

November 2019

FORERUNNER

St. John  Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

"In our Faith Practice Readings, one of the Proverbs talked about feeding your enemies, then said it would heap burning coals on their head (For reference, the passage reads... "If your enemies are hungry, give them bread to eat; and if they are thirsty, give them water to drink; for you will heap coals of fire on their heads, and the Lord will reward you." Proverbs 25:21-22). What does that mean?"

The short answer is, we don't really know. Literally "dumping burning coals on someone's head" would kill them, and while hurting someone who has hurt us may be our first response in the head of the moment, this action does not fit the rest of the passage... Feed them, then burn them doesn't make much sense. Therefore, Biblical scholars tend to agree that the phrase is idiomatic. That is, it had a different meaning than its literal translation (i.e. we might say, 'raining cats and dogs'), but scholars aren't really sure what the phrase means. Here are some options....

(We should also note that Paul quotes this passage in Romans 12:20. Whatever the phrase means, both Paul and the writer of Proverbs believed this was the outcome of kindness to an enemy.)

One possibility... it's a good thing. In the days before Bic lighters, people would have to go to their neighbors home to get a light if the fire in their hearth went out (with a coal bucket on their head). So this could mean, not only give that jerk next door something to eat, but give him fire for his hearth too. Be kind to your enemy; give them MORE than what they ask for.

Another possibility sort of related to this one... it's a clever means of protecting yourself. Yes, you did something nice for them, PLUS, enemies carrying a bucket of burning coals on their heads can't haul off and punch you without endangering themselves.

Another possibility... it's a shame thing. When we are kind to someone, they are embarrassed for acting like an antagonist. They feel bad for being an enemy when we have treated them like a friend. As a result of our kindness, they will be regretful. They will 'burn with shame', as another idiom goes.

Another related idea... it's a fire of love. The person deserves the treatment of an enemy, but when we treat them like a friend we can change their mind about us. We can be reconciled. It's a cleansing fire. The person's wickedness is burned away by our kindness and they will no longer be our enemy.

Whatever the exact meaning, I think the context suggests we are to do the good and loving thing, whether it changes anything about the relationship or not. Because it's clear from watching the world around us that responding to hate with more hate makes things worse, not better.

I really liked this conclusion I found (author's name not given)... "So, taken together, these verses suggest – when I see my enemy struggling with something (hungry, thirsty), I should do something to help (food, drink). I should also give my enemy more than what they need. In doing so, I can really destroy my enemy – destroy them by making them my friend. As the modern wise saying goes – "kill them with kindness!"

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.

GIVE
Thanks



A Harvest of Thanks

Trunk or Treat Thanks!

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make our 10th Trunk or Treat a success! Beautiful weather, lots of food, lots of cars, lots of kids, and lots and lots of candy made for a really fun event. Thank you to Christian Community Life for all the food and drink. Thank you to the Evangelism Committee for working on the delightful basket of goodies they gave away. Thank you to the Boy Scouts for setting up the haunted trail, Rollie Sandrock for use of his truck and wagon, and Pastor Shawn for taking all safely on the haunted trail. Thank you to all who decorated cars and to all who brought in lots of candy to give away. Looking forward to next year. The Evangelism Committee would like to thank all who signed up for the basket of Halloween goodies. This year the winner was Aiden Goldstein. Congrats, Aiden!

Many Hands Make Light Work!

Thank you to the people who make sure the Forerunner is ready to mail each and every month! Helping this month was Linda Schlievert, Terry Gast, Marilyn Sandrock, Carolyn Lasseter, Audrey Milbrodt, Diane Hartman, and Madelayne Saionzkowski.



Gifts & Memorials to St. John

In Memory of Rene Berger

Larry and Nancy Strohscher
Kent Delventhal
Richard and Jane Phillips
Lowell and Diane Hartman
Audrey and Phil Milbrodt
Elaine Gruetter
Margaret Berger
Merle and Shirley Berger
Mary Harmeyer
Gene and Amy Bihn
Ray and Judy Robaszkievicz
Mary Schimming
Ethel Frankhouse
Janice Sheahan
Cal and Marvel Nelson
Mr & Mrs. Denny Dickinson
Doris Titgemeyer
Jim & Dilly Schimming
Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
Helen Jean Rollins
Ruth Petersen
Gertrude Eckerman

In Memory of Joe Vargo

Carol Vargo

In Honor of Jim & Dilly Schimming's 62nd

Wedding Anniversary

Phyllis Parks

In Honor of Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer's 60th Anniversary

Ron & Bonnie Schimming & family
Jim & Dilly Schimming & family
Clarence and Wilma Smithers
Evalyn Witty
Denny and Rosemarie Dickinson
Dave, Kris, Kurtis and Aubrey Lee

In Memory of Sandra K. Johnson

Mary Schimming
Mr & Mrs. Denny Dickinson
Gary and Darlene Carsxetensen
Randy and Tonya Carstensen

In Memory of Larry Hoenbrink

Mary Schimming
Carol Vargo
Kent Delventhal

In Memory of Dr. Edward Tschappat

Lucy and Mark Witt and Great Grandson Max

If your name has inadvertently been missed from the list, please let the office know.

The Forerunner
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by St. John Lutheran Church
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Fall Worship Hours

Saturday Worship 5:00

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the
November 2019 newsletter is
Monday, November 18, 2019
at 9 AM

Please send articles and/or
information to

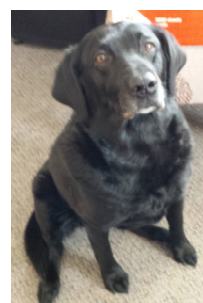
office@stjohnwilliston.org.

"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



LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator
9am—3pm
Mon. thru Fri.
(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



Meet Bella!

The
Door
Greeter of
St. John

NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Beverly Harder
Hostesses: Diane Traver

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Thursday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Joan Truman

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, November 7, 1:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.



All ladies are cordially invited to attend the
23rd annual Advent Service and Brunch
at St. John Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge
on November 30th at 9:30 AM.

Tickets are \$8.00 with reservations
needed before November 25th.

You may turn in your reservations to
LisaAnne in the office.

This year's program is entitled "Hope".
This is always a wonderful and meaningful
way to start off the Advent season .

Thankoffering Services

Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 5 PM

Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 9:45 AM

Our speakers this year (Ann Mann and
Maureen Saponari) will speak on the
history and service of the Salvation
Army in Ottawa County.

Blanketed in Love and Thanks!

Thanks to the wonderful support of the congregation, the blanket ladies will again be able to sew and tie another year without the need to ask for money. A final dollar amount is not available at this time as we are waiting to receive the monies that was given to the church office. However we do know that we will have taken in over \$1200.00 All this money will be used for filler, bottom sheets and thread. Our lucky winners were Anna Sommers, Linda Schlievert (2), Karen Gruben, Andrew Hartman, Vicki Huber, Kathy Wegman, Ann Mann, Kevin Schimming, and Amy Bihn.

Top bidder on the Ohio State blanket was Cal Nelson and the U of Michigan was Barbara Wright. We have also given blankets to Lutheran World Relief (15 boxes), Impact for Hope, Ruthann House, Nightingale Harvest, Beach House, Christians Abroad, Holiday Bureau, Hooves, McDonald House, and at least 25 have been given to people with medical problems & home disasters.

Thrivent again gave us \$250.00 which was used towards filler. We also thank those who have dropped off material and sheets throughout the year. This year we figure that we finished with 277 blankets and are already doing for the next year. The two blankets for the Susan G Koman will remain up throughout October. Any donation gives you a ticket for the drawing. This money, along with a filled oil filter bank from Terry's Auto Repair, will be then forwarded to the Foundation.

We meet on Tuesday mornings for a couple of hours to tie and anyone is welcome to join us. We will be starting at 9 a.m. to catch up on all the tops that have been sewed. Come at 9 or whenever works with your schedule.

Blanket Ladies

Arlene Sabin, Marcia Morgan, Marvel Nelson, Jan Sheahan
Gertrude Eckerman, Margaret Berger and of course we cannot
forget Grace Johnson, who was with us part of the year.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

SAT. NOVEMBER 9, 2019

3:00- 4:30pm

**St. John Lutheran Church
(in Basement)**

**St. Rt. 579 – Williston, OH
To Honor All Veterans and
Military Members**



**Entertainment:
Patriotic Singing @ 3:30**

**EVERYONE
IS INVITED!**

We welcome you to stay for our Contemporary Service @ 5:00



**Our Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Service
will be held on Weds. November 27 2018 at 7:00 PM
at St. John Lutheran Church-Williston**

Join with our faith community in a Community Worship Service with
St. John Williston, Mount Carmel-Bono, St. Luke's-Yondota
and St. Peter-Blackberry.

All are invited. All are welcome!

**Special Note* Our Thanksgiving Offerings will be used
for missions in our local community.**

**This year, Council voted to share our Thanksgiving
Offerings with the following:**

***The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion**

***Jerusalem Township Community Food Pantry**

***Genoa Community Food Pantry**

**Please use your church issued Thanksgiving envelope for this
service or place it in the offering plate during any services
at St. John.**

Thank you for being a blessing!

November Stewardship Page

Praying! Serving! Sharing!

A MINDSET OF ABUNDANCE

Jesus paints a picture of stewardship when he tells the parable of the talents. It's the story of a master who gives talents to three of his servants: To the first, he gives five; to the second, he gives two; and to the final servant, he gives one. The first two servants put the talents to work, but the third servant hides his. When the master returns, the first two servants report that they have doubled their talents through wise investing. But the third tells the master he buried his talent and gained nothing, and the master furiously dismisses him. The third servant's response to receiving the one talent is intriguing. Can one blame him for burying it when he only receives one? Perhaps he's afraid he'll lose some of his master's resources. And since he only has one, the stakes seem higher. But here's where it gets interesting: While we don't know the exact value of a talent, some suggest that it would be worth nearly a million dollars today! The idea of essentially hiding a million dollars in your mattress seems foolish.

So what can we learn from this parable? While Jesus probably intended to illustrate many things, one stands out to me. It suggests that God expects us to manage our resources from a mindset of abundance rather than a place of fear. The master provided for his servants and gave them more to manage. So God provides enough for us, too, and asks us to invest, manage and share our abundance with others.

We are each called to be wise stewards of the gifts God has given us— our time, our talents and our treasures. To be a good steward is to manage these gifts in a way that reflects our faith and our values.

[Reprinted with permission from the September 2019 issue of Thrivent magazine.]

November Stewardship Prayer

Generous God, whose giving knows no end,
forgive us for those moments when we fear that
sharing what we have will lead to our own
impoverishment and we keep silent and still,
even while those around us are in need.

Unclutter our lives.

Grant us gratitude for what we have,
our daily bread, the gift of life.

Unclutter our lives.

Give us space, simplicity, thankful hearts.
Help us to transcend self-centeredness, greed, and
fear, and lead us to feel, think,
and act as those who know the hope that is rooted in
the generous giving of God.

Forgive us when we forget.

Amen.

CAROL O'NEIL ADAPTED

STEWARDSHIP OF THE GOSPEL



As Christian stewards, we have been given three ways to exercise our partnership:

1 TO RECEIVE the GOSPEL

We experience the Gospel as an act of faith in God.



2 TO SHARE the GOSPEL

We bring God's message into the world, that all who believe in God will have Eternal Life.



3 TO REFLECT the GOSPEL

We show others by our daily living how we accept our responsibilities as Christians.



Stewardship Is
HEART WORK
Learning ♥ Worship ♥ Service

Faith Practice #3 Readings PROVERBS



November 4 – Proverbs 28

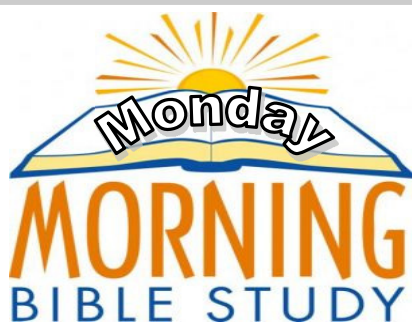
November 11 – Proverbs 29

November 18 – Proverbs 30

November 25 – Proverbs 31

Ladies Book Study to meet at St. John!

A Christian Community Ladies Book & Bible Study will be meeting in the lounge at St. John on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 AM. This group has been meeting for decades at various locations in the area and meets with Christian women from a variety of denominations. All are welcome to join us! The coffee will be on! You may contact LisaAnne in the office or email office@stjohnwilliston.org.



Pastor O'Brien leads a Monday Morning Bible Study every Monday morning at 10:00 AM based on the lectionary readings of the week. All are welcome to join this ongoing study which is held in the large classroom upstairs. Bring your bible (don't worry, we have extras!) and a cup of coffee and join us this week!



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell... Take a Stand Help Others



St. John is going to Ring the Bells for the annual Red Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army. We need volunteers to man the kettle in Miller's Market in Genoa on Saturday, December 7th from 10 AM - 8 PM. There will be volunteers needed for two hour shifts throughout the day. A sign up sheet will be placed in the narthex early in November for you to sign up. If you need further information, please contact Ann Mann at 419-360.3474.



St. John will join other Genoa Area churches and walk (or ride) in the Genoa Holiday Parade on December 1 at 6 PM

Participants are asked to wear Christmas pageant costumes as available.

The hope is to at least in a small way, keep the message of Jesus as part of the Christmas celebration.



All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint--a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus. The family of St. John remembers those who have passed in the last year.

Eugene K. King
Steven R. Harmeyer
Judy A. Schimming
Grace R. Johnson
Avis Johnson
Jon Johnson
Lori Jean Wilka
Richard G. Harmeyer
Judith L. Wagoner
Donald L. Ruthsatz, Sr.
Daniel D. Johnson
Sandra K. Johnson
Irene Berger

Let us pray... Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The St. John Prayer Chain will be updated for the year of 2020. If you are presently on the list and want to remain on the list, you need do nothing. If you would like to be added to the list, please sign the sheets in the narthex or by the elevator. Be sure to mark if you want to be on the day group or the evening group (after 6 PM) or on the e-mail group. Please provide a phone number or an e-mail address. You can also call or e-mail Margaret Berger at 419-836-7384 or **d_mberger@frontier.com**.

The new changes will take affect in January and they will be listed in the 2020 WELCA Yearbook.

If you sign and do not attend the circle meetings, please be sure to pick up a copy of the Yearbook when it becomes available.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

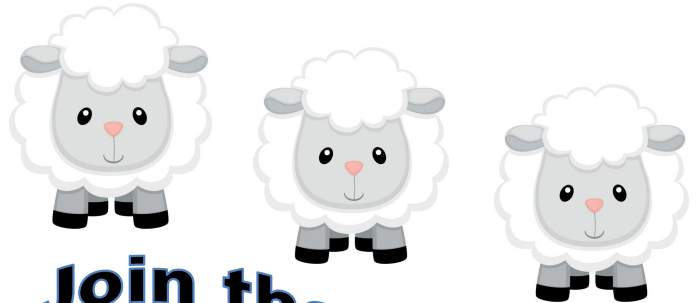
St. John Kid's Page



Have you checked out our Little Library at St. John?

At the end of the main church hallway is a cart full of books just waiting to be read!

Check 'em out!



**Join the flock at
Sunday School!
Sunday at 8:30 AM**

Do you need or do you have a friend that needs a bible? Just let the office know (call 419-836-5514 or email office@stjohnwilliston.org) and we will make sure you get a new bible right away!!



Fall Into God's Word!



St. John Youth Group News

November, 2019

Burn Down the House

Join us after worship on Saturday, November 23 (about 6:00). We will share a meal (TACO BAR!) and then a game of Burn Down the

House (*note to church leadership: this game does not involve literally burning down a house*). To play, each person playing (parents/adults included) comes with a bag of 3 good things and 3 bad things. For example, "Good" might be a \$1 bill, candy bar, pack of gum, can of soda, etc.. "Bad" might be a little kid Valentine, Happy Meal Toy, wart cream, white elephant type gifts. Use your imagination! These good and bad items will be traded throughout the game.

Think you might want to come? Sign up outside of Pastor O'Brien's office door so we know how many are eating and bring a bag of gifts. As always, friends are welcome! .



High School Bible Study

Meets in the church lounge at 6:00 PM. Snacks will be provided. Contact Stef Neuman for scheduled dates.

High School Sunday School

Meets in the church lounge each Sunday morning. We would love to have you join us! You can just show up, or contact Jennifer Delventhal for more information.

Lock-In

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Saturday, December 28th starting at 6:00 p.m. we will gather at the church for our annual Youth Group Lock-In. *But it will only be an overnight lock-in if we have parent/adult volunteers to chaperone and keep the peace. Please encourage your parents to volunteer.* Any questions, please contact Pastor O'Brien.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Youth Activities/Events

November 23 – Burn Down the House and Taco Bar

(eat delicious food, then test your luck to win fabulous prizes)

December 7 – Tree Lighting

(this is a good fellowship event and an opportunity to earn service points by helping serve/clean up)

December 15 – Christmas Program

(contact Tammy Mazur if you would like to participate)

December 28 – Lock-In

(this is the Saturday between Christmas and New Year; it may be late night or overnight depending on availability of adult volunteers)

Email/Text Reminders

If you would like to be reminded of youth events through email or text, join St. John Youth on Remind... Text @32g677 to 81010 or (419) 679-4578. For reminders by email, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/32g677>

Bulletin Board Pictures

If you would like any of the pictures from the bulletin board outside of Pastor's office, and they have been there longer than a week, feel free to take them home. (Help make room for more!)

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.



St. John  **Lutheran Church**
Williston, Ohio

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting



**2nd Annual Community
Christmas Tree Lighting
At St. John -Williston**

**Saturday, December 7,
2019 * 6:00 PM**

**Join us for a light meal followed by
singing of Christmas Carols and
wonderful fellowship.**

**The Lighting of the Community
Christmas Tree will follow the meal
and take place in the lot to the east of
the Parsonage– along SR 579.**

**Please bring items for the Ottawa
County Holiday Bureau.
(socks, mittens, scarves, toys, hygiene
items, paper products,
cleaning items
and non perishable food items).**



Children's Christmas Pageant

**St. John's Annual
Christmas Pageant.**

December 15, 2019 at 6:00pm

Practice will be on
Saturday, December 14, 2019
from 9:00am to 12:00pm and during
the Sunday School hour on Dec. 15th.
Any Catechism student that is not in
the pageant will be having class
During practice on Sunday.

The Advent Tea will follow the
Christmas Pageant.
Please bring a dessert or
appetizer to share.

Slips have been sent home with the stu-
dents to see who will be participating in
the program. If your child did not
receive one and would like to
participate in the program,
please contact
Tammy Mazur or Beckie Goldstein.



Luther Home of Mercy

Happenings at the Home



LUTHER HOME OF MERCY'S

Adopt-A-Resident Program

Give Back this Holiday Season

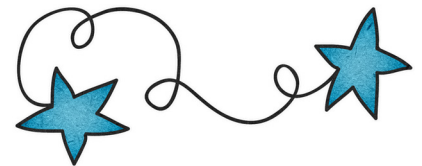
"Adopt-A-Resident" this holiday season and bring joy to an individual served by Luther Home of Mercy.

If you are interested in adopting or would like more information, contact Jeanne Rollins at 419-836-7741 or jrollins@lutherhome.org.



Can you believe the Christmas season will be here soon?! Watch for news on the St. John "Shopping with the Stars" Tree to benefit the residents of the Luther Home of Mercy.

It's coming soon!



Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Dartball begins November 12th!

Get those pitching arms ready!

Join us for fun on Tuesday nights when the Western Ottawa County Dartball League begins its new season.

The first game will be on Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 PM at Oak Harbor St. Paul UCC

**All are welcome. No experience is needed.
All are welcome to come and cheer on our St. John Team, too!**

**See or call Jeff Schimming for more info.
419-356-3552**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

We Are To Be BOLD....A Message from Bishop Eaton



We are to be bold.

This church had a meeting in August. We gathered in Milwaukee for the [2019 Churchwide Assembly](#). We were filled with anticipation and excitement—what would unfold during the assembly? How would we be inspired by worship and Bible study? How would we be challenged? What new insight into the work of the church would we receive?

It turned out to be quite a week. The assembly adopted a social statement, [“Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action”](#); offered an apology to people of African descent; adopted a resolution setting aside June 17 as a day of repentance to commemorate the Emanuel 9; moved forward on our work toward authentic diversity; declared the ELCA a sanctuary denomination; adopted a policy statement, [“A Declaration of Inter-religious Commitment”](#); celebrated the successful completion of our first-ever comprehensive campaign; began the [celebration](#) of 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely; elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as secretary; passed a budget; and much more.

The assembly was intense, and voting members were actively engaged. The actions taken generated much debate during and after the assembly. Different narratives about what did and did not happen have been spun.

Some say that a gathering of well-meaning people got a little carried away and entangled the church in impossibly naïve and dangerously political issues—calling out patriarchy, denouncing racial inequity, establishing a new commemoration for the church calendar, becoming a “sanctuary denomination,” being a little too open to inter-religious commitments. Others say that a gathering of well-meaning people took decisions that were too timid, that didn’t go nearly far enough to address and act on significant issues in society and within the church. It seems as if they are reporting on two different events.

Led by the Spirit, we caught a glimpse of the kingdom of God breaking into the world.

Here’s what did happen. Our days were centered around the word and sacraments. At midday every day we gathered for [communion](#). We heard the word read, proclaimed and sung. We remembered our [baptism](#). We received the living Word in, with and under the bread and wine. This wasn’t an intermission in our work, a kind of break from the real business of the assembly. It was the source and strength for the work we were called to do.

Before votes were cast, we paused in silence and then in prayer. There was Bible study every day. We sang psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God. We had deep conversations with each other, first as strangers, but then recognizing in each other a member of the body of Christ. We celebrated and disagreed and laughed and got far too little sleep. And, led by the Spirit, we caught a glimpse of the kingdom of God breaking into the world.

One of the gifts the [Lutheran](#) movement offers to the world is the clear declaration that the word of God is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. [Martin Luther](#) had a very conservative view of human nature, recognizing our brokenness, rebellion and sin. We all stand under God’s judgment. Did we get it all right at the assembly? Probably not. Where we were in error, may God correct us. But the word’s promise is that we are forgiven and redeemed. We are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

The actions taken in Milwaukee were based on our scriptural and confessional understanding of who God chooses to be for us, especially and most clearly in Jesus crucified and risen for the life of the world. We believe that God desires abundant life for all, that all people are created equally in the image of God, that we are commanded to welcome the stranger and care for children.

And we are to be bold. In Milwaukee, we stepped out in faith.

To learn more about Bishop Eaton, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith...visit www.elca.org.



Northwestern Ohio Synod

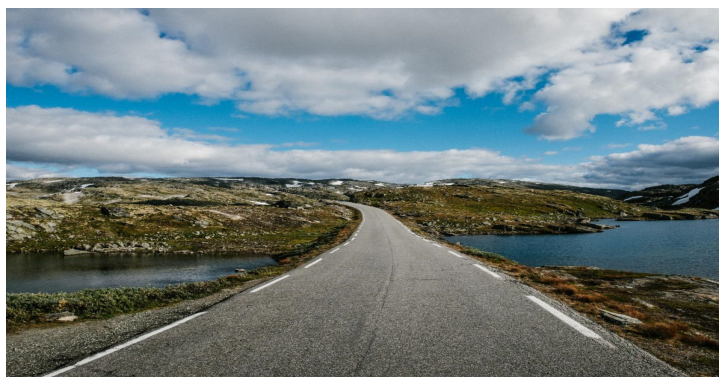
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin



Dear Friends in Christ,

**And Jesus came and said to them [the eleven disciples],
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"**



(Matthew 28:18-20). The 2019 Year of Scripture Daily Reading Schedule has led us into the New Testament. By now, you should be close to finishing the *Gospel of Matthew*.

At our Fall Gatherings, I have been inviting us to consider that Jesus commissions His followers to be a "Sent Church", and not a "Settled Church". Think about the difference between being "sent" and being "settled". Are there places in the life of your parish where the Holy Spirit is stirring things up and sending folks out? Or are things mainly staid and settled? And how might we make the shift from "settled" to "sent"? Over the next few weeks, I want to explore how each of the Evangelists (Gospel writers) depicts the "charge" of the church after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The Gospel of Matthew ends with the Great Commission. The Crucified and Risen Jesus gathers with the eleven disciples in Galilee. There, at the top of a mountain (think "New Moses"), Jesus commissions them to: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. Considering the Great Commission please ponder the following questions:

How does your parish "go" outside the four walls of your place of worship?

How have you intentionally focused on "making disciples"? Notice Jesus never says, "Go and make members?" For that matter what's the difference between a disciple and a member?

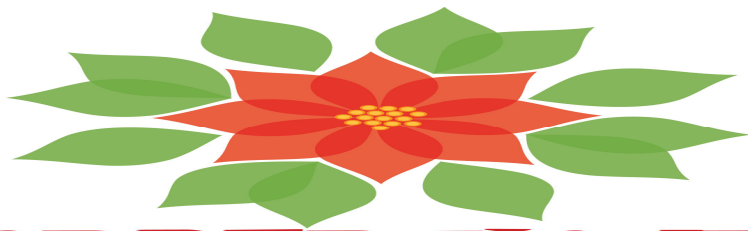
How does your parish prepare candidates for baptism? What might you do to help the newly baptized live out their baptismal promises? See page 228 in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

In what ways is your parish teaching folks to pray, reflect on Scripture, and engage in other spiritual practices? How are you teaching new and young followers of Jesus the basics of the Christian faith?

These are challenging questions, and thanks be to God that we're not required to answer them alone. We go, make disciples, baptize, and teach, as a part of the community of faith. And we always do God's work best when we do it together, with the people of God... and with the presence of God. For as Jesus reminds us at the end of the Great Commission,

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

(Matthew 28:20b).



**Deadline to order
is NOV. 17th!**

ORDER YOUR Poinsettias

ORDER DEADLINE -NOVEMBER 17th!

Please place this order form and payment in an envelope marked with your name and "Poinsettia" in the offering plate. Plants will be available for pick-up following the 11:00pm Christmas Eve service. Please make checks out to St. John.

The deadline to order is Sunday Nov. 17th

Quantity

____ White - \$ 7.50 each

1. In Loving Memory of: _____
Or In Honor of: _____

2. In Loving Memory of: _____
Or In Honor of: _____

____ I want this (these) plants to go to the homebound. (please check if yes)

____ Red - \$ 7.50 each

1. In Loving Memory of: _____
Or In Honor of: _____

2. In Loving Memory of: _____
Or In Honor of: _____

____ I want this (these) plants to go to the homebound. (please check if yes)

**Please consider purchasing an additional plant for one of our homebound members...
Our Sunshine Friends! They will be delivered to our Sunshine Friends for Christmas.**

____ White—\$7.50 each

____ Red- \$7.50 each

Purchaser's name _____

Phone _____

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Highlights- October 17, 2019

Devotions were Psalm 121 from The Bread of Life, led by Pastor O'Brien

Pastor's Report:

12 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 3 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events, 3 professional/clergy activities, 2 classes/Bible studies

Bishop's Fall Gathering

The Bishop's Fall Gathering is October 22 at 6:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Fremont. Please let me know TONIGHT if you are interested in attending

GENOA HOLIDAY PARADE.

The Genoa Area churches are going to walk (or ride) in the Genoa Holiday Parade on December 1. Participants are asked to wear Christmas pageant costumes as available. The hope is to at least in a small way, keep the message of Jesus as part of the Christmas celebration.

Year of Service October

Our October event will be an Everybody's birthday Party at Genacross Retirement Community on October 19th. A donation list for prizes has been posted. To volunteer, contact Traci Brown.

Year of Service November

Our November event will be a collection for "Voice of the Martyrs/Christians Abroad". Information is posted in bulletin/newsletter and a donation box is outside the church office.

Finance Committee Report: suggested offering for Thanksgiving and Christmas be designated this month. The designations were discussed with many suggestions. Thanksgiving offering to be divided between three food pantry's, Jerusalem, Elliston and Genoa. The Holiday Bureau will receive \$500 from the Good Samaritan Fund. Motion passed.

Christmas offering to be divided between the Genoa Food Pantry, The Luther Home of Mercy and the Holiday Bureau. Motion passed

Christian Community Life: reported that the committee is all set with the food for Truck or Treat.

Having an **Ice Cream Social for Veterans** and military persons on Sat November 9th from 3:00 to 4:30pm.

Shopping with the Stars for the Lutheran Home Residence will start around Thanksgiving.

Advent Tea will include appetizers to the cookies and desserts on December 15.

Evangelism: reported the committee is all set for Trunk or Treat. A basket of goodies was made by Jane Phillips. **Christmas Tree lighting.** The date is set for December 7th. A light lunch will again be served following the Saturday night service. Margaret received the grant (\$250.00) from Thrivent. The money will be used for paper products and food. The format will be similar to last year with lunch, singing and tree lighting. Rick Buhrow and Dan Berger have marked the spot for the tree and waiting for Huss Tree Service to plant the tree. Beverly will coordinate the group singing of Christmas carols. Final plans will be made next month.

Parish Education: reported that the plans are set for Trunk or Treat on October 20.

Merissa Lammers used the Sunday School birthday money to

purchase items for the action packs for the Voice of the Martyrs. We are also asking students to donate items. Tammy Mazur will order Advent leaflets for Sunday school and Catechism students. The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15th at 6:00pm. Forms have been sent home with the students to determine who plans to participate.

Board of Stewardship Report: reported that the Opioid Crisis Seminar was held and well attended. A special thank you for the food provided by Marco's pizza. Thank you to all who volunteered at this event.

December 7th we will be bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Millers grocery store in Genoa. More information to follow.

Worship Life: Introduced Andrew Kessler to present the Sound system upgrade. According to the **FCC the wireless microphones that are currently used here at St John will be required to cease operation** in 2020. The microphones currently used at the church must to be replaced. The sound board or mixer also needs replaced. The life expectancy of a sound board is 5 to 10 years, our sound board is 18 years old. The new sound board will be much easier to use and less likely to be intimidating to new sound operators. Operation will be a simple one button to change microphones during services. It will also be able to be run from an iPad.

Total cost for the complete system would be \$5,539.00. Equipment would be purchased from Torrence Sound Equipment company and coordinated through Fred Lammers. The council discussed the financial options that would be needed, with revenue currently down. made a motion to purchase the microphones now, seconded, using \$3,000 from the undesignated funds from the Music Fund. Motion passed. The sound board or mixer is still needed and hopefully the \$2,539.00 will be received with special giving.

Property: The down spouts have been cleaned and the drain in the back of the back of the church is cracked. A camera is needed to find where the crack is. It is believed the drain goes toward the parking lot and turns toward the street. Margaret Berger mentioned the pantry keypad is not working correctly. John will check it out and believes it is just a battery. The boilers are scheduled for their once a year check.

OLD BUSINESS: The St. John Lutheran Church Policy for Creating a Safe Church Community was again reviewed and updated with the changes requested by the insurance company.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm with the Lord's Prayer

Committee November 14, 2019 at 7:00pm

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

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of September 30, 2019

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	283,000	25,783	23,697	92%	208,600	202,196	97%	209,933	-4%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS Included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	27,875	27,875	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	1,072	1,246	116%	10,611	10,123	95%		
Staff Salaries	96,800	8,158	7,532	92%	72,080	70,452	98%		
Staff Benefits	56,170	4,681	4,043	86%	42,127	38,738	92%		
Operating Expenses	73,130	4,417	4,193	95%	56,219	53,056	94%		
Expense Totals	278,500	21,286	19,972	94%	208,912	200,244	96%		
Income less Expenses	4,500	4,497	3,725		(312)	1,952			

2019 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	6,017
Activity Center Savings	281,006
Memorials	55,725
Music Fund	5,534
Endowment Fund	112,511
Scholarship Tank	5,415
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	33,787
Scholarship Parks	34,312
Scholarship St. John	2,034
Youth	21,005
Other	16,506
Savings	31,188
Total	609,040



(Other includes designated offerings, Stephen Ministries, Good Samaritan Fund, etc.)

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

Online Giving, an easy and secure way to give to the church

It's Easy It's Secure..



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.

November



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Aiden Johnson
- 9 David Nissen
- 16 Kennedy Donnelly**
- 23 Seidona Brossia
- 30 Shane O'Brien

Lectors

- 2 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 9 THANKOFFERING
- 16 Shirley Berger
- 23 Nancy Strohscher
- 30 Doris Titgemeyer

Ushers

- 2 Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 9 THANKOFFERING
- 16 Gene & Amy Bihn,** John and Helen Meyer
- 23 David Lee Family
- 30 Carol Vargo, Alice Witt, Allen Harder, Madelayne S.

Communion Servers

- 2 Al Brown, Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 9 THANKOFFERING
- 16 JoElaine Schimming, Wayne Bauman, Gene Bihn
- 23 Nancy Strohscher, Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 30 Doris Titgemeyer, Carol Vargo, Amy Schloegl

Communion Set-up

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

Door Greeters

- 2 Carol Vargo
- 9 THANKOFFERING
- 16 Dean Lowe
- 23 Joni Hillman**
- 30 Jack Mathews

Sound/Projector Techs

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

SUNDAY

9:00 Worship/9:45 beginning Sept 8

Acolytes

- 3 Lindsey Cashen
- 10 Jake Titgemeyer
- 17 Megan Hoeft
- 24 Lucas Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 3 Ann Mann**
- 10 THANKOFFERING
- 17 Heather Cashen
- 24 Deanna Neuman

Ushers

- 3 The Bob Bench Family
- 10 THANKOFFERING
- 17 Bob Kapp, Jeff Schimming, Heather Cashen
- 24 Dave Neuman, Jeff Schimming, Tim Titgemeyer

Communion Servers

- 3 Marcia Morgan, Bob Kapp, Ann Mann**
- 10 THANKOFFERING
- 17 Roland Sandrock, Carole Beamer, Margaret Berger
- 24 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler

Communion Set-up

- 3 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 10 Janice Sandrock
- 17 Diana Pfaff
- 24 Melissa Lammers

Door Greeters

- 3 Dave Neuman
- 10 Karen Jeffers
- 17 Jennifer Delventhal
- 24 Margaret Berger

Sound/Projector Techs

- 3 Andy Kessler
- 10 Paul Beamer
- 17 Tim Titgemeyer
- 24 Joel Mann

Children's Moments

- 3 Caira Goldstein
- 10 Bells
- 17 Stef Neuman
- 24 Puppets!

More Worship Helpers Needed!

Sign up in the office today! If you cannot serve as listed, please arrange for a replacement and let the office know. Thank you!



December Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 7 Ben Sommers
- 14 Aiden O'Brien
- 21 David Nissen
- 28 Kennedy Donnelly

Lectors

- 7 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 14 Ruth Petersen
- 21 Gene Bihn
- 28 Beverly Harder

Ushers

- 7 Jim & Dilly Schimming, Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 14 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski, Tom Truman, Jack Mathews
- 21 John & Helen Meyer, Alice Witt, Carol Vargo
- 28 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 7 Diane Gerkenmeyer
- 14 Carol Vargo
- 21 Traci Brown
- 28 Brenda Keeley

Door Greeters

- 7 Jo Elaine Schimming
- 14 Joni Hillman
- 21 Dean Lowe
- 28 Jack Mathews

Sound/Projector Techs

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

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

SUNDAY
9:45 AM—Worship

Acolytes

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

Lectors

- 1 Roland Sandrock
- 8 Sophia Cashen
- 15 Tim Titgemeyer
- 22 Jill Kao
- 29 Cebie Titgemeyer

Ushers

- 1 Dan & Evan Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 8 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 15 The Titgemeyer Family
- 22 Jeff Schimming, Bob Kapp, Jennifer Delventhal
- 29 The Robert Bench Family

Communion Servers

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

Communion Set-up

- 1 Janice Sandrock
- 8 Heather Cashen
- 15 Diana Pfaff
- 22 Pam LaRue
- 29 Deanna Neuman

Door Greeters

- 1 Melissa Lammers
- 8 Marcia Morgan
- 15 Linda Schlievert
- 22 Margaret Berger
- 29 Karen Jeffers

Sound/Projector Techs

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

Children's Moments













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



**Watch for the
Christmas Eve
Services**

**Worship Assistants
Sign Up List
in the Narthex!**

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	28	29 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study	30	31	1	2 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
3  All Saints' Day 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM Kapp Baptism 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	4 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	5  ELECTION DAY 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study	6	7 1:30 PM Dorcas Circle 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle	8	9  <i>Thank Offering</i> 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Veteran's Ice Cream Social 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
10  <i>Thank Offering</i> 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	11 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study 7:00 PM WELCA Board	12 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM DARTBALL at Oak Harbor St Paul 7:30 PM Esther Circle	13	14 7:00 PM Committee Night	15	16 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
17  SUNDAY SCHOOL DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	18 FORERUNNER DEADLINE 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	19 10:00 AM Blankets 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM DARTBALL-Home	20	21  Church Council 7:00 PM Council Meeting	22	23 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship  YAY TACO 6:00 PM Youth Game Night & Tacos
24  SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship 6:00 PM Scout meeting	25 Registration deadline for Advent Brunch at Rocky Ridge 10:00 AM Monday Bible Study	26 10:00 AM Blankets 10:00 AM FORERUNNER MAIL GROUP-date change!! 11:30 AM Ladies Community Bible Study 7:30 PM DARTBALL at St John Rocky Ridge	27  <i>Thanksgiving Eve Worship</i> 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship	28  Happy Thanksgiving!	29 Office closed	30  9:30 AM Advent Brunch at St. John Rocky Ridge 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship