



Volume 0706 Issue 331
November 2023

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Saturday, November 4th!

Ask the Pastor

Two different groups at St. John are watching the series, "The Chosen" - Adult Sunday School at 8:30 each Sunday, and a group that meets after worship for lunch and viewing every other week. This question stemmed from a conversation about that show.

"What do we really know about Mary Magdalene?"

Honestly, not very much. The name Mary Magdalene tells us she was from the town of Magdala (to distinguish her from the other Marys in the Gospels). In Jesus' time, Magdala was a town on the sea of Galilee. Based on archaeological discoveries and context clues, some historical geographers think it may have been a place known for processing fish. It was likely a wealthy area. One historian wrote, "[Magdala] was the most important city on the western bank of the lake, contributing a wagon-load of taxes."

In the Bible itself, we don't get a whole lot of information about Mary. Luke introduces her as one of the women who accompanied and aided Jesus in Galilee. She is the one from whom seven demons had gone out. (Luke 8:1-3)

The Gospel of John tells us she was with Mary (Jesus' mother) and the beloved disciple at the foot of the cross. From the other Gospels we know that she was one of the women who followed Jesus and went to his tomb to anoint him after the crucifixion. The Gospels do not all list the same group of women, but Mary Magdalene is included in all of them. The Gospel of John tells us Mary was the first to proclaim to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord". Clearly Mary Magdalene was one of the first witnesses to the resurrection, and perhaps, THE first witness to the resurrection and THE very first person to proclaim the Good News.

Other than that, we don't know a whole lot about her.

"The Chosen" depicts Mary as having lived a life of "debauchery". That idea probably comes from Pope Gregory (540-604) who said that Mary was a prostitute. However, there is absolutely no evidence to support that conclusion, other than the rather narrow idea that having a demon must mean sexual sin. Unfortunately for Mary, the label stuck, and she has often been depicted as such over the centuries.

Reading between the lines, we know women funded much of Jesus' ministry (they ministered out of their own resources – Luke 8:3). It seems likely that women with independent means would have been widows, which means they were more likely older.

Continued Page 2

"Ask the Pastor" continued from page 1

(Of course, "older" is relative. 30 or 40 would have been "older" in that time and place.) Was Mary one of the widows? That seems more probable than her being a prostitute.

The typical depiction of the disciples is old men with snow white beards and hair and Mary Magdalene is depicted as young and beautiful. But it's likely the opposite was true. The disciples were probably very young (perhaps even younger than "The Chosen" depicts them) and Mary was perhaps an old woman in her 30s; a wealthy woman or widow.

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.



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

*"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you
will receive." Matthew 21:22*

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (cell 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!



memorials
& gifts

In Memory of Merle Moritz

Alice Siglar

Elaine Gruetter

Janice Sheahan

Duane and Tami Tailford

Ronald and Diane Gerkenmeyer

In Honor of Joann Friers Birthday

Alice Witt

In Memory of Norma Gast

Terry Gast

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Cell Telephone:

419-378-1112

pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

**Fall Worship
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday Worship 9:45 AM**

Deadline for the
December 2023 Forerunner
is

Monday, November 20th

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 (M & F)
Lori Buhrow (T, W & Th)
Office
Administrators
(419) 836-5514
office@stjohnwilliston.org



Monday—Friday
9am—2pm

GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED



Kudos to the Quilters (all six-plus of them!!!!)

Can't even imagine how many stitches might be sewn into the 323 quilts that were made by these women this past year!!! Each stitch is sewn with love -- lots of love in each and every blanket.

Many thanks to these devoted, enthusiastic, steadfast, loyal, committed, faithful, motivated, determined women who year-after-year have sewn these beautiful quilts. Truly a "labor of love!"

Thanks to their creativeness, imaginativeness and innovativeness blankets are created for all ages, including children. Many options are available with every theme you could want, including, but not limited to Ohio State and the Team Up North, barns, Americana, Nutcrackers, flowers, checks, plaids, stripes, polka dots, ducks, birds, butterflies, etc., etc., etc.

Hopefully you were able to choose one or more from this beautiful array of blankets!

Thanks ladies for your continued dedication!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of six blankets.

Your support of Luther Home of Mercy enables individuals to learn and grow. Thank you for believing in our mission and for your commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

Sincerely,
Megan O'Brien
Vice President



The Blessing Box

Needed:
Soup— Chunky/
Progresso
Canned Meat
Canned Pasta
Boxed Pasta Sides
Peanut Butter
Snacks— small

**Thank you so very much for your help and support
to continue to keep our Blessing Box full!
It's been used a lot lately!**



Circle Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, November 14, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Social Hall
Bible Study: Group Study
Hostess: Diane Traver

Tuesday, December 5, 2:00 p.m.
Christmas Sing-a-long/Diane Hartman

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, November 14, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting at Joan Truman's House

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting at Nancy Strohscher's House

WELCA Thankoffering Envelopes

Attached to your November Forerunner you will find an envelope for the WELCA Thankoffering. This collection has started over 100 years ago. It is for giving thanks for our many blessings. Years ago you would be given a box (bank) in which you were to place an offering in thanks, daily or weekly. Then they would be turned in during a service in November. Now it is just the envelope to be filled and turned in.

The monies collected go to the WELCA headquarters and used to support ongoing ministries of women. They also give grants and scholarships to women.

These will be collected during the month of November. You may place your envelope in the collection plate. Any checks should be made out to St. John WELCA. We thank you for your continued support.

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

Faith Practice #3 Reading PSALMS

BOOK #5

Week of Oct 30- Psalm 134
Week of Nov 6- Psalm 135
Week of Nov 13- Psalm 136
Week of Nov 20- Psalm 137
Week of Nov 27- Psalm 138
Week of Dec 4 Psalm 139

THE STORY OF JESUS

The Synod Office has published a Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2023 entitled, "The Story of Jesus". It is designed to lead us through the life and ministry of Jesus. Most of the readings are of reasonable length (multiple verses instead of multiple chapters) so it should be easy to stay on track even if you miss a day. I will have copies of the reading guide available at the church, and I will share the document electronically when it becomes available.

The Passion Begins

Nov. 1 Passover with the Disciples Matt. 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-14

Nov. 2 Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet John 13:1-20

Nov. 3 Jesus Foretells His Betrayal Matt. 26:21-25; Mark 14:18-21; Luke 22:21-23; John 13:21-30

Nov. 4 The Last Supper Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:15-20

Nov. 5 The Dispute about Greatness Luke 22:24-30; Matt. 20:24-28; Mark 10:41-45

Nov. 6 A New Commandment John 13:31-35

Nov. 7 Peter's Denial Predicted Matt. 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38

Nov. 8 Two Swords Luke 22:35-38

The Farewell Discourse (According to John)

Nov. 9 Let Not Your Hearts Be Troubled John 14:1-14

Nov. 10 The Promise of the Holy Spirit John 14:15-31

Nov. 11 Jesus the True Vine John 15:1-17

Nov. 12 The World's Hatred John 15:18-27

Nov. 13 On Persecutions John 16:1-4

Nov. 14 The Work of the Holy Spirit John 16:5-15

Nov. 15 Sorrow Turned to Joy John 16:16-24

Nov. 16 Peace for the Disciples John 16:25-33

Nov. 17 Jesus Prays for His Disciples John 17:1-26

The Arrest, Crucifixion, and Burial of Jesus (According to Matthew)

Nov. 18 Gethsemane Matt. 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1

Nov. 19 Jesus Arrested Matt. 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-11

Nov. 20 Jesus Before the Sanhedrin Matt. 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:63-71; John 18:12-14, 19-24

Nov. 21 Peter's Denial Matt. 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

Nov. 22 Jesus Before Pilate Matt. 27:1-2; Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1; John 18:28

Nov. 23 The Death of Judas Matt. 27:3-10

Nov. 24 The Trial Before Pilate Matt. 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-5; John 18:29-38

Nov. 25 Jesus Before Herod Luke 23:6-12

Nov. 26 Jesus or Barabbas Matt. 27:15-23; Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:17-23; John 18:39-40

Nov. 27 Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified Matt. 27:24-26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25; John 19:1-16

Nov. 28 The Soldiers Mock Jesus Matt. 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20; John 19:1-3

Nov. 29 The Road to Golgotha Matt. 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:17

Nov. 30 Crucifixion Matt. 27:33-44; Mark 15:22-32; Luke 23:33-43; John 19:18-27



A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE BLANKET LADIES FOR ALL THE SUPPORT SHOWN DURING OUR RECENT RAFFLE, AUCTION AND SALE OF BLANKETS. WE ALSO THANK MONA VOGELBACHER AND CAROL JENSEN FOR HELPING WITH DISPLAYING AND BOXING UP THE BLANKETS. TO DAN NELSON FOR PROVIDING US WITH BOXES. ALSO TO ALL THOSE WHO GRACIOUSLY TOOK THE TIME TO CARRY ALL THE BLANKETS TO THE BASEMENT FOR US. THIS WAS A GREAT HELP! THIS YEAR WE MADE A TOTAL OF 323 BLANKETS.

WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE BLANKETS TO THE LUTHER HOME OF MERCY, GENOA CARE CENTER, GIBSON-BURG CARE CENTER, RUTHANN'S HOUSE, BEACH HOUSE, HOLIDAY BUREAU, NIGHTINGALES HARVEST AND LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF. WE ALSO SENT FABRIC KITS TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

AUCTION HIGHEST BIDDERS WERE...

DIANE KAPP, LOWELL HARTMAN, ALAN YOCKEY & TAMMY MAZUR

RAFFLE WINNERS WERE...

JILL MATHEWS, BEN PERKINS, LUKE JOHNSON, MELISSA LAMMERS, DIANE HARTMAN, LINDA SCHLIEVERT, SHIRLEY BERGER, KAREN GRUBEN & LORI BUHROW

THANK YOU!!!

WE AGAIN THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT. WE MEET ON TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 9AM AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US. THIS YEAR WE GAINED A NEW HELPER, MELISSA LAMMERS. THE REST OF THE GROUP IS ARLINE SABIN, MARCIA MORGAN, MARVEL NELSON, BEVERLY HARDER, GERTRUDE ECKER-MANN AND MARGARET BERGER.

UPDATE! 2024 Holy Land Tour Opportunities

With the recent events in Israel over the past few weeks, I've been asked a lot of questions about the status of our planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June of 2024. The big question is, will this unrest be something that lasts weeks, months, or years? Unfortunately, at this point, nobody knows. I am hoping for a quick resolution, not only for our travel plans, but more importantly for the people on both sides of this conflict who are living through this violence.



Our tour agent provided this statement on behalf of Good Shepherd: "I'm sure some of you are wondering how these events may impact upcoming pilgrimages with Good Shepherd Travel. We continually monitor news reports and reports from people living in the West Bank and Israel as we make decisions around pilgrimages. The safety and security of our pilgrims is first and foremost in our minds as these decisions are made. We want a safe and rewarding experience for all. Knowing the history of the region and the global desire for a peaceful resolution, we watch and wait, while lifting prayers for peace and an end to violence. As the situation becomes more clear we will keep you informed of any decisions moving forward."

Some of you may know the Bishop's trip, scheduled for January 2024, has been postponed until January 2025. The people signed up for that trip were given the option of a refund, a transfer to our trip, or a transfer to the January 2025 trip. **At this point I am taking a "wait and see" approach for our June Pilgrimage.** Good Shepherd has offered to extend the date for the next payment from December 17 to March 17 to wait and see how things go with this conflict. The plan right now is to wait and see what the situation looks like closer to March. **If it turns out we are unable to travel, I'm assured we will be given the same options; a refund or a transfer of monies paid to a future trip.**

In the meantime, continue to pray for peace and an end to violence. Please keep the people of Israel, the people of Palestinian, as well as their leaders in your prayers.

if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.



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.

Lois Kinsel

Gary Carstensen

Danny Jeffers

Carrol Krukemyer

Merle Moritz

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



Shopping with the Stars for Luther Home of Mercy....Coming November 4th!

How? After November 4th, pick a star or take a gift list from the table located outside the church office and purchase a gift for one of our neighbors at Luther Home.

No Wrapping Needed!!

Return by Sunday, December 3rd.
Most are inexpensive but bring great joy to the residents.



Watch for forms, available soon!



Potential Advent Study

Would anyone be interested in an Advent book study/discussion group? I just started reading "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. It's interesting (the first chapter anyway) and seems like it would lend itself as a good preparation for Christmas. Did you know Mary probably lived in a cave? That bugged me when I saw it in Nazareth, but Hamilton makes a good explanation of why that was probably the case. The book is \$17.99 on Amazon, \$13.49 on Kindle, not sure if it's available in the local library. I was thinking a week-day evening or afternoon (or both if enough folks are interested) to discuss a chapter of the book and perhaps watch a video. (There is an accompanying video but it is sold out on Amazon right now.) It seems to be designed as a five week study and Advent is early this year so we would need to start the last week of November. If this is something you be interested in participating in, send Pastor O'Brien an email or drop him a note.



2024 Altar/
Chancel Orders
will be available
soon!!



Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Dartball begins November 7th!

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 7th at 7:30 PM
at Elliston Zion United Methodist**

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**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please join us in our new Sunday School format!



Bring the whole family for a bible story, craft, snack, video, and music! (Yes, we want parents too!)



We will meet every first Sunday of the month, October through May, in the basement. See you November 5 at 8:30!



Confirmation Class
Every Sunday
at 8:30a.m.

Prayer/Contact Cards...

You will see blue Prayer/Contact cards in the pews. Please fill them out if you have a prayer request, a change in your contact information, would like to join the St. John family or to speak with the Pastor. Just place them in the offering plate.



**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
"12 SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS"
WILL BE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
DURING THE 9:45AM CHURCH SERVICE**

**THE ADVENT TEA WILL FOLLOW THE CHURCH SERVICE
IN THE BASEMENT.
PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE
FOR THE ADVENT TEA.**

If anyone interested in joining the bell choir and/or singing with the choir this fall, please contact Beckie Goldstein or see her after church services.
Practice are after Sunday's service.



SACK FOR A SACK



St. John will be supporting **SACK FOR A SACK** again this year. Every time the Genoa defense sacks the opposing team's quarterback, St. John will donate a \$50 sack of groceries to the Genoa Food pantry. If you would like to contribute to "Sack for a Sack" and the Genoa Food Pantry, mark your donation "Sack for a Sack" and place it in the offering plate. You can also drop off a donation at the church office.



If anyone has a church key that they don't need— please turn it into office.
Thank You!!



October—May at 8:30am
1st Sunday of each month
Children and Parents invited!



THE CHOSEN SERIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
11:00 A.M.

WE WILL GATHER FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S WORSHIP (11:00ISH) AND HAVE PIZZA WHILE WE WATCH THE SHOW. WE WELCOME ANYONE TO JOIN US. IF YOU MISS AN EPISODE OR NEED TO CATCH UP, YOU CAN FIND THE SHOW AT

[HTTPS://WWW.ANGEL.COM/WATCH/THE-CHOZEN](https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chozen)

SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1, 15, AND 29

NOVEMBER 12 (BUT NOT 26 DUE TO THANKSGIVING WEEKEND)

DECEMBER 10 (BUT NOT 24 DUE TO CHRISTMAS EVE)

JANUARY 7 AND 21

FEBRUARY 4 AND 18

MARCH 3 AND 17 (NOT 31 DUE TO EASTER)

APRIL 14 AND 28

MAY 12 THEN BREAK FOR SUMMER

USHERS



USHERS NEEDED

Why anyone want to be an usher? Unlocking doors and standing in the back handing out bulletins may not seem like much, but some of our current ushers share that it is actually rewarding. One usher commented they feel like they have accomplished something when they can greet people, make them smile, and make them feel welcome when they enter for worship. Another shared they like being able to assist with worship, but they don't necessarily want to read in front of people. Therefore, working in the back is the perfect job. Plus, when it comes to serving at your church, being an usher is about the easiest job there is. Another usher shared for a person who can't sit still, being an usher is a good way to stay moving yet still be involved in worship. We would like to add more ushers to both our Saturday and Sunday rotation. If you would like to discover your own reasons for being an usher, contact Pastor O'Brien or the church office to learn more or be added to the rotation list.



St. John Lutheran Church
 Williston, Ohio

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

6th ANNUAL WILLISTON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 2, 2023

Meal will be served in the St John Church basement at 6 p.m.

The tree lighting will be approximately 6:45 p.m.

You are welcome to join us for worship at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

No charge, however we ask that you bring paper products or toiletries for Nightingales Harvest

This is an organization that provides help to families with cancer.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee and Thrivent Insurance Company

ALL ARE WELCOME

THU 07 Dec

WORSHIP with us

Join Us for a **Women's Ecumenical Service**
 at St. John's United Church of Christ
 5:45 PM Registration | 6:00 PM Service
 followed by a holiday buffet in the Fellowship Hall

Please register the number of ladies attending by Nov 30.
 Call the church office at 419-855-3906, between 10A-2P
 or email office@stjohnsgenova.org.

We will be take an offering with proceeds going to Ottawa County Family Advocacy's GrandLove (Grandparents raising Grandchildren).

FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

1213 Washington St
 Genoa, OH 43430
 419-855-3906
 www.stjohnsgenova.org

ST. JOHN'S
 United Church of Christ

Change in Christmas Eve Schedule

This year we are combining the "Candlelight" worship service with the choir service to one time of worship **at 7:00pm.**

With attendance numbers decreasing and fluctuating over the years, the Worship Life Committee has discussed on a yearly basis how many Christmas Eve worship services we need to accommodate worshipers yet still be a good use of time and resources of our worship leaders and volunteers. This year, with Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, Worship Life proposed, and the Church Council agreed, we experiment with a change. We will still have three worship services on Christmas Eve, but the schedule will be different... **This year, on December 24th, we will celebrate the Fourth week in Advent at 9:45am (and 5:00p on 12/23). We will celebrate Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and 7:00pm.** Change can be hard, but it's important to not be afraid to try different things. We will seek a way for the congregation to provide feedback and evaluate our experiment after the first of the year. Thank you for your patience and your willingness to adapt and adjust with us.

You're Invited to

Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men & Pastors

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**ST. Mark's Lutheran Church
17000 Graytown Road
Graytown, OH 43432**

 **6:30 Fellowship**

 **7:15 Worship**

FEATURED SPEAKER: Jim & Kendra Berlin
Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Oak Harbor
Making Beds for People who do not have Beds

If you cannot attend the meeting and
wish to contribute to our project,
please mail your contribution to:
Treasurer Ralph W Aufdenkamp
8369 Kramer Rd.
Bowling Green, OH 43402

**Men &
Women
Welcome!**



ELMORE CHURCH OF GOD

10/10/2023

Hello,

As the community begins making plans to once again feed those in our area who might otherwise go hungry on Thanksgiving Day, we are reaching out to ask for your financial assistance to make this possible. At a time when many people are focused on giving thanks for the bounty in their lives, others are feeling the pain of need.

As in years past, the annual Thanksgiving meal will be held at Woodmore High School on Thanksgiving Day. This will be the 15th year we've been able to meet this particular need.

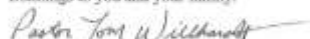
Last year, we fed over 600 people with a meal and advertising cost of \$10.00 per meal. Both numbers are expected to increase this year. The fundraising goal for this year's dinner is \$7,000.00. Can we count on you for your support toward reaching this critical goal?

This outreach can only happen through the generous contributions given by businesses and individuals such as yourselves. Any donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. If you are able to send a monetary donation in support of this community outreach, please complete the enclosed form and return it to:

Elmore Church of God
Attn: Community Thanksgiving Dinner
PO Box 33
Elmore, OH 43416

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated, and will make a difference in the lives of so many people, right here in Elmore, OH and beyond.

Blessings to you and your family.


Pastor Tom Willhardt
Elmore Church of God

P.S. If you are interested in helping with this year's meal, please contact Bob Daniel at bdaniel4806@elmorecog.org for more information on volunteering. Our next planning meeting will be **Tuesday, October 24th @ 7:00p. @ Elmore Church of God.**

Ladies,

You are cordially invited to attend our
26th Annual Advent Brunch



"Christmas Wrappings"

December 2, 2023
9:30 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge, Ohio

Tickets

\$10.00 with reservation
Limited seating

**Please RSVP by mail
before November 19, 2023**

Ann Schimming
12351 W. State Route 105
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
419-704-4368

Donation Request Form

15th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Monetary Donation: Amount\$ _____

(Please make check payable to: Elmore Church of God - Thanksgiving Dinner)

Donor Information

Name: _____

Business/Church/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Donor Signature: _____

Please send monetary donation to:

Elmore Church of God
C/O Community Thanksgiving Dinner
PO Box 33
Elmore, OH. 43416

November Stewardship



God, Thank you for blessing us with the spiritual gift of generosity. Romans 12.6-8

THANKFUL STEWARDSHIP

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.



Whatever you do, whether in words or deeds, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

November Stewardship Prayer

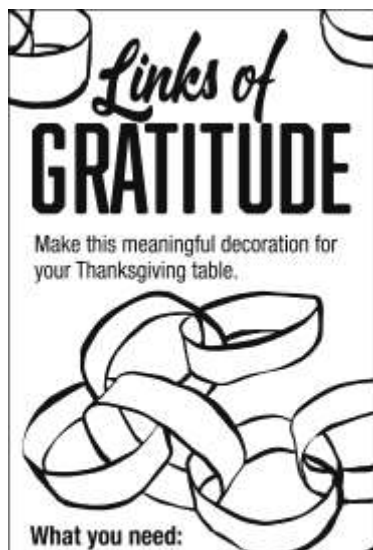
Lord,
Thank you for showing us how to give back through stewardship. Our hearts and souls are forever grateful.
Amen

Lord, Thank you for showing us how to give back through stewardship. Our hearts and souls are forever grateful.



Givethanks
to the Lord,
for HE is good.
His love endures
forever.

Psalm 136:1



What you need:

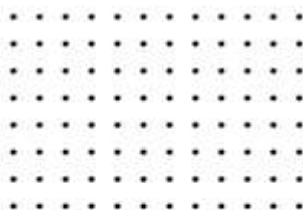
- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help

What you do:

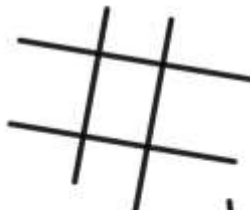
1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



I AM THANKFUL FOR...



NKUPIMP _____

EALF _____

OCNR _____

LAFL _____

HUNFALKT _____



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Join us for Sunday School!
Sunday, November 5th– 8:30 AM
Invite a friend to Sunday School!

Dear Friends in Christ,

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9: 6)



Photo taken by
Bishop Daniel:
Tree in the Garden
of Gethsemane

In 2018, I joined a number of ELCA Bishops and pastors on a trip to Palestine and Israel. We spent time learning from Israeli religious leaders and Palestinians living in refugee camps. We met with political leaders from the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Authority. We visited Augusta Victoria Hospital and several Lutheran churches and schools. We toured the thirty-foot high, militarized separation barrier that cuts the West Bank off from Israel and talked with the Israeli Defense Force engineer who designed it. We spent time in a kibbutz way out in the desert north of Gaza where young Israeli families were eeking out a living.

We heard a lot of accusatory language and propaganda of all sides. But what we heard from the folks living in the kibbutz, the families struggling in the refugee camps, and children learning in the school, was a strong desire for an end to all hostilities. The ordinary folk of this Holy Land simply desire peace. This is what they long for and pray for. As followers of the Prince of Peace, let us prayerfully consider ways that we may bring peace to all those who long to live in peace.

Yes, we can pray:

"O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let me designed of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (pg. 72)

Yes, we can sing:

I especially love Hymn #753 Dona Nobis Pacem in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The Latin words of this canon are translated, "Grant Us Peace". Ask your pastor or choir director to sing Dona Nobis Pacem during worship in the next week or month. Listen to a version by the 2016 Fairfield County Children's Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MsZVs1YHsk>

And yes, we can give:

To support those in need of assistance in the Middle East through Lutheran Disaster Response please to go <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis> for the opportunity to give.

Bless you,
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost




October 2023 Church Council Highlights



Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Dan Kessler, Deanna Neuman, Dave Neuman, Melissa Hays, Kristina Wildman, Donna Mathews, Kellie Ulrich, Gary Johnson, Ron Gerkensmeyer, Barb LaRue, and Jennifer Nelson

Visitor: Logan Hays

Devotions led by Pastor: Matthew 6:13 & Luke 11:4

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In person average for Sept 2023 - 96.5 compared to Sept 2022 - 101.3. Online average for Sept 2023 - 74.0 compared to Sept 2022 - 67.5 **Numbers:** 16 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 8 committee/group meetings, 5 community/youth/fellowship events, 6 professional/clergy activities. **Day Care Update:** On October 11, I met with people from the YMCA, Toledo Chamber of Commerce, and Luther Home of Mercy. We took a tour of the building and they said the space has good possibilities. They are going to arrange another meeting with an architect who assists with setting up day care sites so she can see the space and give recommendations. **Holy Land Pilgrimage:** The Bishop's trip in January has been postponed. I'm taking a "wait and see" approach and communicating with Good Shepherd Travel. A lot could happen between now and June 2024. **Thanksgiving Worship:** Sunday, November 19th at 5:00p followed by a community meal at 6:00p.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 94% of the monthly budget and 97% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 85% of our monthly budget and 92% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$18,495 compared to our budget of negative \$8,273. Statement Letters have been sent out and another will go out in November. Budget Worksheet by Accounts given to committee chairs.

Christian Community Life: Food Pantry: Patrons 73. Families 34, including 2 new families. Donations \$620.00. Expenses. \$1,405.70. Meijer gift card used \$792.04. Moore Orchards will be donating 40 bags of apples in December. There will be a Chippewa Holiday Scramble on November 4th. Committee: We will be serving hot dogs, chips, cookies and water at the Trunk or Treat on October 22nd.

Evangelism: The \$250 donation from Thrivent was received by Margaret for the meal at the Community Christmas tree lighting we will be hosting. We have the Halloween basket ready. We will be at the Trunk or Treat on Sunday with a table set up for the raffle. We have a rough draft of the pamphlet and map for guests.

Parish Education: We had 10 children and 7 adults attend Sunday School on October 1. Deanna led, and Stef assisted. Offering collected \$18. Plans for Trunk or Treat (Oct 22 at 2 pm) were finalized. Sunday School plans were made for November 5. Natalie and Pastor Shawn will be in charge.

Stewardship: Last year we had around 13 teams participate in the golf outing and this year we had 19 teams participate. We profited \$2680 last year and this year we profited \$3364.18.

Worship Life: Saturday, October 21st, Lisa Anne will lead worship. No communion on this date. Sanctuary piano is scheduled to be tuned on October 11th. We will plan to have it tuned every 6 months. Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening November 19th at 5:00pm with meal following at 6pm. Carol Vargo will be preparing the food. There will be a signup sheet for desserts only. St. Peter and St. Luke will be joining us. Becky will be playing the music. Worship assistants will be needed. Children's program will be during the service on December 17th with Advent Tea to follow. Thanks to Tracy Brown and Tammy Tailford who have volunteered to take care of church Christmas decorating after the 26th of November. Jane Phillips is working on Shopping with the Stars, gifts to go to LHM. Gifts will need to be in early December. We discussed Christmas Eve (on a Sunday this year) times of services. 9:45am (advent service), 4:00pm and 7:00pm (candlelight service). Due to having the 9:45am service and it adding another service we will be eliminating the 11pm service that we normally would have. Much discussion around this matter and the possibility of making the 7pm service the candlelight service. Worship life motioned that we eliminate the 11pm Christmas Eve service due to the addition of the 9:45am service and the motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Property: Replaced clock, north wall in sanctuary. Replaced various bulbs throughout the building. Had boilers serviced (per PM contract). Received quote for certain boiler repairs, around \$6500 (including a valve, new induction fan, 2 pump replacement, etc.). Working on receiving quotes for replacement of flat roof over the office addition (as its original roof approx. 30 yrs old with several patches already). \$30,000 bid so far.

Old Business: Nominating committee has been getting together. Please reach out if you would like to be on a committee..

Next Committee Mtg: Thurs., Nov 9, 2023 @7pm

Next Council Mtg: Thurs., Nov 16, 2023 @7pm

november

Worship Assistants

december

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

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

Lectors

4- Beverly Harder
11- Amy Schloegl
18- Christine Danhoff
25- Nancy Strohscher

Acolytes

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

Communion

4- JoElaine Schimming
11- Nancy Strohscher
18-Ron Gerkenmeyer
25- Alice Witt

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5-Titgemeyer Family
12- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
19- Jill Kao
26-Titgemeyer Family

Lectors

5- Melissa Lammers
12- Kellie Ulrich
19- Jill Kao
26-Roland Sandrock

Acolytes

5- Lauren Hoeft
12- Logan Hays
19- Lauren Hoeft
26-Logan Hays

Communion

5- Pam LaRue
12- Diana Pfaff
19- Roland Sandrock
26- Cebie Titgemeyer

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

2- Donnelly Family
9- Buhrow Family
16- Jack Mathews
23-Ron Gerkenmeyer
30-Donnelly Family

Lectors

2- Beverly Harder
9- Amy Schloegl
16- Nancy Strohscher
23- Christine Danhoff
30-Beverly Harder

Acolytes

2- Nolan Delventhal
9- Mila McQueary
16- Liam Delventhal
23-Jacob Higginbotham
30-Nolan Delventhal

Communion

2- JoElaine Schimming
9- Al & Traci Brown
16- Carol Vargo
23- Nancy Strohscher
30-Ron Gerkenmeyer

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

3- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
10- Jill Kao
17- Titgemeyer Family
24- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
31- Jill Kao

Lectors

3-Diana Pfaff
10- Kellie Ulrich
17- Cebie Titgemeyer
24- Deanna Neuman
31- Tim Titgemeyer

Acolytes

3- Lauren Hoeft
10- Logan Hays
17- Lauren Hoeft
24- Logan Hays
31- Lauren Hoeft

Communion

3- Margaret Berger
10- Rosemarie Dickinson
17- Tim Titgemeyer
24- Dave/Deanna Neuman
31- Kellie Ulrich



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.

More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!

NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm The Chosen Series 12:00pm - 4:00pm Higginbotham- SH Rental 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	30	31 9:00am Blankets	1 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	2	3	4 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
5 8:30am Confirmation Class 8:30am - 9:30am Sunday School for ALL AGES 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	6	7 Election Day- Polling Here No Blankets this morning	8 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	9 7:00pm - 8:00pm Committee Meeting	10	11 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
12 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm The Chosen Series 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	13	14 9:00am Blankets 2:00pm Esther Circle 7:00pm Rebekah Circle at Joan's	15 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	16 7:00pm - 8:00pm Council Meet- ing	17	18 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
19 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm Scouts- Popcorn Pickup 5:00pm - 6:00pm Thanksgiving Worship Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm Thanksgiving Community Meal	20 December Forerunner Deadline	21 9:00am Blankets	22 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	23 Thanksgiving- Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
26 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice	27	28 9:00am Blankets	29 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	30	1 6:00pm Boys Scouts- SH over- nighter	2 9:00am Boys Scouts- Breakfast/ Clean Up 5:00pm Contemporary Worship 6:00pm Christmas Tree Lighting Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Volume 0706 Issue 331

November 2023



NOVEMBER 2023



Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow,

Office Administrators

Monday –Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

In person and online!

Fall Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday- Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class– Sunday 8:30 AM

Sunday School- October-May 8:30 AM

First Sunday of each month– All Ages

Sunday- Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

*Visit us on Facebook