

The Forerunner

July 2026

July 2026
Volume 0736 Issue 362

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Ask the Pastor

“Can you teach us to pray?”

Okay, that was a question for Jesus, not for me. But we are going to spend time talking about Jesus’ answer...

Prayer is one of the most familiar and yet most mysterious parts of our life of faith. Jesus prayed often. We see him giving thanks before meals, praying for his disciples, crying out in suffering, and surrendering himself to the Father’s will in the garden of Gethsemane. Prayer was central to Jesus’ relationship with God, and it remains central to our life as followers of Christ.

For many of us, the prayer we know best is the Lord’s Prayer. Many of us learned these words as children, long before we fully understood their meaning. We have prayed them in worship, around hospital beds, at gravesides, and in moments of both joy and sorrow. There is something unique about this prayer: Jesus did not simply pray it himself; he taught it to his disciples. “Pray like this,” he says. The Lord’s Prayer becomes a pattern that shapes our life of faith.

It is important to remember that Jesus did not give us this prayer because God needs information from us. Jesus reminds us that “your Father knows what you need before you ask” (Matthew 6:8). Prayer is not about convincing God to care or persuading God to act. Instead, prayer is about opening our hearts to God, bringing our lives honestly before God, and allowing God to shape us according to God’s will.

At its heart, prayer is about relationship. Sometimes our prayer is simply “Thank you.” Sometimes it is “Forgive me.” Sometimes it is “Help me.” Sometimes it is “Use me.” Prayer does not always change our circumstances, but it changes us. It turns our hearts toward God and invites us to become part of God’s work in the world.

Each petition of the Lord’s Prayer is both a request and an invitation. When we pray “hallowed be your name,” we ask God to make God’s name holy while also asking God to shape our lives to reflect that holiness.

When we pray “your kingdom come,” we ask God to act while also opening ourselves to be instruments of God’s kingdom.

When we pray for daily bread, forgiveness, guidance, and deliverance, we ask God to form us into people who trust, forgive, serve, and follow.

.....continued on next page

Continued from first page.....

Because the Lord's Prayer is so familiar, it can sometimes become easy to say the words without pausing to consider their depth and meaning. Over the coming weeks, we will spend time exploring the different petitions of this prayer during worship. (see the reading list below if you would like to dive deeper) Through conversation and reflection, we will consider what Jesus is teaching us about prayer, about God, and about ourselves. My hope is that this series will help us not only pray the Lord's Prayer more often but pray it more deeply. May these familiar words become fresh again and continue to shape our hearts, guide our lives, and draw us closer to the God who knows us, loves us, and invites us into relationship.

The Greatest Prayer: A Revolutionary Manifesto and Hymn of Hope by John Dominic Crossan
Explores the revolutionary, counter cultural nature of the prayer.

The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught by Adam Hamilton
Breaks down each phrase of the prayer to make the connection from Biblical history to contemporary life.

Lord, Teach Us: The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life by Stanley Hauerwas and William H. Willimon
The authors work through each phrase of the Lord's Prayer, using it as a framework for the Christian life.

Teach Us to Pray: The Lord's Prayer in the Early Church and Today by Justo L. González
draws on scripture, the Church Fathers, and his own life experience to reflect on the prayer.

The Lord and His Prayer by N.T. Wright
This is a collection of Wright's sermons.

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.

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

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

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stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O'Brien
Home Telephone:
419-378-1112
pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM beginning thru Labor
Day

Sunday School for kids
Sept thru May only- 9 AM

Deadline for the
August 2026 newsletter is
Monday, July 20th 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 Admin.
9am—3pm
M-T-W
Thurs. hours
may vary
Office closed
on Friday₂

Memorials & Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Gene Bihn

Rich & Joni Hillman
Debra Baker
Phil & Aubrey Milbrodt
Jon & Valerie Baumbach
Darlene Carstensen
Jim & Mona Vogelbacher

In Honor of Lowell and Diane Hartman

Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Katherine Wegman
Deborah Alday

Grateful & Blessed

Dear Pastor O'Brien and Congregation,
Thank you for much for allowing us to use the church facilities for our 4-H Club meetings. Our members are able to gather to learn, share, work together and grow. We appreciate your kindness and support for our youth.
Thanks, Again!

The Livestock Unlimited 4-H Club

St. John Family,

Thank you to the Younker Family for the Memorial Scholarship I received for my first year at the University of New Hampshire. I am truly grateful for the scholarship because it will allow me to experience new opportunities that will have a direct impact on my future. Also, I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee for their time and effort selecting the recipients.

Once again... Thank You!
Kennedy Donnelly



**You'll go bananas
for all this fun!**

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in and helped make our Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School a HUGE SUCCESS!

We had between 29 and 45 kids each day! We had 25 helpers! There was great enthusiasm and lots of kids learned about Jesus!

Freedom
in Christ

Each one of us is born most free
And we alone can choose
To do what God would have us do,
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek
The proud and selfish way —
A life where other gods come first
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,
We find that freedom's place
Is really in God's Will for us,
And we have chosen GRACE!

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

Circle and Board Meetings– July 2026

No WELCA Meetings in July
Watch for info on any outings.
Fellowship Dinner is on July 7th.



A heartfelt thank you to the Esther Circle, along with the help of the Blanket Ladies, for their hard work cleaning the inside of the cabinets and drawers in both the downstairs and social hall kitchens. The day began on June 2 with the Blanket Ladies tying ten blankets during the morning.

Others joined at noon, and volunteers ranged in age from 89 years old all the way down to 5 years old! Everyone enjoyed a light lunch before moving on to the task of cleaning the cabinets in both kitchens. The A&B Clean Team will complete the project by applying Liquid Gold to all of our beautiful woodwork.

The group also worked together to fold and sort many boxes of Thrivent T-shirts.

As the saying goes, “*Many hands make light work.*” Tasks become easier and are completed much more quickly when people work together and share the workload. Teamwork not only lightens the burden of large projects but also provides a wonderful opportunity to build friendships and camaraderie.

What a GREAT group of ladies!

Thank you all so very much for your time, effort, and willingness to serve. Your help is sincerely appreciated.



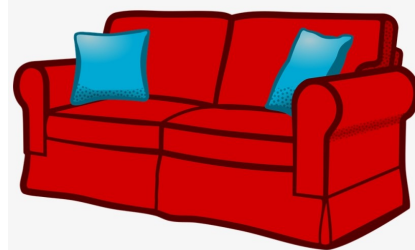
Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your spiritual journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God’s extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace

by **signing up for a daily email message.** Learn more at welca.org/dailygrace.

Redecorated

Lounge

We invite you to stop by and enjoy our beautifully redecorated church lounge.



The project included new carpeting and the replacement of many furnishings that had served us well since 2005. A committee of WELCA members coordinated and guided this undertaking.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Property Committee for repainting the room and helping bring new life to the space. Special appreciation goes to John Mazur for installing the new ceiling lighting and for his willingness to respond whenever needed—to drill holes, move furniture, hang wall décor, and assist with the many details required to complete the project.

This renovation was truly a congregational effort. Funding was made possible through proceeds from the WELCA Bake Sale, individual donations, memorial gifts and other contributions.

While the lounge is nearly complete, a few finishing touches remain. Contributions to the Lounge Fund are still welcome and will help us bring this project to its final completion.

Thank you to everyone whose generosity, time and talents have helped create this warm and inviting space for our church family.



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

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

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (cell phone 419-378-1112), Margaret Berger (419-340-2150) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain. Prayers are sent out by phone message and by email. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. *Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this wonderful ministry!*

Stitched with Love: The Journey of a Quilt

What begins as simple squares of fabric, stitched together in quiet homes, becomes something far greater than a blanket. It becomes a symbol of warmth, comfort, compassion, faith, community and a tangible expression of care.

At St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, Ohio, the journey of each quilt or blanket starts long before it reaches the hands of someone in need. The process begins with a few dedicated women who quietly sew quilt squares at home. There, donated fabrics—often discovered at estate sales and still new—are carefully sorted, cut, and prepared. Some materials are also thoughtfully purchased to complement what has been given. Piece-by-piece, these sections are thoughtfully arranged and stitched into quilt tops. Their work is steady and faithful—often done quietly, but always with intention and care. Even the thread used to stitch these pieces together often comes from donations, ensuring that little goes to waste.

One woman carefully cuts fabric into squares ranging in sizes from five to nine inches. Others sew these pieces together, creating vibrant quilt tops filled with personality—sports teams, animals, florals, polka dots, stripes—each one unique. Occasionally, special estate finds such as placemats inspire creative designs, transformed into one-of-a-kind quilts. Nothing is overlooked; every piece has purpose.

Another volunteer has a regular route of local thrift stores which she visits searching for sheet sets—new or gently used—that will become both the backing and part of the quilt top. Fitted sheets are cut into squares, while the matching flat sheets are set aside to complete the quilt later. This thoughtful pairing ensures both beauty and durability.

Once the tops are complete, the process moves to the church, where others gather to layer, tie, and finish each quilt. This is where the true sense of community shines. Every Tuesday morning, eight to ten women gather with a shared mission. Layers are assembled: the quilt top, a soft acrylic filler, and the backing sheet. Then, with crochet cotton, each square is carefully tied, securing the layers together. Laughter, conversation and purpose fill the room as hands work steadily side-by-side. Hands move in rhythm and a spirit of fellowship fills the room. Every knot tied and every seam sewn reflects not only skill, but deep compassion for those who will eventually receive these gifts.

With the help of Thrivent Action Team funds, essential supplies—filler, sheets, thread, and cutting tools—are purchased, allowing the ministry to continue and grow. Even when it means traveling hours to find materials at the best value, the commitment remains strong.

After the tying is complete, the quilts are taken home by a few volunteers who carefully bind the edges, giving each piece a finished, polished look. Only then is the quilt truly complete—ready to be wrapped around someone who needs warmth, comfort, and care.

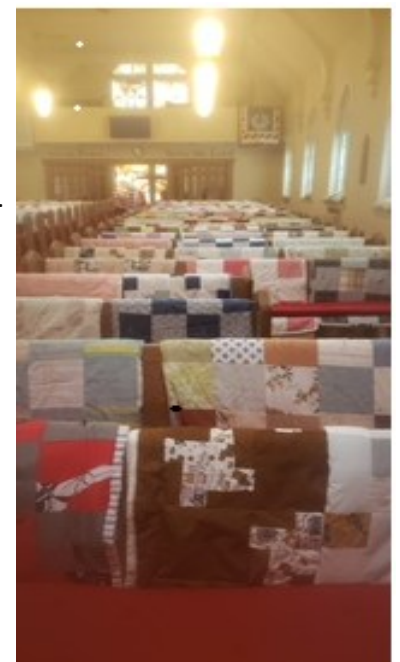
This ministry has grown into something truly remarkable. In the past year alone, more than 370 quilts and blankets were completed and distributed. Many are shared locally with the homeless, with food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and other charitable organizations. Others are sent through Lutheran World Relief (LWR), extending warmth and care to individuals and families around the world. Each one is destined for someone in need. Support from Thrivent has helped strengthen and sustain this outreach, making it possible for the ministry to continue growing and serving more people in need. These quilts vary in size, from baby blankets to those fit for twin, double, queen, and king-size beds. The group's goal is ambitious yet heartfelt: to complete 10 to 12 quilts each week, with a yearly goal of 400 blankets.

Each fall, the full beauty of this ministry comes into view. Before distribution, the quilts are displayed throughout the nave of the church—draped across pews, arranged in the chancel near the altar, and filling the sanctuary with color and purpose. The display is breathtaking, a vivid reflection of many hands working together in faith. For those who have sewn, tied, and prayed over each piece, it is both a celebration and a blessing before the quilts are sent out into the world.

One especially meaningful creation—a small quilt made from Thrivent T-shirts—required extra attention. Each shirt was reinforced with stabilizer before being sewn together. Finished with backing, filler, and careful knotting, it now hangs proudly in the church as a reminder of the mission and the many hands that make it possible.

From donated fabric to finished gift, each quilt tells a story—not just of resourcefulness, but of compassion. It is a reminder that something as simple as a blanket can bring warmth not only to the body, but also to the heart.

By the time each quilt reaches its destination, it carries more than warmth. It holds the time, prayers, and compassion of those who created it. In this way, every quilt becomes a quiet but powerful reminder to its recipient: they are seen, they are cared for, and they are not alone. Just imagine having a warm quilt of your own to wrap up in.





AED and CPR Training Coming Soon!

St. John has a new AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) machine. We thought it would be good to have multiple people trained on how to properly use it, and we discovered that is now part of the CPR training course. If you are interested in participating in such a course, please sign up outside Pastor O'Brien's office door.

Exact times and dates are TBD.



Our Blessing Box can always use your help!

Needed: Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut Butter, Hamburger Helper, Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side dishes, Applesauce- cups, Cereal (small boxes) Fruit cups, soup, small snacks, canned pastas, canned fruits and veggies. (*no glass, medicine or expired food, please*).

There is a donation box near the office. Thank You for caring and for helping our neighbors!

Offering Statements for the period Jan 1-May 31, 2026 are available in the church lobby. If you have any questions about your statement or if you would like to sign up for online giving, please see LisaAnne in the office or visit our website at www.stjohnwilliston.org.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

We are in need of worship assistants!

Would you like to serve at St. John?

Lector
(read the scripture)

Communion Server
(assist Pastor serve and set up communion)

Usher
(unlock doors, greet people, pass out bulletins)

Training is available! Simply let Pastor O'Brien or the office know you would like to be added to our rotating lists.



If you can't be here in worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, you don't have to miss church!

Subscribe to our **YOU TUBE** Channel
St John Lutheran Church
Williston Ohio.

Both Saturday and Sunday services are available.

Around the Community



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

EACH CHILD RECEIVES A GRAB-AND-GO BAG CONTAINING 7 BREAKFASTS, 7 LUNCHESES, AND A GALLON OF MILK.



Tuesdays

St. John's Rocky Ridge
11:30-1:30
Materion Campground
3:00-3:45
St. John's Rocky Ridge
4:00-6:00

Wednesdays

Lemoine Baptist Church- Genoa
12-1:30
Grace Brethren Chapel- Gibsonburg
2:30-3:30
Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church - Put-in-Bay
4:00-5:00

Thursdays

Port Clinton Police Department
11:30-12:30
Grace Lutheran Church-Castalia
2:00-3:00
The Chapel-Port Clinton
3:45-4:15
Family Advocacy Center-Port Clinton
5:00-6:00

Registration

Visit our website to register for meals pick-up:

www.ocfamilyadvocacy.org/summer-lunch

Or scan the QR code below.



QUESTIONS

(419) 301-0225

ELIGIBILITY

Any child ages 1 to 18,
no residency restrictions

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER, EMPLOYER,
AND LENDER.

7TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

BENEFITTING LUCAS COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

NEW LOCATION! CHIPPEWA GOLF CLUB | CURTICE, OH

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026

8AM SHOTGUN START

Reach out to Kelley Watson at kwatson@lucasdd.org with any questions.

Ottawa County Senior Resources

Join us on our First Overnight Adventure!

Ark Encounter & CREATION MUSEUM TOUR

Plus a Scenic Ohio River Dinner Cruise!

August 12-13, 2026

EVERYTHING INCLUDED!

- Creation Museum Admission
- BB Riverboats Dinner Cruise on the Ohio River
- Overnight Stay Fairfield Inn & Suites
- Hot Breakfast Buffet
- Emzara's Kitchen Lunch Buffet
- Motor Coach Transportation
- Ark Encounter Admission

DAY 1 • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

- Depart Oak Harbor, OH
- Explore the Creation Museum
- Check in to Fairfield Inn & Suites in Newport, KY
- BB Riverboats Dinner Cruise on the Ohio River
- Enjoy a delicious meal, scenic views & live entertainment!

DAY 2 • THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

- Hot breakfast buffet at the hotel
- Experience the Ark Encounter
- Emzara's Kitchen Lunch Buffet on the grounds
- Return home with wonderful memories!

Choose Your Room!

QUAD (4 per room)	\$375 PER PERSON
TRIPLE (3 per room)	\$450 PER PERSON
DOUBLE (2 per room)	\$520 PER PERSON
SINGLE (1 per room)	\$600 PER PERSON

Reserve Your Seat Today!

- \$50 Non-Refundable Deposit to Book
- Balance Due by July 31, 2026
- Cash or Checks Accepted

Mail Deposit to:
OCSR
8180 W. State Route 163
Oak Harbor, OH 43449
OR
Drop off at any Senior Resources Main Office or one of these Senior Centers:
Danbury, Port Clinton, or Ed Griswold

Ottawa County Senior Resources
Questions? We're here to help!
(419) 898-6459
Contact Tory Thompson or Kim Sedlak or sign up at your local Senior Center.

Travel Insurance Available Through NTA Protection

LUNCH AND LEARN

Elliston Zion United Methodist Church-Graytown, OH is hosting monthly LUNCH AND LEARNS!

Join us every month for our Lunch & Learn Gathering!

It's a free event, and following the presentation, we will share in a potluck lunch!
(The main dish is provided)

RSVP to Julie S., Health Ministry Coordinator at 419-276-4018
Our monthly gatherings for the summer are:

Monday, July 20, 2026

Attorney Paul Cordell will be educating us on "Living Wills and Advanced Directives."

Monday, August 31, 2026

Malik Unis, Ottawa County Health Dept, will inform us about "The Opioid Epidemic in Ohio and the Use of Narcan."



The Stewardship of Civility

There used to be a wise saying about arguments that kept things civil. One party or the other would say, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it." That sounds downright quaint in today's climate, where partisans are more likely to say, "I disagree with what you say, and you are evil and have no right to that opinion."

This month, as we celebrate Independence Day, we can relish the freedoms we take for granted, including freedom of speech, religion, and assembly.

At the same time, as Christians we remember not only Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31), but also to do unto others as we would have them do to us (Matthew 7:12). The "neighbors" and "others" certainly include those who hold different ideas on issues of the day.

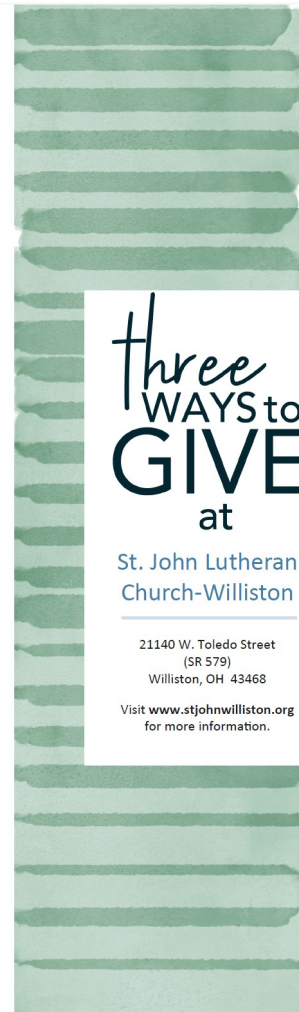
How can we celebrate our freedom of expression in the context of Jesus' commands?

- *Listen carefully, being open to another person's ideas.
- *Respond thoughtfully and calmly, citing facts to support your argument.
- *Do not attack the person, only the ideas.
- *Remember the wise old saying, "I disagree with what you say, but I defend with my life your right to say it."

We are stewards of our relationships with our neighbors. As followers of Jesus, we can be stewards of civility and lead our country to calmer, more amicable times.

--Rob Blezard

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Three
WAYS to
GIVE
at

St. John Lutheran
Church-Williston

21140 W. Toledo Street
(SR 579)
Williston, OH 43468

Visit www.stjohnwilliston.org
for more information.

Mail-In



Mail in your offering directly to our church office at the address below:
St. John Lutheran Church
PO Box 235
Williston, OH 43468

Online Giving



Visit online at www.stjohnwilliston.org
And click on the online giving link at the top of the page

Drop Off or In-Person



Visit the church office during business hours or drop your offering in the offering plates located at the sanctuary doors. If you need a box of offering envelopes, just let the office know!

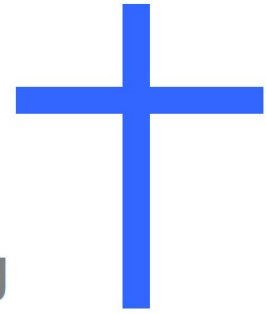
Stewardship is...

- not a program . . . it is a way of life.....*
- not an activity . . . it is the way we live our life every day.*
- not the latest fad . . . it is biblically based.....*
- not a way to raise money . . . it is a way to attain holiness.....*
- not just a decision of the head . . . it requires a conversion of the heart.....*
- not an option . . . integral to our faith.....*
- not another thing to do . . .*
- why and how we do what we do.*
- .not about our generosity . . .*
- about our response to God's generosity.*
-what you do after you say, "I believe".*

It's all about God. May He forgive us for every time we start to think it's actually all about us.

Alistair begg





13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

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

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

Foursome Team Scramble **Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026**

Chippewa Golf Club

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

8:00 am — Registration

9:00 am — Shot Gun Start

\$75 per player

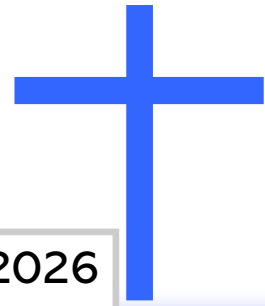
**18 Holes with cart
includes Meal**

**PRIZES PRIZES
PRIZES**

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

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

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/26/2026

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

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

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

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

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

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

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

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



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

From the Bishop
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



**Well this project isn't really just about goats.
This project is all about love!**

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

The Northwestern Ohio Synod's Great Goat Project

What's it all about?

The Great Goat Project isn't just about goats—it's about **sharing God's love in real, life-changing ways.**

Through this project, your congregation can help provide goats to families in Kashasha, Tanzania, in partnership with our Companions in the ELCT Dodoma Diocese in Tanzania.

A single goat can:

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

:

All of this grows out of our shared theme:

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

Why this is **PERFECT** for you and your congregation?

Kids (and adults) love it because:

- It's **fun and memorable** (GOATS!)
- It connects faith to **real-world impact**
- It helps them learn about **global neighbors**
- They can **SEE** how their generosity makes a difference

And let's be honest...

**Who *doesn't* want to say they saved the world
... one goat at a time?**

To give—simply mark (GOAT PROJECT) on your check (made out to St John) or envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail it to St. John. You can also donate online at www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the online giving link and select

The Great Goat Project!

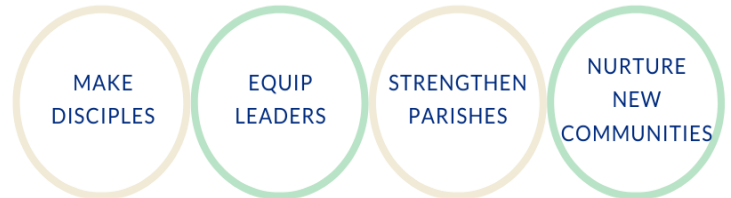


The Shaping of Our Hearts - Summer Spiritual Practice Series

You are invited to a weekly series of spiritual practices on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm at **Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio.**

All are welcome as we explore both ancient and innovative practices to deepen faith and connect with God and the world God loves. Sign-up online for one or more sessions at our link, or call the church office at 419-877-0607.

Sent by the crucified and Risen Jesus together we:



for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio & the world.

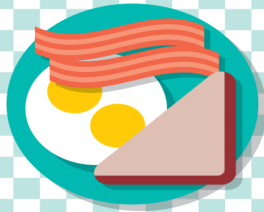
To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith...visit www.elca.org.

For the Northwestern Ohio Synod website-visit ELCA-NWOS.church





WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND ST. JOHN?



JOIN US

FOR

BREAKFAST!

Have Breakfast with us!!!

Every Wednesday, we meet for breakfast at the **GENOA McDonald's!**

Every Wednesday we gather starting at 7:00 AM and if you are available, we would like to invite you to stop by and have breakfast and a few laughs with your St. John friends.



Luther League

On the Go-July 15th!



On **July 15** we will meet at the church at **9:00a** to travel to the **Merry-Go-Round Museum** (a captivating tribute to the artistry and

history of carousels) in Sandusky. We will spend a couple hours exploring the museum, ride the carousel, and then head to **Berardi's Family Kitchen** (voted Best Fries, Best Lunch, Best Place to Get a Homemade Meal, and Best Desserts via the Readers Choice Awards) for lunch. Entry to the museum is **\$10 or \$7 for seniors** (we *may* get a group discount). Meals at Berardi's are in the \$15-\$20 range.

If you would like to attend, call the church office to sign-up. Please indicate if you would like a ride or if you are willing to drive, and how many you can take in addition to yourself if you are willing to take passengers.

Friends and guests are always welcome. You do not need to be a member of St. John to attend.

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



The St. John Blanket Ladies meet every Tuesday morning at 9 AM to make hundreds of beautiful quilts to be distributed to church members, several area charities and shelters. You can help, too! All you need to know is how to tie a knot! Feel free to join us this Tuesday. The coffee is on!

We are also accepting donations of new or gently used bed sheets and fabric.

There is a donation box across from the church office.

BAUMANN AUTO GROUP

24th ANNUAL BIG CHARITY — RAFFLE —

100% OF VEHICLE DONATED BY THE BAUMANN AUTO GROUP
WINNER WINS THE CHOICE OF:



NEW CHEVY TRAX*



NEW FORD MAVERICK*



NEW JEEP COMPASS*

OR CASH OPTION OF \$20,000

*MSRP UP TO \$30,000

100% OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

First Step - Oregon Senior Center
Liberty Center of Fremont - NCAF of Tiffin - Ottawa County Transitional Housing
Parker's Purpose - CASA of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Co. - Back to the Wild
NAMH of Northwest Ohio Seneca, Sandusky, Ottawa, Huron & Wyandot Co.
Engaging Opportunities - Riders Unlimited - Joyful Connections
United Way of Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund - E.A.C.T. of Seneca County
Genoa Area Food Pantry - Oak House of Port Clinton - Arc of Ottawa Co.
Ovarian Cancer Care - The Piggyback Foundation - United Fund Norwalk

\$5.00 PER TICKET

**100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY
TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN THE PAST
23 YEARS IS \$1,362,159**



No matter where summer takes you, online giving makes it easy to support St. John from near or afar!

Simply visit our website at www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the "online giving" link.

Tickets available in the church office.



Council Meeting Highlights– June 18, 2026

Devotions – Pastor O'Brien shared devotions from Exodus and Hebrews.

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from Cheryl Berger and Robin Perkins 2nd. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

Worship Attendance:

In Person average for May 2026-115.6 compared to May 2025-131.8

Online average for May 2026- 75.4 compared to May 2025- 70.

Numbers

19 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting 2 committee/group meetings

4 community/youth/fellowship events 4 professional/clergy activities 1 Special Worship Services

Baptism

I presided at the baptism of Emma Marie-Miller (daughter of Nate Miller and Victoria Kiss) on June 14.

Homewood Pines

I will be serving as camp pastor at Hopewood Pines

ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering

I will be attending the ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering in Indianapolis

Luther League

Our next event is the Merry-Go-Round Museum on July 15.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee Report-

Joni Hillman, Dan Kessler and Shelley Snider

Income: We are at 91% of our monthly budget and 103% of our year-to-date budget.

Expenses: We are at 89% of the monthly budget and 97% of the year-to-date budget.

Contribution Statements will be going out to the members this week

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger

Father's Day gifts are ready for Sunday

Bauman Car Raffle tickets are on sale for \$5.00. The winner has a choice of three cars or \$20,000.

We will be checking into the Mud Hens Day Tickets.

Parish Education: Melissa Lammers

VBS was this week and we had 29-45 kids each day with 21-25 helpers daily. We had great helpers; great enthusiasm and a big effort was made to share Jesus with all the little children in attendance this week. Offerings will go to the Genoa Food Pantry

Stewardship: Jack Mathews

We need families or individuals to make a raffle basket for the Golf Outing scheduled for September 26, 2026. Please contact Jack Mathews, Tom or Heather Cashen for details.

We also need helpers to work at the stations at the golf outing. This is a great opportunity for the young teens to earn service hours for catechism or high school hours needed.

We discussed ideas for next year's Golf Outing to bring in more sponsors, families to help and participants.

Property: John Mazur via email

Moved items back into lounge after painting was done and carpet was installed.

Put new covers over lights in lounge, Sunday School office and hallway.

Sprayed the side lot for weeds and fixed bathroom faucets.

Old Business:

The new AED machine has been purchased and details for the training for this new equipment will be coming soon.

The Tank repairs have been completed

New Business:

Melissa Lammers reported that she purchased 6 stepping stools to be left at all drinking fountains and bathroom hand-washing areas for our little people to use.

Melissa Lammers requested that new posters be purchased to replace the ones in the Catechism room as the old ones are old and faded

Help is desperately needed at the Red Cross Blood Drive scheduled for this Friday, June 26, 2026 at church in the basement from 12 -5 p.m.

We need people to help with patron check-in, bringing desserts or serving the food and snacks. Set-up people are needed at 10:30 that day. Please call Robin Perkins at 419-250-1018 if you are available to help out anywhere with any time frame of assistance. This is another opportunity for service hours for those who need them.

We discussed the possibility of creating a Blood Drive Committee for next year as this is more than a one-person endeavor. The Blood Drive happens about 2-3 times a year here at St. John.

Robin Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Cheryl Berger. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary





Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
Ushers	Ushers
4- Donnelly Family	5-Diana Lambert
11-Buhrow Family	12-Titgemeyer Family
18-Jack Mathews	19- Diana Lambert
25- Ron Gerkenmeyer	26-Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
4- Tracy Orians	5- Melissa Lammers
11- Nancy Strohscher	12-Deanna Neuman
18- Beverly Harder	19- Kellie Ulrich
25- Amy Schloegl	26-Cebie Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
4-Jonah	5-Makenna C.
11-Trenton	12-Rylan S
18-Pierce	19-Ellie
25-Jonah	26- Rylie
Communion	Communion
4-Nancy Strohscher	5-Roland Sandrock
11- Carol Vargo	12-Robin Perkins
18- JoElaine Schimming	19-Dave Neuman
25-Al & Traci Brown	26-Pam LaRue

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



Worship Assistants












Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
Ushers	Ushers
1- Donnelly Family	2-Diana Lambert
8- Buhrow Family	9-Titgemeyer's
15-Jack Mathews	16- Jim Vogelbacher
22-Ron Gerkenmeyer	23-Diana Lambert
29-Donnelly Family	30-Titgemeyer's
Lectors	Lectors
1- Nancy Strohscher	2-Jerry Goldstein
8-Sandy Toth	9-Melissa Lammers
15- Beverly Harder	16-Deanna Neuman
22-Amy Schloegl	23-Tim Titgemeyer
29-Jonah D.	30-Cebie Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
1-Trenton	2-Ellie
8- Pierce	9-Makenna
15-Jonah	16-Rylan
22-Trenton	23-Rylie
29-Pierce	30-Ellie
Communion	Communion
1-Nancy Strohscher	2- RoseMarie D.
8-Ron Gerkenmeyer	9- Diana Lambert
15-JoElaine Schimming	16- Kellie Ulrich
22-Carol Vargo	23-Margaret Berger
29-Al & Traci Brown	30-Robin Perkins

This month

at St. John



july

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 WELCA Dinner RSVP deadline 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice 11:00am –2:00pm Hartman (SH) 1:30pm –4:30pm West End Bunch 4-H (B)</p>	<p>29 Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 26</p>	<p>30 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>1  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:00pm –8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Office closed</p>	<p>4  5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>5 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>6 Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 27</p>	<p>7 WELCA Appreciation Dinner 5:30 PM 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>8  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>9  National Sugar Cookie Day!</p>	<p>10 Office closed</p>	<p>11 5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>12 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>13 Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 28 </p>	<p>14 Scout troop meeting 6 PM 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>15  LUTHER LEAGUE TRIP to Merry-Go-Round Museum 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Office closed  National EMOJI Day!</p>	<p>18 5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>19 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>20 Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 29 Forerunner deadline 9 AM <i>Don't Miss the</i> </p>	<p>21 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>22  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Office closed</p>	<p>25 5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>26 9:00am –10:00am Worship 11:00am –12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>27 Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 30 </p>	<p>28 9:00am –12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>29  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Office closed</p>	<p>1 5:00pm Contemporary Worship 6:00pm –8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Worship Hours at St. John
Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM
****Sunday Worship at 9 AM thru September**

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