

St. John - Williston Forerunner

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October is
PASTOR Appreciation
Month! 

Ask the Pastor

“What should I get mom for Christmas?”

Okay, not a real question that was asked, but I do have an answer!

When I was in Israel in 2023, I met Elias Ghareeb who helped guide our Holy Land trip. On that trip many of the pilgrims purchased olive wood souvenirs in support of the local artisans. Once again, Elias has reached out expressing that because of the war and very few tourists traveling to Israel, that many of the artisans are still struggling to support their families.

To help the people in Bethlehem and surrounding communities, Elias has asked if we would be willing to purchase artisan craft items. There are carvings, crosses of different size and shape, prayer beads, necklaces, small nativity carvings, jewelry, and assorted items of various prices. Elias has provided a catalogue of all the items he has available. You can download the catalogue from the church website. I will also have a printed copy available at the church.

All proceeds from all sales will be sent back to Israel in support of the artisans and their families. If you are looking for small gift for a friend or an item for yourself, that also support families in Israel this would be a great investment.

These items would also make wonderful Christmas gifts if you are looking to support a good cause with your gift. If you would like to make a purchase, let me know the items and quantity and I will place an order for the group at the beginning of November. (Hoping to have them available before Christmas.) Please let me know if you have any questions.



Here is the link to the online catalogue:

<https://stjohnwilliston.org/activities/support-holy-land-artists.html>

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.



Many Thanks and God's Blessings

Thanks to Pastor O'Brien and our St. John Family for the love and support given during my recent extended anxiety and surgery. Thanks for your continued prayers, the food, lovely cards and many phone calls giving me words of encouragement. I'm so very grateful for our caring St. John Family who is supportive in every way.

Your kindness is appreciated.

I'm much improved and on the long uphill road to recovery. I am truly blessed!! God is Great!

May God continue to bless each of you.

God's Blessings,

Diane Gerkenmeyer

Weddings

IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to Andrew Blausey (son of Craig and Sharon Blausey) and Emily Fite who were united in marriage on September 5th at St. John.

Congratulations to Joshua Buhrow (son of Rick and Lori Buhrow) and Tory Holmes who were united in marriage on October 4, 2025 at St. John.

May God bless your union abundantly with joy, peace, and unwavering faith.

Do you ever wonder?



How stuff gets done?

Committee Nights are held on the Second Thursday of each month at 7 PM. All are welcome to participate, ask questions and join our committees!

"Many Hands Make Light Work!"

New nominations for service/leadership will be coming soon! Don't wait-step up now! See Rick Buhrow to be added to the slate.



JOIN US

FOR

BREAKFAST!

Join us for BREAKFAST & FRIENDS!

Come have a cup of coffee with your St. John Family and others at the

GENOA McDonald's!

Every Wednesday we will gather starting at

7:00 AM and if you are available, we would like to invite you to stop by and have breakfast with your St. John friends.

The Forerunner

is published monthly
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-378-1112

[pastorobrien](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org)

@stjohnwilliston.org

**Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM**

**Sunday School for the
whole family 9:00 AM
Every Sunday beginning
September 7th**

**Sunday Worship
9:45 AM beginning Sept. 7th**

**Deadline for the
November 2025 newsletter is
Monday, October 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**

WELCA Circle Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, October 7 2:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Social Hall
Women of the Bible Bible Study: Judy

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, October 7 7:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Lounge
"Encouraging One Another"
Please join us! You ARE welcome here!



The **"Blanket Ladies"** gather every week to make quilts on Tues. mornings at 9 am. Come join us! Bed sheets are needed for backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office. This year, during Blanket Ministry Weekends, there

were 240 Blankets on display. 131 were donated before that weekend and 13 Fabric kits assembled. **Between October 2024 and September 2025, a total of 371 Blankets were assembled by this small but mighty group of friends in Christ!** Blankets are donated to area charities to keep those in need wrapped in warmth & prayer.



*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 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. Thank you!



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace).
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>



We need more worship assistants! Would you like to help with communion, read scripture or be an usher? Just let Pastor or the office know.

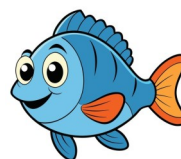
Thank you to those who came out to fish with the residents at LHM on God's Work. Our Hands Sunday! We joined together with members of St. Peter-Blackberry for a fun day of great catches! It was fun for the residents... and for the volunteers, too!



God's work. Our hands.



September 7
2025





JOIN US AT
St. John-Williston
for our
trunk or
TREAT

Sunday
OCTOBER 19
2:00-4:00 PM

Bring the whole family and join us!

Hayrides!
Pumpkin Decorating!
Halloween Tattoos!
Food and Drinks!
Candy! Candy!
Prize baskets!


St. John Lutheran Church
 Williston, Ohio
 21140 W. Toledo Street (SR 579) Williston, Ohio



JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday School for KIDS
age 3 thru 5th Grade
EVERY SUNDAY from 9-9:30 am!
We meet in the
Sunday School rooms on
the main floor.
Invite a friend and join us!!

Kid's Bells are coming back...join us
to make a joyful noise!!



Our Seven Faith Practices

- ◇ I will strive to...
 - ◇ **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



49th Annual
Fall Festival
MUSIC-FOOD-FUN

12PM - 4PM
FREE ENTRY!

HopeWood Pines (LMC)
 2790 State Route 61
 Marengo, OH 43334

Sunday, October 12th, 2025

All proceeds from the day go to Camperships (Camp Scholarships). Help send a child to camp!

HopeWood Pines



Confirmation NEWS

Upcoming Community Service Opportunities

- * Trunk or Treat will be October 19 from 2-4p. There should be a signup sheet soon.
- * St. John next serves at the Genoa Food Pantry on October 18 from 9a until noon. (There will also be a prepacking time on Thursday 10/16 in the evening. More information will be available closer to the date.)

Here is the link to the online Sermon Note/Service Point record. If your records do not match mine, please let me know.

<https://stjohnwilliston.org/activities/confirmation/sermon-notes-and-service-points.html>

If you are unable to serve your assigned time to acolyte, please make arrangements for a trade or a replacement and let the office or Pastor know.



The non-Pauline epistles are the New Testament letters that were not written by the Apostle Paul. These letters are sometimes referred to as the "Catholic" or "Universal" Epistles, because they were not written to specific churches or individuals but rather to a wider audience. They include James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Hebrews. The book of Hebrews was our Faith Practice reading in 2024, so we will be focusing on the rest this time.

Here's a general overview:

James: Traditionally attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, though its authorship is debated. James argues that true faith is evidenced by good works, emphasizing that faith without action is dead or incomplete. The author calls believers to live out their faith authentically and practically, demonstrating their love for God and neighbor through obedience, wisdom, and compassionate action.

1 Peter and 2 Peter: Both letters, attributed to Peter the Apostle, encourage believers to persevere in their faith and live faithfully in the face of persecution and false teachings. 1 Peter emphasizes hope and holy living amidst suffering, 2 Peter focuses on combating error and preparing for Christ's return.

1 John, 2 John, and 3 John: All three are attributed to John the Apostle. They provide instruction and encouragement for believers to live in fellowship with God, adhere to sound doctrine, love one another, and support the spread of the gospel, while also warning against the dangers of false teachings and divisive behavior.

Jude: Attributed to Jude the brother of James. Jude writes to equip believers to recognize and resist false teachers, remain steadfast in their faith, and live out their calling as followers of Christ while awaiting his return.

These non-Pauline letters offer different perspectives on Christian life and theology compared to the Pauline epistles. They address various issues and concerns within the early church, providing valuable insights into the development of early Christian thought.

Our reading schedule is as follows: *for the week starting...*

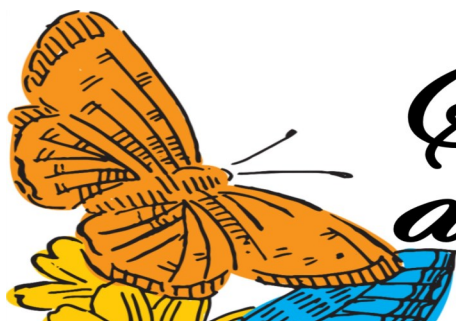
September 29 – 1 John 4

October 6 – 1 John 5

October 13– 2 John

October 20 – 3 John

October 27 – Jude



Stewardship and Service



St. John serves at the Genoa Food Pantry on Thursday, October 16th at 6 PM to pre pack boxes and again on Saturday October 19th from 9 AM to Noon.

The pantry is located at the ARC
303 W Fourth Street Genoa, OH 43430
Open the 3rd Saturday 10:00-11:30am
DRIVE THRU ONLY-While supplies last

PAJAMAS!

We are collecting
PAJAMAS
for distribution
with the Holiday
Bureau.



Starting in
October through
November, there will be tags set out
with the gender and size needed for
you to pick up !

You may wrap your gift if you like,
but make sure you attach the tag or
label it. Please help to provide the
wonderful gift of snuggly pajamas !
Any questions call Cheryl Berger
@419-345-3941.



Online giving is now
available at St. John.
Simply visit our web site at
www.stjohnwilliston.org
and click on the "online
giving" link at the top of the
page. *Not online?*

See LisaAnne in the office
to set up an account or fill out an "Authorization
Form" and return it to the office.

(Helpful hint: to avoid additional fees and to make sure your
whole donation reaches St. John...use your checking account
with your routing & account number.



Our Blessing Box
can always use your help in
helping our neighbors!

Items Needed:

Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut
Butter, Hamburger Helper,
Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side
dishes, Applesauce- cups,
Cereal (small boxes to fit in the
box) Fruit cups, soup, small
snacks, canned pastas, canned
fruits and veggies, pre-packed shelf stable lunch
packs. *(no glass, medicine or expired food, please)*
There is a donation box near the church office. And
for those who love to shop online, Amazon ships to
the church! Win-Win!



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.

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-family: monospace; font-size: small;"> 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.



St. John Kids!

Hey, Kids! Invite a friend and join us for Sunday School! Every Sunday at 9-9:30, kids age 3 through 5th grade are welcome to join the fun!

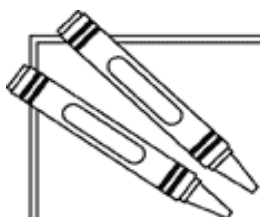
Kid's Bells return to worship on October 5th!

If you want to play, come learn with us!

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the main hallway classrooms!

TRUNK or TREAT

**Sunday
October 19th
2 PM to 4 PM
At St. John!**



Just for KIDS

Jesus Traveled to Many Places

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of those places. Can you find all the names on the list?

BETHANY
BETHLEHEM
BETHSAIDA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI
CANA
CAPERNAUM
DECAPOLIS
EGYPT

EPHRAIM
GALILEE
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
JORDAN RIVER
JUDEA
MAGDALA
MOUNT OF OLIVES

→ ↓ ↑ ↘
NAZARETH
PEREA
SAMARIA
SIDON
TYRE
WILDERNESS

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

**God has
GREAT
Plans
for
ME**
Jeremiah 29:11



Bible Quiz



The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Daniel G.
Beaudoin



The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as the next presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025.

He will begin this role on Oct. 1, 2025, and be installed on Oct. 4 in Minneapolis.

Currently, he serves as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he leads a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. Curry chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Previously, Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, Ill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

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.

Bishop Eaton's Farewell Address is located on the next page.



LMM

WHAT IS LMM?

LMM is Lutheran Men in Mission; one of the last remaining national ministries to men whose primary focus and mission is discipleship and evangelism. Our goal is to intentionally disciple men to become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.

Why discipleship and evangelism? Simply put:

- Only 26% of men attend church in any given year, and that % decreases for men under the age of 40.
- 65% of men in the United States self-identify as being lonely.
- Only 10% of men report that they participate in any sort of mens groups or ministry.
- 90 million men are not involved in any form of Christian discipleship.

Considering there are 113 million men in the US, the need for ministries like LMM has never been greater!

Fortunately, LMM is stepping up to meet this challenge! Over the last few years, our impact includes:

- Over 89,000 men reached.
- 1,100 individuals and counting have participated in a Bold Gathering.
- More than 2,500 men have been transformed by the OYTL 44-hours experience.
- 15,000+ have taken advantage of Project Twelve.
- Over 68,000 Master Builder Bibles have been distributed or purchased.

Our work is far from over, but we take seriously the call of Christ in Matthew 28:19 when He said; "Go and make disciples of all nations..."

For more information on LMM, book study groups, bible study groups (held via Zoom), gatherings and bold discipleship. **visit www.lutheranmeninmission.org**



FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA
THE REV. ELIZABETH EATON
ENDING AT THE BEGINNING



I started my ministry as presiding bishop with these four emphases: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. I will end as I began.

We are church. There is no other institution on earth whose reason for being is the proclamation of the gospel. “It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII). That’s it. The works we do in service to the world are important, but they are not the essence of the church. The [ELCA](#) does not exist in order to work for justice. Rather, because we are nourished by word and sacraments, the ELCA is free and empowered to do so.

The church is also marvelously intricate and interconnected. “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. God’s love for us through Christ and poured into our hearts by the Spirit is for each of us. But each of us is just one member of the body of Christ. We understand the church in the same way. “This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in an interdependent relationship with the others” (ELCA “Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions” 8.11.).

Be assured that the season for the ELCA is not over. God hasn’t finished with this church yet.

We are Lutheran. The average Lutheran in the [Lutheran World Federation](#) (LWF) is a woman in Tanzania. There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia, Indonesia and Madagascar than there are in the ELCA. The LWF has 150 member churches in 99 countries. What binds us together? Certainly not one culture or cuisine. Rather, it is the clear witness of the gospel that sets us free. “It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith ...” (Augsburg Confession, Article IV).

This is revolutionary. The standards of the world by which we are measured, or we measure others, are a figment. We don’t claim perfection for the church. We’re not there. But as Martin Luther said, “This life therefore is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified” (“Defense and Explanation of All the Articles”). We know there is law and gospel, that we are saint and sinner, that we are bound and free, and we entrust that all to God.

We are church together. Paul wrote that we do not live to ourselves. We live in a time when fear is used to separate us. This is the tool of every authoritarian regime. The church is different. The Spirit calls, gathers and keeps the whole church on earth. We belong to God, we belong to each other, and we belong to the world.

We are church for the sake of the world. We are not only freed from sin, we are freed for service to the neighbor. Here is where the essence of the church—the proclamation of the gospel—gives power and shape to the work we do in Jesus’ name. We are church for the sake of the world not out of obligation or for reward but out of love.

So there it is, dear church, my farewell address. We each have this ministry for a season. My season as presiding bishop has ended. Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry’s season is about to begin. Pray for him, his family and the churchwide staff.

But be assured that the season for the ELCA is not over. God hasn’t finished with this church yet.



September 18, 2025

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for August 2025-113.8 compared to August 2024-108.5. Online average for August 2025- 74.0 compared to August 2024-71.8.

Numbers: 16 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 3 committee/group meetings. 6 community/youth/fellowship events. 3 professional/clergy activities. 1 special worship service.

Calvary Visit-Thank you to the people who hosted the reception for the Calvary Lutheran Church visitors on August 30, 2025. It seemed to be a good visit. As of this writing, (9-16) Calvary is planning on September 28 for their last Sunday.

Trunk or Treat-Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 19. The Parish Education Committee will have more information.

Adult Luther League-There are still a few spots available on our Adult Luther League trip; October 20-22. Contact me or the church office to reserve a spot.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: Income: We are at 97% of our monthly budget and 100% of our year-to-date budget. Expenses: We are at 104% of the monthly budget and 100% of the year-to-date budget. Member Contribution Statements will be going out in October. The Parsonage has been rented full time. The electrical updates to the Tank property remain at \$6,878 with no additional expenses this month. Dan Kessler made a motion on behalf of the Courtyard Committee for council approval to spend \$16,800 to Jeff Moritz for the Courtyard renovations. Cheryl Beger 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Thank you to the Evangelism Committee for their help serving refreshments to the Calvary visitors. Lunch was not served for the God's Work, Our Hands-not enough people. We plan to do the same food at **Trunk or Treat:** hot dogs, water, chips, popcorn & cookies. CCL would like to start the collection of PJ's for the Holiday Bureau again this year. Collections will be in October & November. Watch for the sizes to be posted at the entrance outside the office door. Genoa Food Pantry Updates for July: Served 31 families with 68 patrons. July donations were \$220.00, Expenses- \$1,371.76 + \$1,776.32. Genoa Food Pantry updates for August: Served 34 families with 71 patrons. August donations were \$1,100.00. Expenses- \$1,344.01 + \$2,317.40. Genoa Custom Interiors leveled the other side of the floor in freezer room at no charge. The last day for the sale of the Bauman Auto tickets will be October 11th.

We are serving at the Genoa Food Pantry on Saturday, October 18th with the pre-packing day on Thursday, October 16th.

Cheryl Berger made a motion to move the Council Meeting date to Wednesday, October 15th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to allow members to help with the pre-packing day on Thursday. Robin Perkins- 2nd. Motion passed.

Evangelism: We received one guest notification slip from the Calvary visit. The committee will be making a basket for the Trunk or Treat event on 10/19. We discussed the Annual Tree lighting and dinner. More details to come.

Parish Education: There were 10 kids at the first Sunday School for the new year with the new format. We also had 11 kids on the second week of Sunday school with 7 new kids. Puppets will be this week during Sunday School. The new format seems to be going well. We are planning Trunk or Treat for Sunday, October 19th starting at 2 p.m.

Worship Life: The Altar cloth changing schedule was reviewed. The next change will be October 25/26 to red. We had discussions on making a personal connection with the Calvary members. Sunday service information was shared with Calvary's Council President. There will be a sign-up sheet for the Thanksgiving dinner and service. This service will be on Sunday, November 23rd with worship at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m.. Beckie Goldstein will be playing for this service.

Property: The AC unit in the basement has been fixed. Lake Erie Tree Service will be cutting down 2 trees on the west side of the church. Will they be replaced. Doors have been repaired. A fan for the Sunday School room has been installed.

Old Business: The Red Cross has asked for another day to host a blood drive here at our church on March 6, 2026. Our next blood drive will be here on Black Friday, 11/28/25. Robin Perkins has stepped up to be the coordinator for this event assisting the Red Cross blood drives. She will be putting up sign-up sheets to help with the necessary opportunities to serve for those days. Thank you, Robin.

New Business: Thanks to Tracy Orians for filling in for Diana Lambert during her absence for the last council meeting. It was requested that we continue with the Reverse Advent Calendar again this year. This project benefitted the Day Program at LHM, the Blessing Box, and the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry, at Elliston Zion. Rick Buhrow made a motion to start the Reverse Advent Calendars here again at our church during the Advent season. John Mazur 2nd. Motion passed.

We had discussion about updating the Church Rental Agreement for weddings, funerals, showers and other rented events held here at the church. We need to update the rental agreement as the new door code system has been installed. Communication will need to be provided between several groups and individuals such as the Property Committee, Musicians, the Office Manager, Pastor, Sound System people and other church council members if necessary.

The Property Committee will get the rental agreement from the church office and start the updates to bring back to council for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary

Next Committee Meeting Oct. 9th at 7 PM
Next Council Meeting Oct. 15th (WEDS) at 7 PM



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45 am
Ushers	Ushers
4- Ron Gerkenmeyer	5-Jim Vogelbacher
11-Jack Mathews	12- Diana Lambert
18- Buhrow Family	19-Titgemeyer's
25 - Donnelly Family	26- Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
4- Beverly Harder	5- Melissa Lammers
11- Amy Schloegl	12-Tim Titgemeyer
18-Jonah D.	19-Kellie Ulrich
25- Nancy Strohscher	26-Diana Lambert
Acolytes	Acolytes
4- Nolan D	5-Rylan
11-Trenton	12-Makenna
18-Jonah D.	19-Rylie
25-Liam	26-Rylan
Communion	Communion
4-Nancy Strohscher	5- Margaret Berger
11- No Communion	12-Deanna Neuman
18-Jo Elaine Schimming	19-Rol Sandrock
25-Al & Traci Brown	26-Robin Perkins














NOVEMBER



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45 am
Ushers	Ushers
1- Ron Gerkenmeyer	2-Titgemeyer's
8-Jack Mathews	9-Diana Lambert
15-Buhrow Family	16-Jim Vogelbacher
22- Donnelly Family	23-Titgemeyer's
29- Ron Gerkenmeyer	30-Diana Lambert
Lectors	Lectors
1- Sandy Toth	2-Melissa Lammers
8-Nancy Strohscher	9-Jerry Goldstein
15- Beverly Harder	16- Kellie Ulrich
22- Amy Schloegl	23-Cebie Titgemeyer
29-Jonah D.	30-Deanna Neuman
Acolytes	Acolytes
1-Pierce	2-Ellie H.
8- Nolan	9-Makenna C.
15-Trenton	16-Rylie C.
22-Jonah	23-Rylan S.
29-Liam D.	30-Ellie H.
Communion	Communion
1- Nancy Strohscher	2-Rose Marie Dickinson
8- No Communion	9-No Communion
15- Carol Vargo	16-Pam LaRue
22- Ron Gerkenmeyer	23-Robin Perkins
29-Al & Traci Brown	30-Roland Sandrock

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	29 Faith Practice Reading - 1 John 4	30 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	1  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2	3 Buhrow-Rehearsal Dinner 6 PM Office closed	4  Buhrow Basement 1:30pm -2:30pm Buhrow-Holmes Wedding 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
5  Goldstein Baptism Kids Bells during worship! 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	6 Faith Practice Reading - 1 John 5	7  Women's Circles Esther Circle 2 pm Rebekah Circle 7 PM 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	8  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	9  Committee Night 7 PM	10 Office closed	11 Last Day for Baumann Raffle Tickets 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
12 Last Day for Baumann Raffle Tickets 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	13 Faith Practice Reading - 2 John	14 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	15  Church COUNCIL Council Meeting 7 PM (adjusted date!) 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	16  Packing night at the Genoa Food Pantry 6PM	17 Office closed	18  9:00am -12:00pm St John Serves Genoa Food Pantry 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
19  Trunk or Treat at St. John! 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	20  Faith Practice Reading - 3 John Forerunner deadline 9 AM 7:00am -8:00pm Adult Fellowship Amish Country Trip	21 7:00am -8:00pm Adult Fellowship Amish Country Trip 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	22  7:00am -8:00pm Adult Fellowship Amish Country Trip 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	23	24 Office closed	25 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
26 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	27 Faith Practice Reading-Jude	28 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	29  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	30	31 Office closed	1 5:00pm Contemporary Worship 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

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October 2025



Worship Hours at St. John

Fall /Winter Worship Hours

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class 8:30 AM

Sunday School for all ages 9-9:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

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Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

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