For information: Tom (419) 205-1942 or the church office (419) 836-5514

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/26/2026

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

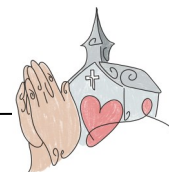
Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Join in us praying for our neighbors in Christ



North Central Conference of the Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA

July 30, 2026

Friends,

Recently, at our weekly pericope meeting, we discussed the possibility of praying for each congregation in our conference on a rotating basis during the Prayers of Intercession. As a follow-up to that conversation, I put together the rotation schedule below, assigning one congregation to each Sunday from September through May. My hope is that this simple practice might strengthen the bonds among our congregations and remind us that we share together in Christ's mission.

There are 39 Sundays between September 6, 2026 and May 30, 2027 (inclusive), and there are 26 churches. A simple rotation means each church is assigned once before the list starts over. The first 13 churches will therefore appear a second time by the end of the schedule. This rotation ensures every congregation is included before any church is repeated, and it provides a prayer focus for every Sunday in the specified period.

Peace,

Pr. Alan Brown

Solomon Lutheran Church and School, Woodville

"Gracious God, we pray for your Church here and throughout the world, for all bishops, pastors, deacons, and faithful lay leaders. We especially pray for this congregation, [Your Congregation's Name], and for the people [and Pastor _____/Call Committee] of [Church Name]. Fill your Church with truth and peace, strengthen our witness, and unite us all in the mission of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Sept. 6	Christ, Bowling Green (Dowling)	Nov. 8	St. Paul, Marblehead (Danbury)
Sept. 13	Hope, Bowling Green (Cloverdale)	Nov. 15	Salem-Grace, Luckey
Sept. 20	Peace, Bowling Green	Nov. 22	Sonfire, Pemberville
Sept. 27	St. Mark's, Bowling Green	Nov. 29	Zion, Luckey
Oct. 4	St. Paul, Bowling Green (Haskins)	Dec. 6	St. John, Marblehead
Oct. 11	St. James, Bradner	Dec. 13	St. Peter, Martin (Blackberry)
Oct. 18	St. Luke, Curtice	Dec. 20	St. John, Oak Harbor
Oct. 25	Grace, Elmore	Dec. 27	St. Paul, Oak Harbor
Nov. 1	Hosanna, Grand Rapids		



Stewardship, Fellowship and Service



God's work. Our hands.



September 13
2026

We invite you to join us for the ELCA's day of service, "God's Work, Our Hands,"
on Sunday, September 13th

We will be helping the residents at Luther Home of Mercy. We will meet at LHM for a short orientation at noon and then enjoy the day. Project options include helping residents fish, playing bingo and yardwork. *Fishing & yardwork are weather dependent.*

Come join the fun!!

Faith Practice

Readings for September & October

Read scripture, answer the question in worship and
get a treat!

Sept. 7-Isaiah 36

Sept. 14-Isaiah 37

Sept. 21-Isaiah 38

Sept. 28-Isaiah 39

Oct. 5- Isaiah 40

Oct. 12-Isaiah 41

Oct. 19- Isaiah 42

Oct. 26- Isaiah 43



Our Blessing Box
can always use your help in
helping our neighbors!

Items Needed:

Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut Butter, Hamburger Helper, Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side dishes, Applesauce- cups, Cereal (small boxes to fit in the box) Fruit cups, soup, small snacks, canned pastas, canned

fruits and veggies, pre-packed shelf stable lunch packs. *(no glass, medicine or expired food, please)* There is a donation box near the church office. And for those who love to shop online, Amazon ships to the church! Win-Win!

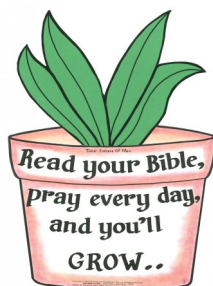


St. John will be
supporting
SACK FOR A SACK
again this year.

Every time the Genoa defense sacks the opposing team's quarterback, St. John will donate a \$50 sack of groceries to the Genoa Food Pantry.

If you would like to contribute to "Sack for a Sack" and the Genoa Food Pantry, mark your donation "Sack for a Sack" and place it in the offering plate.

You can also drop off a donation at the church office.



Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High, God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

Kids can help, too!

**God's Work,
Our Hands**
Sunday
September 13th
Help us help at
the
Luther Home of
Mercy.
Meet at noon.

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Mark your
calendar
for our Trunk or
Treat on Oct. 18th
from 2-4 PM.
You can help
hand out candy,
decorate your
parents trunk,
dress up in a cool
costume and just
have fun!

Invite a friend to Sunday School!

You can be a
great friend by
sharing God's
love and His word
with a friend!

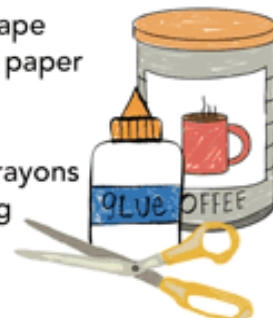
Give Thanks with Music



Music is one way
to give thanks to
God. Make these
simple instruments
to accompany
your singing!

What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



**Sunday School for ages 3 through 5th
grade begins on Sunday,
September 13th at 9AM!**

**We will meet every Sunday from 9 to
9:30 AM for all sorts of fun and
to learn about Jesus!**

Come join us and invite a friend!!



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Daniel G.
Beaudoin



Did you know we have Mission Partner Congregations in the NWOS?

Mission Partner congregations develop mutually supportive relationships so that each congregation is *encouraged* in its outreach. These partnerships enable new and renewing missions to have what they initially need in finances, basic needs, spiritual and prayer support, etc. to "make Christ known" in their communities.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

This multi-cultural congregation in Toledo provides ministries for children through their Learning Club and a summer camp. Hundreds of children are served breakfast and lunch as well as a full day of fun, learning activities. Located in a struggling neighborhood, members of Redeemer also direct a food pantry that serves local residents.

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The oldest Lutheran parish in Toledo is located in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city; among struggling, often discouraged people. Food for body and soul is offered at the church throughout the week as well as on Sunday. The parish provides many programs, including after-school and summer programs for children and a support group for mothers.



NWOS - The Great Goat Project 2026!

This year, we invite your congregation to join something **fun, meaningful, and a little bit... goat-tastic** 🐐:

👉 The Northwestern Ohio Synod's Great Goat Project

🐐 What's it all about?

The Great Goat Project isn't just about goats—it's about **sharing God's love in real, life-changing ways**. Through this project, your VBS can help provide goats to families in Kashasha, Tanzania, in partnership with our Companions in the ELCT Dodoma Diocese in Tanzania. A single goat can:

- Provide **nutritious** milk for children
- Help families **grow food** through fertilizer
- Create income and long-term **sustainability**
- Bless not just one family—but an entire community

All of this grows out of our shared theme:

💖 "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

St. John supports the Great Goat Project and you can, too! Simply make out your check to St. John and write GOAT! In the memo. You can also give online at www.stjohnwilliston.org.

Food Pantry Wish List

- CANNED MEATS (TUNA, CHICKEN, SPAM)
- CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
- CANNED SOUP, RAVIOLI, CHILI, BEEF STEW
- RAMEN
- CRACKERS
- CEREAL
- OATMEAL OR GRITS
- PASTA
- PASTA SAUCE (MARINARA OR ALFREDO)
- KETCHUP, MAYO, MUSTARD
- CAKE OR BROWNIE MIXES AND FROSTING
- PEANUT BUTTER

Lutheran Social Services has an AMAZON WISH LIST! It is labeled EMERGENCY CHOICE FOOD PANTRY. Check out this link....https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NJN54ZUM52BP?ref_=wl_share

August 20, 2026 Meeting

Church Council Highlights

***Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance:** In Person average for July 2026-104.3 compared to July 2025-104.3. Online average for July 2026- 65.5 compared to July 2025- 68.

***Numbers:** 17 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting, 1 committee/group meetings, 5 community/youth/fellowship events, 5 professional/clergy activities.

***Baptism-June-** I presided at the baptism of Emma Marie-Miller (daughter of Nate Miller and Victoria Kiss) on June 14. ***Funeral-** I presided at the funeral of Shirley Crosskill on July 6th.

***September 13-** On September 13th, "regular" worship times will resume, Sunday school starts for the year, and confirmation parent meeting in the sanctuary.

***Luther League-** Our next event is the Euchre Tournament on August 29. Next month's event is a trip to Frankenmuth, MI on September 21.

***The Way of Love-** This year, the Northwestern Ohio Synod has invited us to reflect on the **Way of Love**, which is the way of Jesus. To help us do just that, the synod has created a five-session Bible study on 1 John, which reminds us of this simple but profound truth: "We love because God first loved us" (1John 4:19). I'm looking for people, a couple, or even a small team who would be willing to host and facilitate different Bible study groups. If you would be interested in leading or even if you'd just like to learn more before deciding, I would love to talk with you.

***Border Servant Corp Presentation-** Sunday, August 30 (11:30-1:30) lunch included at Olivet Lutheran Church (5840 Monroe St., Sylvania, OH 43560). The group that journeyed from Northwest Ohio will present on their trip to the southern borderlands. There is no charge, but please register by Tuesday, August 25. Everyone is welcome; bring a friend.

***Christian Community Life:** We hosted the Genoa Food Pantry in August, and we had plenty of help on Thursday, August 13th for the Pre-packing day. On Saturday, August 15th, we had a few less people, but we did our best with the help that we had.

***Evangelism:** We have a putter and a gift certificate for the raffle basket for the Golf Outing on September 26 at Chippewa Golf Course.

***Parish Education:** Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 13th. We will be sending postcards to ages 3 - 5th grade, to welcome students to Sunday School. Trunk of Treat will be on Sunday, October 18th.

***Stewardship:** At this time, we have 3-4 teams signed up for the Golf Outing at Chippewa. We would like to get some high school kids to come and help out on the course that day for service hours. We still need door prizes or baskets to raffle off that day.

***Property:** John Mazur -Replaced the photocell on the roof with Rollie Sandrock. Used Roundup in the courtyard to keep the weeds down. The AED class has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30 pm. There will be training on the AED machine and CPR. There is no cost for the class and there will be no certificates issued. **(new correction: October 27th at 6:30 PM)**

***Old Business:** Black Friday (November 27th) will be the next Red Cross Blood Drive here at the church. Please contact Robin Perkins if you could help with distributing flyers, posting information on Facebook, or putting notices in the bulletins prior to the event. Help is needed on the day of the event with greeting patrons, serving patrons and preparing the food for the patrons that day. This is a great way to earn service hours for confirmation or school.

***New Business:** John Mazur brought up the necessity of replacing the windows above the parking lot entrance doors due to them leaking. We could have 5 windows replaced for \$4794.00 or 16 windows for \$7920.00. Joni Hillman made a motion to have all 16 windows replaced above the parking lot entrance doors for the \$7920.00 Dan Kessler 2nd the motion.

We had discussion about the company CGS Commercial Glazing in Fremont doing the work. Motion passed.

Rick Buhrow and the Nominating Committee have started the process of recruiting members for the next term on the committees and Board Member positions.

Dan Kessler mentioned the need for a new overhead video projector for the sanctuary. The committee is working with Torrence Sound to get the best projector for the job that we need. The projector required for the sanctuary will cost around \$19,000. The money for this projector would come from Memorial Funds or the Video Fund. Dan Kessler made a motion to replace the video projector in the sanctuary for \$19,000. Cheryl Berger 2nd the motion. The motion passed pending approval.

Dan Kessler also brought up that we have \$5500 of interest from the Endowment Fund that needs to be disbursed. Dan Kessler made a motion to have the interest dispersed with \$2500 going to the Great Goat Project and \$3000 going to the Video Fund to help with the cost of the purchase of the video projector. Dave Neuman 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor mentioned that we will have to decide where to have our Christmas Offerings and the Reverse Advent Calendars donated items going this year. Pastor made a motion to the Christmas Offerings and the items from the Reverse Advent Calendars give to the Lutheran Social Services on Collingwood. John Mazur 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Dan Kessler mentioned that the Finance Committee would like to pay out \$50 of items for the Genoa Food Pantry every time the Genoa Football team gets a sack. Joni Hillman made a motion as such, Robin Perkins 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Carol Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Joni Hillman. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 / 9:45am
Ushers	Ushers
5- Buhrow Family	6- Jim Vogelbacher
12-Jack Mathews	13-Titgemeyer Family
19-Ron Gerkenmeyer	20- Diana Lambert
26- Donnelly Family	27-Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
5- TBD	6- Melissa Lammers
12- Nancy Strohscher	13-Deanna Neuman
19- Beverly Harder	20- Kellie Ulrich
26- Amy Schloegl	27-Tim Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
5-Jonah	6-TBD
12-Trenton	13-Rylan S
19-Pierce	20-Ellie
26-Jonah	27- Rylie
Communion	Communion
5-Nancy Strohscher	6-Roland Sandrock
12- Carol Vargo	13-Robin Perkins
19- JoElaine Schimming	20-Dave Neuman
26-No communion	27-Diana Lambert



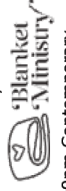
SUNDAY 9:45 worship begins 9/13!



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
Ushers	Ushers
3- Tim & Deb Hepner	4-Jim Vogelbacher
10-Jack Mathews	11- Titgemeyer's
17- Buhrow Family	18-Diana Lambert
24 - Donnelly Family	25- Jim Vogelbacher
31-Ron Gerkenmeyer	
Lectors	Lectors
3- Sandy Toth	4- Jerry Goldstein
10- Nancy Strohscher	11-Tim Titgemeyer
17-Beverly Harder	18-Kellie Ulrich
24- Jonah D.	25-Diana Lambert
31- Amy Schloegl	
Acolytes	Acolytes
3- Jonah	4-Makenna
10-Trenton	11-Rylie
17-Pierce	18-Ellie
24-Jonah	25-Rylan
31- Trenton	
Communion	Communion
3- Nancy Strohscher	4- Margaret Berger
10- Ron Gerkenmeyer	11-Deanna Neuman
17-Jo Elaine Schimming	18-Rose Marie D.
24- Carol Vargo	25-Robin Perkins
31-Al & Traci Brown	

september

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice	31 Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 35 Labor Day	1 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets 6:00pm –8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	3	4 Office closed	5 Stahl/Arndt Wedding (Gideon Owen) 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
6 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice	7 Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 36 Labor Day	8 Esther Circle 2 pm  Rebekah Circle 7 PM (Lounge) 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets	9  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	10 Committee Night 7 PM	11 Office closed Patriot Day	12 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
13 God's Work. Our Hands Sunday NOON  Sunday School age 3-5th grade 9 AM 8:30am –9:30am Adult Sunday School 8:30am –9:30am Confirmation Parents Meeting 9:45am –10:45am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice	14 Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 37	15 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets	16  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	17 Council Meeting 7 PM 	18 Office closed	19 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
20 Sunday School age 3-5th grade 9 AM 8:30am –9:30am Adult Sunday School and Confirmation 9:45am –10:45am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice	21 Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 38 Forerunner deadline 9 AM Luther League to Frankmunth! 	22 Blanket Display help needed 9 AM First Day of Autumn 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets	23  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	24	25 Office closed	26 Blanket Ministry Weekend  St John Golf Outing at Chippewa! 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
27 Blanket Ministry Weekend  Sunday School age 3-5th grade 9 AM 8:30am –9:30am Adult Sunday School and Confirmation 9:45am –10:45am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice	28 Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 39	29  9:00am –12:00pm Blankets 9:00am –12:00pm SHOP for Blankets and Quilts!	30  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 9:00am –12:00pm SHOP for Blankets and Quilts!	1  9:00am –12:00pm SHOP for Blankets and Quilts! 6:00pm –8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2 Office closed	3 Blanket Ministry Weekend  5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

Volume 738 Issue 364

September 2026



It's a great time to **FALL**
back into church!
Join us this weekend!
All are welcome at St. John!

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

*Visit us on Facebook

Worship Hours at St. John

Fall Worship Hours return September 13th.

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class 8:30 AM

Adult Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday School for ages 3 and up 9-9:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45