

We Are the Church Together

FORERUNNER

St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio

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Inside this issue:

Ask the Pastor	1
Plan of return –cont'd	2
Memorials/WELCA	3
Church online	4
Being the church!	5
Stewardship Page	6
Kid's Connection	7
Summer Faith & Fun	8
From the ELCA	9
Faith Practice #3/Daniel	10
Council Highlights	11
Finance Ministry	12
Online Giving Form	13
June Celebrations	14
Keeping June Joyful!	15

Ask the Pastor

St. John Lutheran Church
Plan of Return
(reviewed May 21, 2020)

When St. John does return to gathering for parish activities, we seek to do it in ways that are inclusive and safe for the most vulnerable among us. **We gather because we love God, but we limit ourselves because we love our neighbor.** It is important to stress that in this time, not gathering for worship does not make you a “bad Christian” or mean that you don’t love God. In fact, it is entirely possible that the most loving thing you can do right now for yourself and your fellow Christians is not gather for worship.

Please **STAY AT HOME** if you are symptomatic or have been exposed to someone who has shown symptoms. Please *consider staying at home* if you are a “high risk” individual.

For the sake of the health and safety of our members, St. John will strive to follow the guidelines from the Northwestern Ohio Synod office, the State of Ohio Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control.

Worship: We anticipate that we will resume gathering for worship the week-end of June 6th and 7th. However, it will ultimately be when the gathering limit for Ohio is lifted or raised to more than 10 people. We will confirm and communicate our reopening date when we know for certain. (If the gathering ban is changed to only groups of 25 or 50 or less than our regular/anticipated attendance, we will take steps to modify these plans accordingly.)



When we gather, we ask worshipers to do a self-assessment. If they have a temperature, are not feeling well, or consider themselves to be in the ‘high risk’ category for this virus, we ask that they please stay home and worship with us on-line. Please think about the most vulnerable in the sanctuary when you are considering whether or not you should attend worship.

We will ask worshipers to use personal protective equipment. Please wear a mask, wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, maintain the proper distancing (current recommendation is 6 feet), and refrain from fellowship/physical touch outside of immediate family.

For the sake of physical distancing, cleaning, and sanitizing; we will strive to use as little of the building as possible. Hallways, rooms, and areas of the church may be closed off. Please only use designated areas, entrances, and exits.

We will ask worshipers to enter and exit the building through the office doors (south doors, off the parking lot) and use the elevator or stairs to enter/exit the front of the sanctuary.



In the sanctuary we will rope off pews and ask worshipers to respect physical distancing of fellow worshipers.

For the sake of cleaning and sanitizing we will remove all Bibles, hymnals, seat cushions, etc. from the pews.

For the sake of cleaning and sanitizing we ask worshipers to use only the upstairs restrooms (off the elevator/near the social hall).

Paul Frederickson and/or the AB Clean Team will be cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary after each worship service and the rest of the building throughout the week.

In-person worship will return in phases... For now, we will continue with virtual lectors and recorded music (we will keep our weekly rotation of recording music; Saturday musicians one weekend, Sunday musicians the next).

For now, the song leaders/choirs will not sing/lead worship in person. We are seeking ways to make singing less of a high-risk activity.

For now, we will continue to refrain from Holy Communion. We are seeking a way to resume sharing the Lord's Supper that is theologically sound and physically safe.

For now, we will refrain from sharing the peace. We ask that when worshipers do greet each other they respect personal space and physical distance.

For now, we will refrain from having ushers collect the offering during worship. Plates will be placed next to the entrance/exit of the sanctuary.

Online worship will continue for those who are unable or chose not to gather for worship.

We are seeking to add a "Video Producer" position to our St. John staff to continue our high-quality worship recordings.

Currently the State of Ohio is asking organizations to do Contact Tracing. Therefore, we will be placing a volunteer at the door to record names of worshipers and to take a picture of the congregation at each worship service.

If a case of COVID-19 is reported, we will follow the appropriate Ohio Health Department/CDC procedure.

Parish Life: Required ongoing social distancing does not only impact worship but every facet of congregational life including Fellowship, Education, Ministry groups, Committees, Community Gatherings, Parties, Showers, etc.

For now, we will not be permitting outside groups to use the social hall or basement for community gatherings, parties, showers, etc.

Church groups (committees, circles, scouts, etc.) are asked to only meet in small groups, and when possible meet outside. They are asked to maintain the same social distancing/mask-wearing/group size guidelines.

If a group does use the building, they are asked to notify Paul/the church office so we can be sure their meeting space is appropriately cleaned/sanitized.

Funerals and funeral luncheons will be determined on a case by case basis, ensuring that they meet the appropriate current safety recommendations.

Closing Comments: We will continue to communicate by text, email, Facebook, mailings, Forerunner, etc. Please contact Pastor O'Brien, Rick Buhrow (Congregational President), or Diana Pfaff (Congregational Vice-President) if you have any questions or if there is anything we forgot to address.

Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid". John 14:27

These are very strange times... but remember, WE ARE THE CHURCH! And God is with us! Ministry and mission haven't stopped because the building is closed or our gatherings are limited. It may take some time to get this all figured out, but we will get through this together.

GOD's PEACE!

Pastor Shawn

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.



At the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic, Andy Kessler stepped forward to help with our video/online worship services. Hopefully you have had the opportunity to see he has made our simple recordings into quality productions. Also, what we thought would be a few weeks has turned into a commitment of a few months. Some have asked how they can appropriately thank Andy, so the Worship Life Committee is establishing a Laptop Fund as a "Thank You" to Andy Kessler for all his help and assistance with the production of the digital live and recordings of the church worship services during the last few months. If you would like to contribute to this fund, just send your donation in an envelope marked as such to the church office to show your appreciation for Andy Kessler's production assistance and expertise.



Memorials and Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Fritz Lau
Diane Dickinson
Lenore Harmeyer

In Memory of Patricia Lau
Lenore Harmeyer

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

Women of the ELCA

Please watch the weekly announcements and upcoming
Forerunners for any updates.

All meetings and events are postponed at this time.
The Esther circle will return in September and Rebekah
Circle will be meeting through "Zoom"
with a date to be announced soon.

Prayer Requests



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

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

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in
your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask
for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such
a need arises, call Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003,
cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who
will begin the prayer chain. Please keep your message to the
minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. Thank you!

The Forerunner

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Williston, Ohio
21140 W. Toledo Street
Corner of Main and Toledo St.

Telephone: 419-836-5514

e-mail:
office@stjohnwilliston.org
www.stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O'Brien
Home Telephone:
419-972-4003

Email:
pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Summer worship hours begin
Sunday June 7th
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Deadline for the
July 2020 newsletter is
Monday, June 22nd at 9 AM
Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.



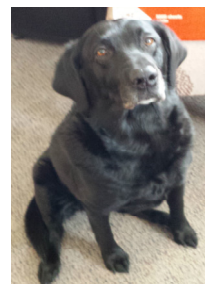
**"Creating and nurturing life changing
relationships based on the love of
God in Jesus Christ, so that we may
grow in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."**



Church
Office
Hours

LisaAnne Gregg
Office

Administrator
9am—3pm
Mon. thru Fri.
(419) 836-5514
Office @stjohnwilliston.org



*Meet
Bella!*

*The Greeter
of
St. John*



**Missing Church? Not ready yet?
That's ok! We have the answer!**

Worship with St. John ONLINE!

Until we can join together comfortably in worship, we will be live streaming our worship services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel on Saturdays at 5PM and will show it again on Sunday mornings at **9AM**.

Not online? That's ok. Let the office know and we will send you an Audio CD of the latest worship service.

Our Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwilliston/>
The "virtual worship service" for last weekend has been posted on Facebook and YouTube.

For continued services, search YouTube for Shawn O'Brien and look for the St. John logo.

Worshippers never leave church! We carry our sanctuary wherever we go!

Email/Text Reminders

If you would like to be notified about events, activities, schedule changes, etc. through email or text, join St. John on Remind...

Text @stjohnw to the number 81010. (You'll receive a welcome text from Remind.)

(If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @stjohnw to (419) 679-4578.)

Visit rmd.at/stjohnw to sign up for email notifications.

If none of those work, send a message to the church office.

We can sign you up.





Red Cross Blood Drive a Success!

Despite the current conditions, social distancing and special safety procedures in place, our Blood Drive on Friday, May 22nd was a wonderful success! Our schedule was full and 35 people made appointments to come to St. John to donate the gift of life! Several people, including our own Pastor Shawn and Al Brown, were able to give "Power Red" or double units! Many blood drives across the area have been cancelled so the need for donated blood is critical right now. Once again, St. John is "being the church" in caring for its most vulnerable neighbors! Thank you for your support! We will host another blood drive on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th** from 1-6 PM. If you have any questions about our Blood Drives, just call LisaAnne in the office.

Drive Thru Food Assistance at St. John

We are putting together supplemental food bags for people in our community.

Our distribution will now be on **TUESDAYS** at 11:00 AM.

If you want to help with this project, we are seeking donations of 16oz jars of peanut butter and spaghetti noodles. And, when you go to the store or order your groceries, consider adding some peanut butter, canned spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned veggies, spaghetti noodles or a box of cereal to your cart.

We have partnered with the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion to provide this assistance through ordering from the Toledo NWO Food bank and delivering the food to St. John.

Your financial assistance is also appreciated. We have started a "Helping Neighbors" Fund and thank everyone who has donated so far!

We are keeping workgroups small (gatherings of less than 10) so if you want to participate, contact Pastor O'Brien before you show up. To date, we have given out over 175 bags! We will continue this outreach through the month of June.



The Blanket Ladies ...Are BACK!

The Blanket Ladies of St. John changed their focus from sewing blankets to sewing face masks last month and made hundreds of face masks to be shared with area health professionals and the church!

They will continue to make them as long as there is a need.

They are also back making quilts...in a socially distanced fashion in the church basement.

So, if you would like to join them, they gather each Tuesday at 9 AM.

No experience is needed! All you need to know is how to tie a knot.



Grounded in Faith, Growing to Serve

*"When each separate part works as it should,
the whole body grows, and builds itself up through love." Ephesians 4:16*

3 WAYS TO GIVE



in person



by mail



online

Did you know? Online giving is available here.

Even during these uncertain times, your church continues to serve! When not meeting in person for worship, or while you are on vacation, you can still give to the church you love so much. St. John works with VANCO, a nationally recognized online giving program to make it easy and secure to give...no matter if you are near or far!

It's easy...go to our website at www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the online giving link or fill out an authorization form and send it in to the office.

You can set up for weekly, monthly or special giving! We recommend using a checking or savings account-not a credit card-to avoid processing fees.

Questions? Call LisaAnne if the office and she will walk you through it.

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

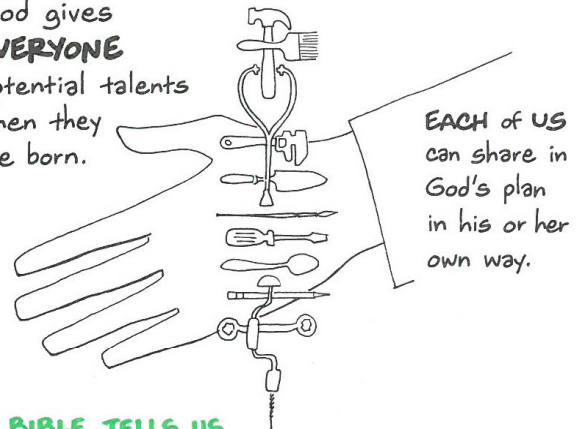


**EACH ONE
SHOULD USE
WHATEVER GIFT
HE HAS RECEIVED
TO SERVE OTHERS,
FAITHFULLY
ADMINISTERING
GOD'S GRACE IN
ITS VARIOUS
FORMS.**

1 Peter 4:10

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENTS

God gives
EVERYONE
potential talents
when they
are born.



EACH of US
can share in
God's plan
in his or her
own way.

THE BIBLE TELLS US

that if we use our talents wisely, we will
be better able to use them and will
develop others--but if we don't,
we may lose even those
we do have.



St. John is scheduled to host the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry on June 20, 2020. The monthly pantry has run as a drive-thru operation the last several months because of the pandemic. We have always had a significant number of volunteers when we are hosts and joyously appreciate this response. However at this time, we are limited to the number of people who can assist with the pantry. We will contact past volunteers individually when we determine how many people are needed. We also ask that you wear a mask if you are helping that day. We will again host the pantry in November and pray the situation with the pandemic has improved.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely, Cindy Hartman and Becky Tank



St. John Kid's Page

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

Apart for a Time,
Together in Spirit



Mandy Groce '10

<http://ministry-to-children.com>

Father's Day

Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. Proverbs 4:1

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12



J I S K R Y T A E U L X S O G
R G O S D F H J R P Q K Z M D
U I A D I X L O U S Y J Z F L
E C A G M V K K F X K H N U T
Q D L O V E Y E J U J J O R M
S I W X F I S H I N G R B M B
J O Q T Y D B C C G F G Z W E
Z K N P I T I A H I I W S L Z
A X G K B E T B N U S M L A F
G O L F E Q H K E B G U I U P
C L W S X M C H Q E D S P G P
H A Q W A A G U M Z A X P H B
F O R Z H D B O X T Y J E T Y
Q F H L U R C P D A J A R A G
J F A T H E R J G B O Z S X S

FISHING
TIE
GIFT

LOVE
DAY
GOLF

DADDY
HUGS
JOKE

LAUGH
CAR
SLIPPERS

FATHER
HOME
GOD



CORONAVIRUS EXPLAINED

Coronavirus is an illness that is a bit like the flu. It's making a lot of people sick. They might:

have a cough



have a fever (feel hot for no reason)



find it a little hard to breathe



People who are older, or who have other illnesses, could get much more sick if they get the virus.

That is why we are being **really careful** and **staying away** from each other.



— LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF —

It's okay if you feel a little worried or angry or sad. Talk to a grown-up about how you're feeling.

Bored at home? You can **play games**, **read**, **learn**, **exercise (try star jumps!)**, **chat with family**, **write letters**. Help to clean at home and eat healthy!



what else you can do at home?

— WHAT YOU CAN DO —

You can do these really important things to help.

List all the times you should wash your hands!



WASH YOUR HANDS! A LOT!
(Super important)

Wash for 20 seconds with soap and water.



Sing to make this fun!

COVER YOUR MOUTH AND NOSE

When you cough and sneeze. Use a tissue, or else your elbow.



TRY NOT TO TOUCH YOUR FACE



Try not to pick your nose, touch your mouth, or rub your eyes.

TELL A GROWN UP

If you feel sick - like if have a cough, or feel really hot and tired for no reason.



— AND REMEMBER... —

Loads of clever people are working hard to get things back to normal.

Be careful, be good, be kind and...

WASH YOUR HANDS!





We usually take a break from Sunday School in the summer, but here are some extra resources, videos, worksheets, etc. that can help you continue to work on faith development with your student until we are able to meet again.

[The Lord's Supper Object Lesson](https://www.futureflyingsaucers.com/the-lords-supper-object-lesson/) <https://www.futureflyingsaucers.com/the-lords-supper-object-lesson/>

Resources: Video about "the Lord's Supper" Materials: bread, grape juice, 12 cups, small toy prizes, shaving cream, candy, ping pong ball (Put a toy prize or a piece of candy into each cup. Include some cups with shaving cream in them. Have paper towels handy.) Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 6:51 Target audience: ages 5-9 Object Lesson: 1.

[Bible Worksheets - New Testament](https://hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/bible-worksheets-NT) <https://hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/bible-worksheets-NT>

A selection of New Testament worksheets including crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, secret codes, word search puzzles and more.

[Handprint Suncatcher - The Best Ideas for Kids](https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/handprint-suncatcher/) <https://www.thebestideasforkids.com/handprint-suncatcher/>

There's nothing better than a homemade craft that doubles as a keepsake. Today we have this adorable handprint suncatcher craft to share with you. We love to make handprint crafts here. Some of our favorites are our butterfly handprint cards, handprint flower bouquet and salt dough handprint keepsakes.

[Fun and Easy Cross Craft for Kids](https://www.catholicicing.com/fun-and-easy-cross-craft-for-kids/) <https://www.catholicicing.com/fun-and-easy-cross-craft-for-kids/>

The reason why you want to use black paper is so if any of the paint gets somewhere that's not the salt, you don't see it. Encourage the children to just touch their paintbrushes to the salt and let it spread. You have to be gentle so as not to disturb the wet glue under the salt.

[Teaching Your Elementary Kids to Pray - Ever Thine Home](https://everthinehome.com/teaching-elementary-kids-pray/) <https://everthinehome.com/teaching-elementary-kids-pray/>

Last week, I heard from my sister in Thailand some of the heart-breaking moments they've been struggling through in their community of refugees. An 11-year-old girl sent to possibly "work" in Bangkok with her mother. A stabbing. A man depriving his family of enough money to buy food. And I thought, My kids and I should pray.....

[Jesus Washes Away the Sins of the of the World Object Lesson Activity](https://ministrymindedmom.com/jesus-washes-away-sins-world-object-lesson-activity/) <https://ministrymindedmom.com/jesus-washes-away-sins-world-object-lesson-activity/>

Jesus Washes Away the Sins of the World Object Lesson Activity. Teaching kids (especially young kids) about the deeper meanings of the Bible that go beyond just the stories on the surface isn't always easy. But that doesn't mean it's impossible.

[Sabbath Craft – Sabbath School Crafts](http://sabbathschoolcrafts.com/2020/01/17/sabbath-craft/) <http://sabbathschoolcrafts.com/2020/01/17/sabbath-craft/>

1. Cut out shapes. 2. Color in. 3. Attach with round head fasteners/brads/spilt head pins and spin!

[Paint your own stained glass windows - Crafty Morning](https://www.craftymorning.com/paint-your-own-stained-glass-windows) <https://www.craftymorning.com/paint-your-own-stained-glass-windows>

This amazing idea was done by Bryanna Lemieux's daughter and she was so sweet to let me share with you guys! You or your kids can paint your own stained glass windows. Just use painter's tape to design your window! Bryanna said "We had to do a few coats to get..."

[Minute to Win it - Old Testament Bible Style Games](http://hollyshome-hollyshome-hollyshome.blogspot.com/2015/12/minute-to-win-it-old-testament-bible.html) <http://hollyshome-hollyshome-hollyshome.blogspot.com/2015/12/minute-to-win-it-old-testament-bible.html>

I have a new Minute To Win It game. It's a New Testament version. Just click on the picture to check it out.

[The best, Christ-centered way to explain the fruit of the Spirit for kids](https://www.christiethomaswriter.com/bedtime-devo-mama/better-way-teach-fruit-spirit-kids/) <https://www.christiethomaswriter.com/bedtime-devo-mama/better-way-teach-fruit-spirit-kids/>

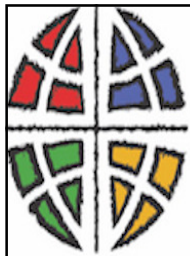
'The fruit of the Spirit for kids' shares a way to teach kids this concept without making it another list of virtues or rules. Includes a paper craft, video, and a review of "Maybe God is like that too" by Jennifer Grant.

[13 Bible Object Lessons for Kids and Sunday School](https://learnincolor.com/13-faith-based-object-lessons.html) <https://learnincolor.com/13-faith-based-object-lessons.html>

Bible based object lessons are memorable, fun, and can teach character building. Here are my top favorite Christian object lessons, from honesty to the Armor of God! Each object lessons include a simple activity with a valuable lesson.

[Candy Bars Children's Church Curriculum – Children's Ministry Deals](https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/candy-bars-12-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum) <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/products/candy-bars-12-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>

Our Children's Ministry curriculum is guaranteed to be awesome. If you don't absolutely love this curriculum, just let us know within 30 days and we'll give you a full refund, and a big hug. No questions asked. Check out our collection of Children's Church Lessons for more great curriculum series for your Kids Church or Sunday School.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Pastoral Message from the Presiding Bishop May 13, 2020

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. —1 Corinthians 12:12

Dear Church,

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

During the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am encouraged by your resilience and creativity in our witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I am also inspired by your generosity. Through the ELCA COVID-19 Response Fund and our Daily Bread grants, we are providing critical support to struggling yet vital ministries across this church. Through Lutheran Disaster Response International we have intensified our accompaniment of global partners. We are church together.

This is a trying time for us all. At the same time, we know that a disproportionate burden of illness, death, discrimination and harassment falls on communities of color. This pandemic has exacerbated racism and racial inequities deeply entrenched in society and across the church. We see this in the growing anti-Asian racism and the disproportionate number of deaths in black, American Indian and Latinx communities. I have been learning from the leaders of the ELCA's ethnic associations how the data we see on the news is experienced in real life. I have listened to leaders of color share the impact of this pandemic on their communities — on their lives and on their ministries. These stories are difficult but important, so we are launching a special series on LivingLutheran.org to lift up these voices for us all to hear. We also seek to ensure that our COVID-19 response more effectively tends to the realities of racism and racial inequality. We are church together.

Recently, in cities across this country, we have seen horrifying anti-Semitic and white supremacist messages dis-

played during public protests against government orders that are intended to protect lives. No matter our politics or opinions about our elected leaders and their policies, all of us must come together on the basis of our church's commitments to condemn racism against indigenous people and people of color, white supremacy, sexism, and anti-Semitism whenever they occur. Whether our churches and communities are racially diverse or predominantly white, our work for racial and economic justice for all people is work for all of us. We are church together.

Just as God has joined us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in baptism, we are joined to each other. Paul helps us to understand this by speaking of the one body of Christ, with many members. While this is always true, perhaps we feel it more acutely in this time of physical distancing. In our longing to be church together, let us be even more intentional in sharing with each other, easing each other's burdens, consoling each other in our fear and grief, condemning what is contrary to the gospel and living out our baptismal covenant "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."

In partnership,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, ELCA



***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.***

Faith Practice #3 Reading Daniel



Week of June 1

Daniel 3

Nebuchadnezzar makes a golden image and gives a command to worship the statue. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refuse. They are thrown into a furnace to be burned alive. Because they are faithful however, the three men leave the furnace unharmed. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges the greatness of the Hebrew God who protected the three men.

Week of June 8

Daniel 4

Nebuchadnezzar recounts a dream of a mighty tree, which a watcher from heaven orders to be chopped down, and its stump bound with a band of iron and bronze. Daniel interprets: Nebuchadnezzar will be humbled, and eat grass like oxen.

Week of June 15

Daniel 5

Belshazzar (who is now apparently king) makes a great feast, with the gold and silver vessels taken from the temple at Jerusalem. They drink wine, and praise false gods. Daniel reads and interprets a mysterious message: God has numbered your kingdom, you have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting, and your kingdom is to be given to the Medes and the Persians.

Week of June 22

Daniel 6

Daniel is made one of three governors over the 120 regional rulers in Darius' administration. There is a plot hatched against him because he worships God and not the king. Daniel is thrown into the lion's den; however Daniel is found alive the following morning. Darius calls Daniel the servant of the living God. Those who accused Daniel are thrown to the lions, along with their families, and killed. Darius decrees that all must honor the God of Daniel.

Week of June 29

Daniel 7

Daniel has a vision in the first year of Belshazzar's reign. He interprets; the four beasts are four kings – they are conquered by God, and their kingdoms are given to the people of God. The ten horns of the fourth beast (which made war on the saints) represent ten kings, to be succeeded by another, who shall subdue three kings, before being defeated by the Most High.

Council Highlights

What happened at the last meeting?

Council Meeting Minutes Highlights **from May 21, 2020 ZOOM**

Devotions were from Luke 24, led by Pastor O'Brien today on Ascension Day

Secretary Minutes for April were approved with one correction

Pastor's Report:

Digital Services will continue into June and possibly longer. Tracking attendance for the digital services has been difficult with trying to use Facebook and YouTube counting. The distribution of the food bags will continue in the month of June on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Parish Plan of Return was reviewed and will be available to see on the church's website, Facebook and through emails.

Financial Secretary Report /Treasurer's Report/Finance Committee Report:

Reported that the income is very good and expenses are below budget. Fred Lammers wanted to thank the congregation for their generous continued support with their giving.

Christian Community Life Reported that the Genoa Food Pantry received donations from Meijer's for \$1000 and Miller's for \$1000. Rayz and Genoa Bank had a gun raffle that raised \$3250 for the Pantry. It will be our turn to assist at the Genoa Food Pantry on June 20, 2020. If the Food Pantry continues with the distribution in a drive-by format, there will only be 10 people needed to help out. Please contact Cindy Hartman, Becky Tank or Cheryl Berger if interested in helping that day. The committee has decided that the flower seed packets ordered for Mother's Day will be donated to the Genoa Food Pantry and the School Food Bag Distribution to be given out to the patrons until they are all gone.

Parish Education: Reported that they are ordering VBS supplies to be given out to the kids as a grab bag filled with activities for the summer. Reported that they will be look-

ing into a digital format for summer "Home" Sunday school activities to help Pastor O'Brien continue with the activities for the kids during the summer months.

Worship Life: Reported that Worship Life met in Pastor's garage (keeping social distance) to discuss the reopening of the church building. Plans were then discussed at the May committee night Zoom meeting. Several possibilities were discussed and the plan is to slowly reopen. Music and lectors will remain virtual, offering plate will not be passed (will be set by the door), and communion will not be served for the time being. We hope (but are aware that this may have to change) to open the doors for worship in the sanctuary the weekend of June 6 and 7.

Property: Reported the replacing of the lights in basement to LED have been completed. Radiant Windows will be installing the aluminum coverings on the overhang sections of the church on the south side.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Worship Life would like to establish a Laptop Fund as a "Thank You" to Andy Kessler for all his help and assistance with the production of the digital live recordings of the church services during the last two months. If you would like to contribute to this fund, just send your donation in an envelope marked as such to the church office to show your appreciation for Andy Kessler's production assistance and expertise. Also, a new committee will be forming to research the purchase of video equipment needed to continue producing online digital services in the future. Please contact Pastor O'Brien if you would like to help with this endeavor.

Next Committee Night: Committees will meet during the summer as needed on their own.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 18 at 7:00 pm. Via Zoom Meeting

Respectively submitted, Diana Pfaff,
Vice President, filling in for Marcia Morgan

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY ____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ ____</div>	
AMOUNTS: \$ ____ \$ ____ \$ ____					
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)			Routing Number: ____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: ____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> 1234567890 123 1234567 0001 Routing Number Account Number Check Number </div>	
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.				
	Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.				
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____					

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



JOYFUL JUNE (EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES) 2020



MONDAY

1 Decide to look for what's good, even on the difficult days

8 Write a letter to thank someone for what they did

15 Rediscover a fun childhood activity that you can enjoy today

22 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

29 Take time to do something that makes you happy today

TUESDAY

2 Re-frame a worry and try to find a positive way to respond

9 Find the joy in music today: sing, play, dance or listen

16 Ask a loved one what they feel grateful for at the moment

23 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to them)

WEDNESDAY

3 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down

10 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it

17 Be kind to you. Treat yourself the way you would treat a friend

24 Thank a friend for the joy they bring into your life

THURSDAY

4 Show your appreciation to those who are helping others

11 Say positive things in your conversations with others today

18 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

25 Eat food that makes you feel good and really savour it

FRIDAY

5 Smile and be friendly, even while you're social distancing

12 Make a plan with friends to do something fun together

19 Create a list of favourite memories you feel grateful for

26 See the upside in a difficult situation you learnt from

SATURDAY

6 Notice the upsides during the lockdown, however small

13 Appreciate the joy of nature and the beauty in the world around

20 Make time to do something playful today, just for the fun of it

27 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh

SUNDAY

7 Find a joyful way of being physically active (indoors or out)

14 Do three things to bring joy to other people today

21 Enjoy trying a new recipe or cooking your favourite food

28 Create a playlist of your favourite songs and enjoy them



"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day" ~ Alice Morse Earle



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind



**Stephen
Ministry**

HELP, HOPE, HEALING

If you would like help or more information on the Stephen Ministry at St. John, call Pastor O'Brien or the church office.

Are you going through a difficult time? A Stephen minister can help. Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street
P. O. Box 235
Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

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June 2020



In person and online!

Summer Worship Hours at St. John
Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM
Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 AM

Pastor Shawn O'Brien
419-972-4003 (home)

E-mail address:
pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours
LisaAnne Gregg,
Office Administrator
Monday –Friday
9:00am-3:00pm
Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:
office@stjohnwilliston.org

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