

Happy March!

*Thank you for checking out the
March 2019 Forerunner!*

*If you are viewing this
newsletter online, and no
longer need a printed version
mailed to you, please let the
office know by sending an email
to office@stjohnwilliston.org or
call LisaAnne at
419-836-5514.*



FORERUNNER

Volume 0650
Issue 275
March 2019



Ask the Pastor

At the end of February our Gospel reading was from the end of Luke where Jesus talks about loving your enemies. It included this verse... "If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (Luke 6:29a). The question came from reflection on this reading...

Does 'turn the other cheek' mean that Christians can't defend themselves?

While we would do well to consider our use of violence, this passage actually has nothing to do with self-defense, taking a punch, or hitting someone back. This passage is dealing with insult, not a fistfight. Walter Wink, in his book from "Beyond Just War and Pacifism: Jesus' Nonviolent Way" offers this insight... *(the following are Wink's words with some minor editing)*

The intention of the strike here is not to injure but to humiliate, to put someone in his or her place. A backhand slap was the usual way of admonishing inferiors. Masters backhanded slaves; husbands, wives; parents, children; men, women; Romans, Jews. We have here a set of unequal relations, in each of which retaliation would be suicidal. The only normal response would be cowering submission. Part of the confusion surrounding these sayings arises from the failure to ask who Jesus' audience was. Jesus' listeners are not those who strike, but their victims – people who were subjected to this sort of indignity, forced to stifle outrage at their dehumanizing treatment by the hierarchical system of caste and class, race and gender, age and status, and as a result of imperial occupation.

Wink asks, why then does Jesus counsel these already humiliated people to turn the other cheek? Because this action robs the oppressor of the power to humiliate. The person who turns the other cheek is saying, in effect, "Try again. Your first blow failed to achieve its intended effect. I deny you the power to humiliate me. I am a human being just like you. Your status does not alter that fact. You cannot demean me."

Such a response would create enormous difficulties for the striker. Purely logistically, how would he hit the other cheek now turned to him? He cannot backhand it with his right hand (one only need try this to see the problem). If he hits with a fist, he makes the other his equal, acknowledging him as a peer. But the point of the back of the hand is to reinforce institutionalized inequality. Even if the superior orders the person flogged for such "cheeky" behavior (this is certainly no way to avoid conflict!), the point has been irrevocably made. He has been given notice that this underling is in fact a human being. In that world of honor and shaming, he has been rendered impotent to instill shame in a subordinate. He has been stripped of his power to dehumanize the other. As Gandhi taught, "The first principle of nonviolent action is that of noncooperation with everything humiliating."

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.

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TACKLE



HUNGER

**Our SOUPER BOWL of CARING Collection yielded a total of
\$1018 for the Genoa Food Pantry!**

Thank you for your generous support!



Genoa Area Community Food Pantry

****Needs for March- Peanut Butter and Jelly!
Please no food expired items.**

**St. John serves at the Food Pantry on
Saturday, March 16th at 9 AM. Please join us!!**

Congratulations to Cub Scout Pack 342



**Congratulations to Cub Scout Pack 342 for
50 continuous years of service to youth in our
community.**

**If your son or daughter is interested to joining the
Pack, K thru 5th grade, contact Brian Skotynsky.**



**Troop 342 is now eagerly recruiting
young ladies, ages 11 thru 17, for the
opportunity to join the
adventure of Scouting.**

**An informational meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, March 3rd at 7:30pm in the church basement.
Questions, please contact Brian Skotynsky
at 419-836-9161.**

The Forerunner

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419-972-4003

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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 2019 newsletter is

Monday, March 25th at 9 AM

**Please send articles and/or
information to**

office@stjohnwilliston.org.



**"Creating and nurturing life changing
relationships based on the love of God
in Jesus Christ, so that we may grow
in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."**



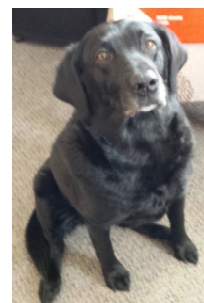
**LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator**

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



*Bella
Fredericksen*

*The Greeter of
St. John*



Memorials and Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Clarence Diefenthaler

Rich and Barb Gottschalk

Bob Fahle

Vivian Chambers

Doris and Wendy Shields

In Memory of Clyde Sandrock

Thrivent Financial

In Memory of Marian Damschroder

Merle and Shirley Berger

In Memory of Robert "Bobby" Begell

LisaAnne Gregg

In Memory of Milton Schimming

Mary Schimming

In Memory of Dad

Mark and Lucy Witt

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



*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!



St. John'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

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.

Circle and Board Meetings

March 2019

Please note the date change for the Esther Circle and Rebekah Circles this month!

ESTHER CIRCLE:

Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Diane Dickenson

Hostesses: Jean Rollins & JoElaine Schimming

REBEKAH CIRCLE:

Tuesday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Franny Cranfield

DORCAS CIRCLE:

Thursday, March 7, 1:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting

Monday, March 11, 7:00 p.m.

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 1

Ash Wednesday, March 6

Lenten Soup & Salad Buffet

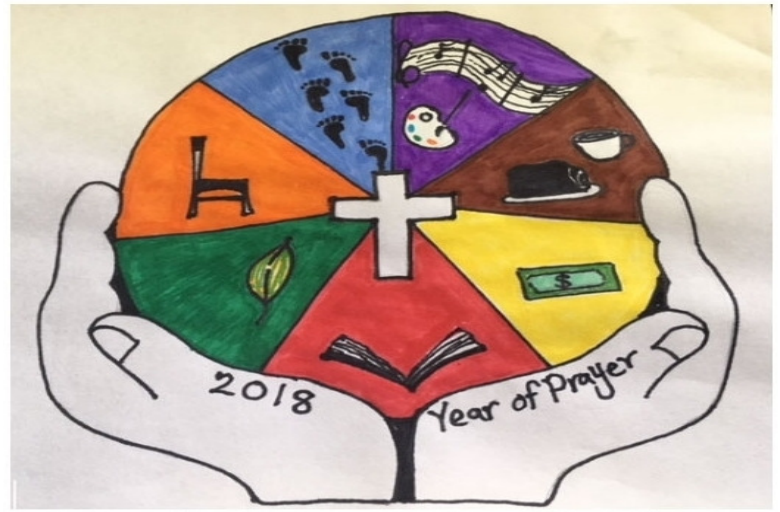
Wednesdays at noon,
following 11 a.m. service

(Dates, Hostesses)

March 13– Christian Community Life

March 20– Dorcas Circle

March 27– Esther Circle



Prayer Wheel designed by Rev. Melodi Hagen

2019 Year of Scripture: Creative Prayer Retreats Praying Creatively Through Sacred Reading, Silence, Artful Expression and Fellowship

Saturday March 16

The Friendly Center

1324 N. Superior St.

Toledo, OH 43604

9:30A.M. - Noon

For all who are available, we will head to the
Toledo Museum of Art For Lunch
and a Contemplative Walk through the galleries

Saturday April 6

The Friendly Center

1324 N. Superior St.

Toledo, OH 43604

9:30A.M. - Noon

For all who are available, we will head to
The Black Cloister for Lunch
All ages and Christian
denominations are invited to participate in this
day of prayer, teachings by MICAH leadership,
and creativity

*For Additional information
contact Rev. Rebecca Przybylski:

419-764-3951

beckyprzybylski@yahoo.com

Happening @ St. John!



Monday Morning Bible Study

Did you know....

*There is an adult bible study class that meets
Mondays at 10:00 am?*

*This study is lead by Pastor O'Brien and
concentrates on the lectionary lessons for the
upcoming week.*

*No experience needed and all are welcome!
Bring your bible!*

THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO...

WHY DEFENDING SCRIPTURE
HAS MADE US UNABLE TO READ IT



PETER ENNS

Reading Encounter Book Study Wednesdays at 10:00a

**We are discussing The Bible Tells Me So... Why
Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable To Read It,
by Peter Enns. "The controversial Bible scholar
recounts his transformative spiritual journey in which
he discovered a new, more honest way to love and
appreciate God's Word."**

High School Bible Study

New HIGH SCHOOL Bible Study!

Join us for this new gathering with lots of friends, food and fellowship!

Our next meeting will be March 5th at 6 PM.

Invite a friend!

For more information, contact Stefanie Neuman at
stefaniehneuman@gmail.com

St. John Youth Group News

March, 2019

Confirmation Ministry Tour at Luther Home of Mercy

We will meet at LHM on Sunday, March 10, at 1:00p. We'll start with pizza and a ministry overview followed by a campus tour and wrap up by attending the 3:00 pm worship service. Luther Home of Mercy is an important ministry right in our own community. It is good for us to be familiar with the campus and know what sort of services they provide for their residents. Luther Home will be feeding us and they need to know how many are attending. Please let me know if you are unable to attend this event. .

High School Bible Study

We are meeting Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00 PM. Snacks will be provided. Any questions, contact Stef Neuman.

Chicken Paprikash Fundraiser

Carol Vargo (*Payton Donnelly's grandma*) has volunteered once again to help the youth raise funds for the 2021 Youth Gathering by making chicken paprikash for over 150 people on **Saturday, April 6th**. Mrs. Vargo and Mrs. Donnelly will make the paprikash, but in the weeks leading up the event, we will need other volunteers (youth and parents) to sell tickets after worship. The day of the event we will need volunteers to help set up tables, in addition to people to help prepare, serve, and clean up. We will serve dinner from 6:00 (after worship) until we are sold out. Obviously we will need helpers before and after those times. Parents have begun to work out some of the details during Sunday school. (attn. other parents: they meet in the social hall if you would like to join them.)

Craft Auction

As part of our Chicken Paprikash Fundraiser we will be having a craft auction; items made by students and/or parents to be auctioned off. If you are willing to donate an item or would like more information, please contact Pam LaRue.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

March 5 – Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

**March 5 at 6p –
High School Bible Study**
(meet in the church lounge)

March 16 – Genoa Food Pantry
As part of St. John's Year of Service, we will be helping at the Genoa Food Pantry on March 16th from 9:00 until noon.

This is an event for the entire congregation, but the youth are certainly encouraged to participate. Show up at 9am to help pack bags and load cars. This is a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points

April 6 – Chicken Paprikash Dinner
(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

April 20 – Easter Egg Hunt
(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)



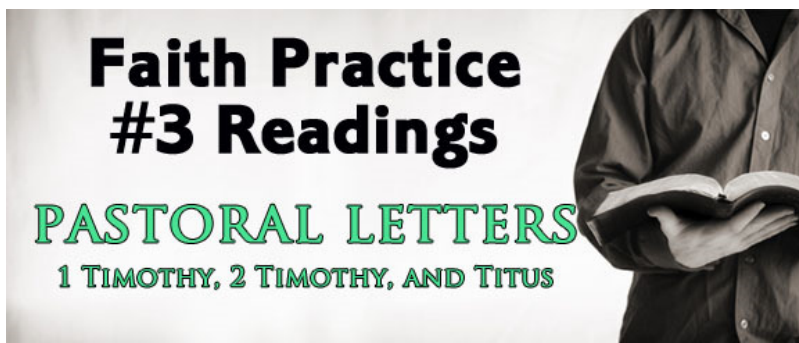
April 21 – Easter Breakfast
(a good opportunity for community service/confirmation service points)

May 18 – Confirmation

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Don't forget to turn in Sermon Note and Service Point forms to your confirmation teacher. Also remember your one Church council visit. They meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00. Question forms for your visit are available in the 8th grade confirmation room.

Youth/Parents: If you have an idea for an activity, please contact Pastor O'Brien and he will help you make it happen.



Week of March 4

2 Timothy 4

Paul charges Timothy by Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom, to preach the word; convince, rebuke, exhort. Be watchful, endure afflictions, and fulfil your ministry. Paul is already being poured out as a drink offering. He has fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

Week of March 11

Titus 1

Paul left Titus in Crete to appoint elders. Bishops must be virtuous, just, holy and self-controlled – similar to the virtues enumerated for bishops and deacons in 1 Timothy 3. They must also be able to engage in controversy successfully.

Week of March 18

Titus 2

Older men should act temperately and with dignity. Older women should act likewise, teaching the younger women where necessary to be loving to their family. Young men should be sober and show integrity. The grace of God has appeared to all, and teaches us that we must live soberly and righteously, looking for the glorious ‘appearing’ of our savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for himself his own special people, zealous for good works.

Week of March 25

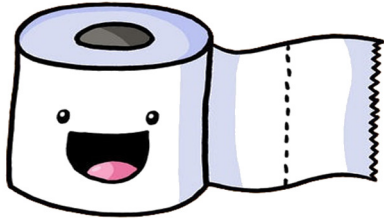
Titus 3

The kindness and the love of God our Savior toward all people appeared not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to God’s mercy. The Holy Spirit renews and regenerates us. Justified by Christ’s grace, we become heirs of eternal life. Those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. Avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law. Reject divisive people.

If you have suggestions for our next Faith Practice Reading book of the Bible, please let Pastor O’Brien know. We will take a short break and start a new reading at the beginning of April.

Faith Practice

Number Four



Let's Build a Wall!!

Did you know??

On a recent trip to deliver donated items to neighboring missions in downtown Toledo, we were told that the one item that is needed the most (*but donated the least*) by local missions and pantries is

Toilet paper!

Missions in Toledo, at times, have had to limit the amount of bathroom tissue given to each family to **ONE ROLL PER FAMILY per WEEK!**

ONE ROLL PER WEEK for a whole family!

As part of our pledge to serve beyond the walls of St. John, we will be joining with other churches to share our bounty and

BUILD A WALL of BATHROOM TISSUE!

How can you help? It's simple....just pick up an extra pack of bathroom tissue when you are shopping! 4 packs are preferred but any size is greatly appreciated!

Then, drop it off at church.

When we have a supply, we will take it to The Marketplace for All near St. Paul's Community Center (downtown), Helping Hands of St. Louis (east side) and Salem Lutheran Church Ministries (Huron St.).

Thank you for being a blessing to others in need!

Any questions? Just stop in/call the office or call Cheryl Berger.

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

Adult Mission Trip

August 15-21, 2019

Rocky Boy Reservation

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Box Elder, Montana

See Pastor for details!

Rocky Boy Meeting

Reminder that we will have a meeting for those interested or seeking more information about our Rocky Boy servant trip following the Pancake Dinner on **March 5th**.

Year of Service - March
Our March event will be helping at the Genoa Food Pantry on March 16th.

There is a sign-up sheet next to the Pastor's office door.

If you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "beyond St. John", please let me know. We will also need volunteers to help schedule some of these activities. If there are areas of service you are passionate about, please consider coordinating a day of service.



Growing in Faith and Service

What is Stewardship?

The question was asked,
 "What does the
 Stewardship Committee do?
 Don't you just
 organize a golf outing?"

The simple answer— No!

We are happy to say it is so
 much more than that.

Got questions?

Just ask or see
 anyone on the
 Stewardship Committee
 or come to a Committee night...

Thank you for being
 a faithful
 steward at St. John.



One definition states that a **STEWARD** is a person who manages the affairs of a household or an estate for the owner.



GOD HAS MADE EACH OF US A STEWARD --and has given us **ABILITIES** and **TALENTS** that are unique for each of us to use in that work.



A SCRIPTOGRAPHIC BOOKLET by CHANNING L. BETE CO., INC., South Deerfield, MA 01373 U.S.A.
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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.

Scrapbooking Crop Fun-raiser!

benefiting Luther Home of Mercy

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

Saturday,
April 13th

9:00 am- 9:00 pm

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 5th

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

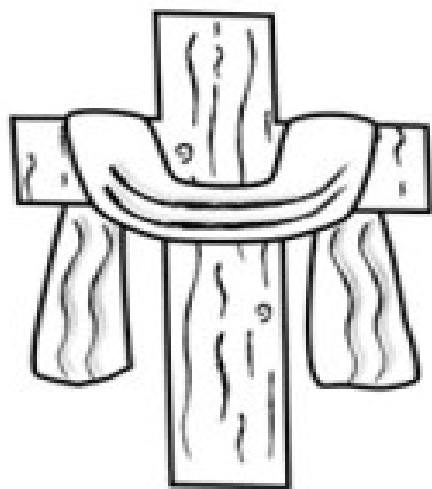


Pretzels have an interesting history!

Around the year 610, a monk decided to make a treat for the children who had learned to recite their prayers. Christians in those days prayed by folding their hands across their chests with each hand touching the opposite shoulder. This clever monk formed the dough so that it would look like hands folded in prayer. He gave his creation the name pretiola, which in Latin means "little reward."

The simple shape of the pretzel, arms folded in prayer, reminds us to pray each day!

Ash Wednesday



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 _____

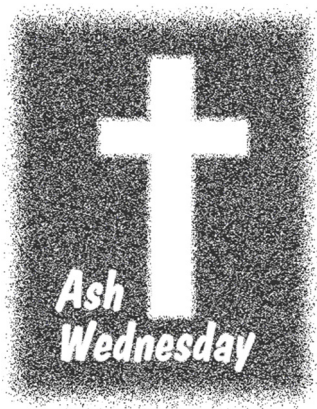
One thing I can do during Lent to bring me closer to God...



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?



Background: Why? Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

✚ Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

✚ Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.

✚ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium (see "What are columbaria and memorial gardens?"). "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).

✚ Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God. The liturgy for Ash Wednesday can be found in both the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 251) and Leaders Desk Edition (p. 615). In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence.

The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

Practice: How? Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and may stand/kneel. Ashes are applied with the minister's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Pastors and one or more assisting ministers may impose ashes, depending on the size of your assembly and local practice. Several prie-dieu (kneelers) can be stationed in appropriate places for the imposition so that people can freely move to them as they choose. Ushering is not necessary, but a printed worship folder or verbal announcements prior to the service will assist the assembly in knowing where, when and how to come forward. Silence (see "What is the role of silence in worship?") may be kept or appropriate music can accompany the imposition of ashes. Music that can be easily memorized or unaccompanied works well when other action is taking place. Also, the musical leaders need to support but not obscure the actions and words of this time.

The ELCA worship staff receives a number of similar inquiries on worship-related topics from across the church. These responses should not be considered the final word on the topic, but useful guides that are to be considered in respect to local context with pastoral sensitivity. The response herein may be reproduced for congregational use as long as the web address is cited on each copy. www.elca.org



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

"The Lord spoke to Moses: See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with divine spirit, with ability, intelligence, and knowledge in every kind of craft, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, in every kind of craft. Moreover, I have appointed with him Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have given skill to all the skillful, so that they may make all that I have commanded you: the tent of meeting, and the ark of the covenant, and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furnishings of the tent, the table and its utensils, and the pure lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand, and the finely worked vestments, the holy vestments for the priest Aaron and the vestments of his sons, for their service as priests, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the holy place. They shall do just as I have commanded you." (Exodus 31:1-11).



By now, you may be getting a bit bogged down in your Daily Bible Reading by all of the instructions and details. In the last half of Exodus, we move from the narrative of God and God's people, to a bunch of commands, ordinances, and regulations. We read about the instructions for the Tabernacle, the furnishings, the priestly garments, and even a recipe for incense. In the midst of all the fine print and details, we meet 2 craftsmen, Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. These 2 craftsmen are filled with God's spirit to design and craft the Tabernacle, the furnishings, and the priestly garments. Bezalel and Oholiab are given the ability to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood.

While I was struggling through the instructions and details of Exodus 30-32, I was stuck by this passage about Bezalel and Oholiab. Some folks are gifted with skilled hands, and an ability to do things that many of us cannot do. They may never preach a sermon, teach a class, or tabulate a spreadsheet. But they keep our vehicles running, our houses warm, and the electricity flowing. This morning I saw a tow truck driver helping a stranded motorist. It was cold, and I prayed for both of them as I drove by. I'm glad that God singled out Bezalel and Oholiab, because sometimes we miss the importance of folks who put in a day's labor by the work of their hands.

Think about someone you know who is gifted with their hands. Call them and thank them for the work God has called them to do, and then pray a prayer of thanksgiving with them.

Amiel Beaudoin



Bishop Beaudoin wants to encourage and challenge you to join with the rest of the Northwestern Ohio Synod and read through the entire Bible in One Year. Back in 2004 and 2012, the parishes he was serving read through the Bible in One Year as a community spiritual practice. Scripture is meant to be read in community, so please don't do this alone.

2019 NWOS Daily Bible Readings for March

March 1: Deuteronomy 5-7
March 2: Deuteronomy 8-10
March 3: Deuteronomy 11-13
March 4: Deuteronomy 14-16

March 5: Deuteronomy 17-20
March 6: Deuteronomy 21-23
March 7: Deuteronomy 24-27
March 8: Deuteronomy 28-29
March 9: Deuteronomy 30-31
March 10: Deuteronomy 32-34
March 11: Joshua 1-4
March 12: Joshua 5-8
March 13: Joshua 9-11
March 14: Joshua 12-15
March 15: Joshua 16-18
March 16: Joshua 19-21
March 17: Joshua 22-24
March 18: Judges 1-2

March 19: Judges 3-5
March 20: Judges 6-7
March 21: Judges 8-9
March 22: Judges 10-12
March 23: Judges 13-15
March 24: Judges 16-18
March 25: Judges 19-21
March 26: Ruth
March 27: 1 Samuel 1-3
March 28: 1 Samuel 4-8
March 29: 1 Samuel 9-12
March 30: 1 Samuel 13-14
March 31: 1 Samuel 15-17

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper



St. John Lutheran
Church-Williston
Tuesday,
March 5, 2018
4:30-6:30 PM

*Carry-out available

*Free Will Offering

*Proceeds will benefit the St. John/ELCA Youth Trip



Ash Wednesday
Services
March 6, 2019
Services at
11:00 AM & 7:00 PM at
St. John

Lenten Worship Schedule at St. John-Williston

**Join us each Weds during
LENT at 11:00 AM
as we explore the "I AM"
statements of Jesus.**

**We will hear from a
different Pastor each
week.**

**Join us for a free fellowship
luncheon
following the service.**

All are welcome!

I AM



✿ A Worship Series on ✿
the "I AM" Statements of Jesus

**Wed. March 13th* 11 AM
"I Am the Bread of Life"**

Pastor Rita Bair

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Christian Community Life

*

**Weds. March 20th*11 AM
"Before Abraham Was, I Am"**

Pastor Holli Burkard

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Dorcas Circle

*

**Weds. March 27th* 11AM
"I Am the Light of the World"**

Pastor Bob Noble

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Esther Circle

*

**Weds. April 3rd* 11 AM
"I Am the Resurrection"**

Pastor Stephen Bull

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Rebekah Circle

*

**Weds. April 10th* 11 AM
"I am the Vine"**

Pastor Mark Wentz

Worship at 11:00 am-Lenten Luncheon
following service
by Church Council

The offerings from this years Lenten worship services will be split between the
Luther Home of Mercy (to purchase new beds) and
Salem Lutheran Church (downtown) "Just Pancakes" weekly meal program.

The world provides enough food for all, but more than **800 million people** around the world face chronic hunger.

We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our baptismal call to strive for a just world where **all are fed.**



ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty. We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries.



Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world with creative and courageous action.

This Lent,

you're invited to join together with fellow Lutherans to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving.

Experience how the grace of Christ moves us to engage in transformative works of love around the world through ELCA World Hunger as God calls us into the ministry of hope, liberation and restoration.

Journey into Lent as we explore the connections between our faith and our shared ministry to end hunger and poverty. Discover new ways to engage in the long-standing traditions and practices of Lent this year with:



- 1) A DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR with ideas for how to engage in the Lenten disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.
- 2) A WEEKLY STUDY with information about how your gifts to ELCA World Hunger are at work in the world.
- 3) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, including an inspirational weekly email series and coin jar wrappers to invite children and families into the practice of giving to programs to end hunger and poverty.

We invite you to focus your Lenten prayer and fasting by joining us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for the good of our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

Visit ELCA.org/40Days to get started today.



Annual Youth Chicken Paprikash Dinner and Craft Auction

Saturday, April 6, 2019

6:00 PM (until sold out)

Tickets \$10.00

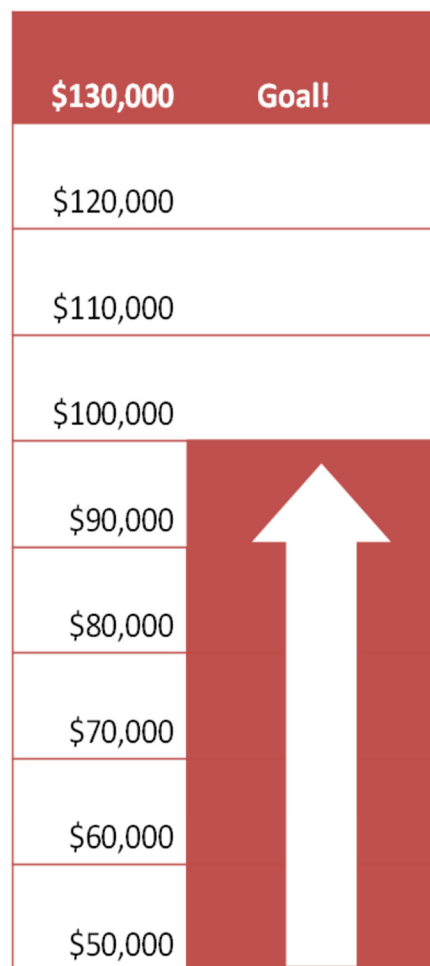
(Sold in advance)

More info coming soon!

*Mark your
calendar!*



We are almost there!!!
If you would like to make a special
contribution to the Roof Project, just mark
"ROOF FUND" on the envelope
and place it in the offering.
Thank you for your generous support!!



SIMPLE.
 CONVENIENT.
 SECURE.

point. click.
make a difference.

Just go to our website at
www.stjohnwilliston.org
 and click on the
 "ONLINE GIVING" link.



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!

Not online? No
 problem! Just fill out
 an authorization form
 or see LisaAnne in
 the office.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</div>	
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)			Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> </div>	
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.				
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____					

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

Easter Lilies Order by March 24th



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

The order deadline is March 24th. (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 \$8.00 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 **\$8.00** 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!

Council Highlights



What happened at the last meeting?

Council Meeting Highlights- February 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report: Numbers

15 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings

4 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events

5 professional/clergy activities, 6 classes/Bible studies

Year of Service January/February

Our January event was participating in a Mobile Pack with Feed My Starving Children on February 2. Approximately twenty people participated.

Our February event was learning about the ministry at EnPuzzlement on February 19th. (We didn't get to help with their ministry, but we have been invited back.)

Year of Service - March

Our March event will be helping at the Genoa Food Pantry on March 16th. There is a sign-up sheet next to my office door.

If you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "beyond St. John", please let me know. We will also need volunteers to help schedule some of these activities. If there are areas of service you are passionate about, please consider coordinating a day of service.

Rocky Boy

Reminder that we will have a meeting for those interested or seeking more information about our Rocky Boy servant trip following the Pancake Dinner on March 5th.

Treasurer's Report: Kent reported that expenses are currently under budget.

Finance Committee Report: Will put a notice in the Forerunner to keep the status of the roof funds received and what is still needed. A notice will also be put in the forerunner that we can use one check or one envelope when making multiple donations. After discussion, motion to divide the Lenten offering between Salem Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo for 'Just Pan-cakes' program and the Luther Home of Mercy. Deanna seconded. Motion was approved.

Christian Community Life: reported that the Food Panty served 69 patrons, 26 families in January. Our church raised \$1,018.00 on Souper Bowl weekend which was donated to the food pantry. Thank you! Our next day to serve is March 16th 9:00am to 12:00noon.

The Pancake Dinner will be held on March 5. Arrangements are made for the dinner.

LisaAnne had taken some items to St Paul Marketplace for all People and thought we might like to do some collecting, so the month of March we will be 'Collecting for Cleanliness.' Toilet paper and personal hygiene items will be collected.

:

Evangelism: reported that Beverly Harder and Madelayne Saionzkowski are putting together a basket to be won at the Easter Egg Hunt. Darlene Carstensen will continue sending cards to members of the congregation who are hospitalized, have a baby or death in the family.

Carol Vargo will take CD's of service to shut-ins. As of now no one is requesting them. Please let the committee know if anyone needs a CD. The committee is starting to compile a list of prospective new members.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers and Carol Jensen will be co-chairman. Souper Bowl Weekend collected \$1018.00 for the Genoa Food Pantry. We will again be distributing Lenten Devotion booklets. We will use the ones that are left over from last year for teens. More will be ordered for the adults and children.

Tammy Mazur will again be in charge of the Easter Egg hunt and the Easter Breakfast.

Board of Stewardship Report: Our focus this month was on getting someone to speak at our church rewarding the opioid crisis, which was had brought up last month. Rosemarie had told us about Nate Kehlmeier a young man who has turned his life around from drugs and is now speaking to groups and we decided to contact him. Rosemarie then contacted him and he is very willing to speak at our church. The committee's main focus now is when we can make this happen, Ideas included having him speak during a Sunday School hour, having him speak at both services some weekend, or another suggestion is having him speak when the youth have their dinner the first week in April. Stewardship will continue to arrange a date and invite the community schools to join us. Will work on time and talents and the monthly volunteering Year of Service opportunities. Looking forward to the opportunities to draw in younger people.

Worship Life: reported that we have 7 youth getting confirmed on Saturday May 18. Worship Life is currently arranging worship assistants for 11am Wednesday Lenten Services. Nightly service options will be published. Worship Life has several questions to consider as a result of the outcome of the Annual Meeting considering the Christmas Eve Services. Now that the decision is tabled, where do we go from here? Will we need to call a special congregational meeting? Looking for guidance from the constitution and the council. (see notes from the annual meeting discussion) Worship life also consulted council and the constitution to doing a Seder Feast instead of the Maundy Thursday Service. This was decided as not a change in day or time, but just a worship type and does not apply. The Longest Night Service has been in place several years now and is grandfathered in as of 2018.

Property: reported that the rubber roof replacement may happen sooner than projected. Roofer attended a trade show and cost should be lower than current bid. Property will be replacing the light bulbs in the basement with LED bulbs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting: Discussion was held on the Annual Meeting. Better communication is needed. When big issue arises, we need to put them in the Forerunner and bulletin giving time for everyone to understand and think about the issue. All services added have been grandfathered in as of 2018. The Council Secretary will review Robert's Rules of Order for suggestions as to how we need to handle the tabled Christmas Eve worship schedule and report back.

Staff Support Committee: Pastor requested that Al Brown, Dave Newman and Diane Gerkensmeyer be placed on the staff support committee. Deanna Neuman made the motion, Cheryl Berger seconded. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Committee Night is scheduled for Thursday March 14, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of January 31, 2019

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year Growth
Income: *	283,000	20,915	17,455	83%	20,915	17,455	83%	20,518	-15%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS Included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	2,958	2,958	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	997	486	49%	997	486	49%		
Staff Salaries	96,800	7,868	7,750	99%	7,868	7,750	99%		
Staff Benefits	56,170	4,681	3,933	84%	4,681	3,933	84%		
Operating Expenses	73,130	9,983	9,146	92%	9,983	9,146	92%		
Expense Totals	278,500	26,487	24,273	92%	26,487	24,273	92%		
Income less Expenses	4,500	(5,572)	(6,818)		(5,572)	(6,818)			

2019 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	8,682
Activity Center Savings	275,860
Memorials	66,286
Music Fund	4,861
Endowment Fund	113,290
Roof Fund	85,511
Scholarship Tank	6,054
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	34,808
Scholarship Parks	35,333
Youth Travel	5,890
Other	29,443
Savings	30,752
Total	700,780

(Other includes Youth, Good Samaritan, Scholarship, etc.)

*only three weekends in Jan 2019
 due to weather cancellations



If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance, Tim Titgemeyer, Dave Neuman or Kent Delventhal.



March

Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Shane O'Brien
- 9 Seidona Brossia
- 16 **Aidan O'Brien**
- 23 Payton Donnelly
- 30 Anna Sommers

Lectors

- 2 Ruth Petersen
- 9 Doris Titgemeyer
- 16 Nancy Strohscher
- 23 Gene Bihn
- 30 Amy Schloegl

Ushers

- 2 **Need Two**
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 9 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
- 16 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
- 23 David Lee Family
- 30 Marty & Owen Schloegl, Gene & Amy Bihn

Communion Servers

- 2 Al Brown (**Need Two**)
- 9 Doris Titgemeyer, JoElaine Schimming, Wayne Bauman
- 16 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Amy Schloegl
- 23 Wayne Bauman, JoElaine Schimming, Al Brown
- 30 Amy Schloegl, Doris Titgemeyer, Carol Vargo

Communion Set-up

- 2 Ruth Petersen
- 9 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 16 Dilly Schimming
- 23 Brenda Keeley
- 30 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 2 Jack Mathews
- 9 JoElaine Schimming
- 16 Dean Lowe
- 23 Kris Lee
- 30 Carol Vargo

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 9 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 16 **Ron Gerkenmeyer** / Amy Bihn
- 23 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 30 Traci Brown/Ron Gerkenmeyer



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 3 Lindsey Cashen
- 10 Tucker Fredericksen
- 17 Sophia Cashen
- 24 Jake Titgemeyer
- 31 Evan Kessler

Lectors

- 3 Heather Cashen
- 10 Diana Pfaff
- 17 Ann Mann
- 24 Melissa Lammers
- 31 Jill Kao

Ushers

- 3 Tim Titgemeyer Family
- 10 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Jeff Schimming
- 17 Dan & Andy Kessler, Jennifer Delventhal
- 24 Lammers Family
- 31 Bob Bench Family

Communion Servers

- 3 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 10 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
- 17 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 24 Roland Sandrock, Ann & Mike Mann
- 31 Jill Kao, Wilma Smithers, Bob Kapp

Communion Set-up

- 3 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 9 Diana Pfaff
- 17 Deanna Neuman
- 24 Melissa Lammers
- 31 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

- 3 Debbie Wehner
- 9 Karen Jeffers
- 17 Linda Schlievert
- 24 Tim Titgemeyer
- 31 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 **Need One**
- 9 Andy Kessler
- 17 Joel Mann
- 24 Andy Titgemeyer
- 31 Paul Beamer

Children's Moments

- 3 Caria Goldstein
- 9 Stef Neuman
- 17 Bells
- 24 **Caira Goldstein**
- 31 Puppets!

*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.*



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

6 Aidan O'Brien
13 Shane O'Brien
20 Seidona Brossia
27 Anna Sommers

Lectors

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

Ushers

6 Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
13 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
20 John & Helen Meyer, Ken and Pat Sievert
27 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

6 Diane Gerkenmeyer
13 Brenda Keeley
20 Traci Brown
27 Ruth Petersen

Door Greeters

6 Margaret Berger
13 Joni Hillman
20 Dean Lowe
27 Arline Sabin

Sound/Projector Techs

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

SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

7 Lindsey Cashen
14 Tucker Fredericksen
21 Sophia Cashen
28 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

7 Roland Sandrock
14 Marcia Morgan
21 Cebie Titgemeyer
28 Ann Mann

Ushers

7 The Titgemeyer Family
14 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
21 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
28 Jeff Schimming, Dan Nelson, Jennifer Delventhal

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

7 Pam LaRue
14 Diana Pfaff
21 Melissa Lammers
28 Janice Sandrock

Door Greeters

7 Melissa Lammers
14 Marcia Morgan
21 Linda Schlievert
28 Nancy Brittan

Sound/Projector Techs

7 Andy Kessler
14 Paul Beamer
21 Joel Mann
24 Andrew Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

7 Caira Goldstein
14 Stef Neuman
21 Bells
28 Stef Neuman

*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.*

