July 2022 Volume 0690 Issue 315

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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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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 the Pastor

"When and why did they make the change from *hell* to *dead* in the Apostles' Creed? (When I was a kid we always said, "descended into hell".)

"When?" is pretty easy to answer (for Lutherans anyway). The Service Book and Hymnal (1958) uses the word "hell". The Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) uses the word "hell" with an option to use the word "dead". The Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal we are using now (2006) uses the word "dead" with an option to use the word "hell".

"Why" is a little more complicated... The Latin word *inferos* (translated as "hell") should be understood as "the abode of the dead". It is the place people go when they die; the realm where the righteous who had died were waiting for the Messiah to open the gates of heaven. *Inferos* does not indicate the place of eternal damnation we use the word "hell" to describe today. That place was called *Gehenna* in the Greek. Unfortunately, both *infernos* and *Gehenna* often get translated with the same English word, hell, even though they are not describing the same place or thing. Plus, when Jesus and his disciples (First century Palestinian Jews) said infernos and Gehenna they were not talking about the same thing we (Twenty first century American Christians) likely mean when we talk about hell. That's a long way of saying, "it's complicated". Anyway, in the Apostles' Creed, when we say "descendit ad inferos" we are confessing that Jesus went to the abode of the dead (that is to say, he was really dead; not just "playin' opossum"). We are not saying that Jesus went to the place of eternal damnation. So technically both words are correct; "hell" is the literal translation of the Latin word, but "dead" carries a more accurate meaning of the word in the context of the Apostles' Creed. I assume that somewhere along the line, the people who put together the hymnal decided to go with the different translation because the meaning of the word "hell" in our modern vocabulary had changed and "dead" better described the spirit of the Creed.

I suppose we could eliminate the confusion and just say the Apostles' Creed in Latin, but that would probably create a whole new set of questions.

There will be a special congregational meeting on July 9 AND 10 following worship (approximately 6:00p and 10:00a) to approve the replacement of the sanctuary air conditioning system. Please try to attend one meeting (there is no need to come to both). The Property Committee has received three bids for this project, has recommended, and church council agreed we hire Dimech to complete the job. Dimech has agreed to donate the equipment and their labor for this project, resulting in a final cost of \$33,000. (That is approximately how much is currently in the HVAC savings fund.) We will run this special congregational meeting like we did the meeting for the roof (meeting on both days following worship – not officially adjourning on Saturday) so that people on Saturday and Sunday will have the opportunity to hear the presentation, ask questions, and vote.

Any questions prior to the meeting can be directed to the property committee.



I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee and the Younker family for awarding me the St. John Lutheran Church - Younker Scholarship. These funds will be used as I pursue my education in Radiology. I am beyond grateful! Thank you and God bless!! - Aubrey Lee

I would like to thank the congregation and scholarship committee of St. John for awarding me the following scholarships:

Tank Scholarship Earl Johnson Memorial Scholarship Phyllis Parks Scholarship

These funds will be used in pursuit of higher education at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio. I am pursuing a degree in Medical Laboratory Science and hope to start a career in this field after graduation. This August, I'll be moving back to campus and starting my second year at Miami, which I am looking forward to!

Again, thank you to the congregation of St. John for all the support you have given me over the years! I am extremely grateful for the help. God bless!

Yours in Christ, Mallory Nelson

Thank you for your generosity in helping me. Your help is greatly appreciated. This will help me pursue my educational future.

God Bless, Zack Buhrow

OUR BLESSING BOX

Mini Pantry has been used quite a bit recently. To help restock we need cereal, jelly, canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) and personal care items (toothbrushes have been a popular item). When you are shopping this week, consider purchasing a few extra items and bringing them to the church. Thank you!



July 4- Psalm 65 July 11 - Psalm 66 July 18 - Psalm 67 July 25- Psalm 68 Aug 1- Psalm 69



In Memory of Virginia KurschatWinnie Wohlgamuth

In Memory of Dan Petersen
Fran Cranfield
Elaine Gruetter
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Gene and Amy Bihn
John, Tammy and Anna Mazur
Jim and Mona Vogelbacher
Robert and Diane Kapp
Cal and Marvel Nelson
JoElaine Schimming
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer

In Memory of Charles "Tom" Siglar
Alice Siglar and Tom Siglar
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson
Gary, Darlene and Randy Carstensen

Dennis and Rosemarie Dickenson

Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of Mark Witt Alice Witt

In Memory of Ruth Pendry Lowell and Diane Hartman

In Memory of John SchloeglMarty Schloegl, Amy, Drew and Owen

Summer Office Hours: Starting Monday June 6th Mon: 8:30am-2:30pm Tues: CLOSED Wed: 8:30am-2:30pm

Thurs: 8:30am-2:30pm Fri: 8:30am-2:30pm

2022 Acolyte Schedule

Saturday

<u>July</u>

- 2 Benjamin Sommers
- 9 Olivia Martin
- 16 Kennedy Donnelly
- 23 Emma Morgan
- **30 Lindsay Krumnow**

August

- **6 Benjamin Sommers**
- 13 Olivia Martin
- **20 Kennedy Donnelly**
- 27 Emma Morgan

Sunday



July

- 3 Logan Hays
- 10 Lily Sondergeld
- 17 Aiden Johnson
- 24 Lucas Titgemeyer
- 31 Caleb Hays

August

- 7 Logan Hays
- 14 Lily Sondergeld
- 21 Aiden Johnson
- 28 Lucas Titgemeyer

Altar Flower Vases and Stands

After many months, our Altar Flower Vases have been re-bronzed.

Back in January our vases were sent to Omaha, Nebraska, for re-bronzing. The re-bronzing process is not available locally. (As noted previously, in 2008 we had the communion chalices re-silvered in Columbus; however, that facility is out-of-business as of 2018.)

Unfortunately, we do not have a record as to when the vases were memorialized nor for/by whom.

The gold brass flower stand toppers were also sent for refurbishing. The flower stands were presented in 1984 by our St. John Congregation in honor of Marvin and Orlena Sievert's retirement as custodians after 40 years.

Please do NOT handle the brass Altar Flower Vases without using gloves. There is a pair of white gloves in a plastic bag in a drawer in the sacristy. Thank You!

If you have any questions in this regard, please call Diane Gerkensmeyer at 419-836-7052

Women ELCA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WELCA DINNER - A reminder for those who have signed up for the dinner -- Tuesday, July 5, at 5:30 p.m. in Church Basement. Please look forward to an evening of fellowship, food and fun!!!!!! Questions????? -- Call Diane Gerkensmeyer at 419-836-7052.

The Forerunner

is published monthly by St. John Lutheran Church 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

Worship Hours Saturday at 5:00 PM Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Deadline for the August newsletter is Monday, July 25 @ 9AM 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

Amelia Burkey
Office
Administrator
8:30 am—2:30 pm
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
(419) 836-5514
Email:
Office @stjohnwilliston.org

St. John Kid's Page

Name: _____

MY SUMMER GOALS

This Summer,



I will stretch my mind by reading:

I will keep my body healthy by:

I will grow closer to God by:



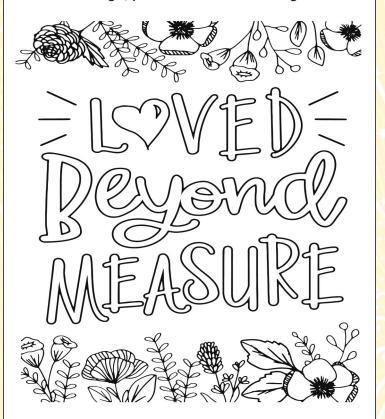
I will help others by:

Something I want to learn more about is:



COLERING PAGE

Enlarge, print and color this image.

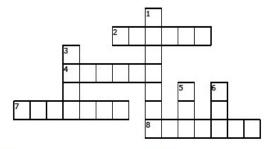


Connec # ion Connec # ion

Freedom Isn't Free!

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:15





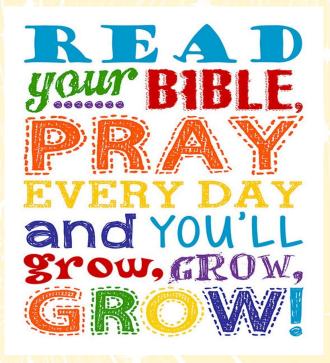
ACROSS

- The one who paid the price for our sin
- Payment for the release of someone
- To accept something such as a gift
- 8. Without end; lasting forever

DOWN

- To give your word or agree to do something
- 3. Without cost
- 5. To come to the end of life
- 6. To disobey God's law

PROMISE	ETERNAL	CHRIST	RANSOM	_
DIE	FREE	SIN	RECEIVE	







One of the great things about Stephen Ministry is that they (the national leaders) provide the tools and resources to equip Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers to provide care to hurting people. The Stephen Ministry Referrals Funnel is one of them. It gives a visual tool of the referral process. Congregations and communities are filled with those who are hurting and could benefit from Stephen Ministry. So in the First Oval - Potential Care Receivers are identified which this can be done by many of us - not just a trained Stephen Minister. The term they use is "Lookouts" - which gives a broad picture of when we all are talking with someone in person, on the phone, and even through social media, we learn of situations where Stephen Ministers may provide care. These situations may include but are not limited to: grief, divorce, job loss, cancer diagnosis, medical crisis, hospitalization, chronic health conditions, issues related to aging, job stress - just to name a few.

The Stephen Ministry team is planning a program (in late summer or early fall) to equip you to be "Lookouts" and help pave the way to connect Stephen Ministry with those who would benefit from this kind of care.



Dear Lord, In the midst of our pain you are there with us. During this pandemic, we ask you to strengthen and comfort those who are lonely, grieving, anxious, or overburdened. Let our caring ministry walk alongside of anyone who is suffering. Help them to recognize and seek help from their brothers and sisters in Christ so they may face this time of trial together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

We know these can be times of anxiety and uncertainty, loneliness and pain.
Your St. John Stephen Ministers are here to help.

Need to talk?
Call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at 419-836-5514 and we will put you in contact with one of your St. John Stephen Ministers.

July Stewardship

July Stewardship

Prayer

God the Father-

Thank you for all the gifts you have given me.

Help me to be more grateful and generous in building your kingdom on earth.

Jesus Dur Savior-

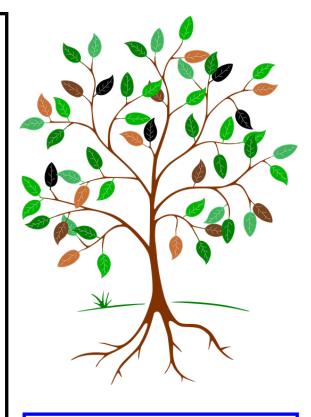
I trust in You in all circumstances, in every moment of every day,
Good or bad.

Holy Spirit-

Transform my life.

Guide my thoughts, words and actions.

I pray for strength and courage in all that
I do before the glory of Your name and
with every decision I make, I move one
step closer to You,
Amen



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

Church Council Highlights

June Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Kent Delventhal, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, Ron Gerkensmeyer, and Gary Johnson

Members Absent: Melissa Hayes, Donna Mathews, and

Kim Sommers

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm: 16

Pastor's Report: In person average May 2022-109 compared to May 2021- 64.6 & online average for May 2022- 89.4 compared to May 2021- 104.4

- -Completed 13 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 6 committee/group meetings, 5 community/youth/fellowship events, 8 professional/clergy activities, 7 classes/Bible studies
- -Presided at the funeral of Dan Petersen on May 7th, Tom Siglar on May 14th, and Ruth Pendry on May 23rd.
- -Presided at the committal of Mark Witt on May11th.
- -Presided at the wedding of Tony Hill and Stefanie Neuman on May 29th in Wheeling, WV.
- -May 21st, Kennedy Donnelly, Aiden Johnson, Olivia Martin, Benjamin Sommers, and Lucas Titgemeyer affirmed their baptisms.
- -Grace Lutheran Church in Syracuse (our video partners) have invited us to join them for worship on July 17, worship is at 10:30!

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 102% of monthly budget and 96% of year to date budget. Income: We are 85% of our monthly budget and 95% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$4,444 compared to our budget of negative \$4,125. Kent Delventhal - Just barely over for expenses but under for the year. Mulch was a big expense this past month. Parish Ed paid for confirmation flowers and teacher gifts. Worship Life paid for the copyright license. Jennifer Nelson - We participated in Backpacks for Humans.

Christian Community Life: Susie Mathews/Donna Mathews -There is no food pantry report. Our turn will be July 16th and we could use some additional workers including those willing to be trained to help with meat distribution. They start at 9am to get everything set up and bags organized. It ends at noon. Our church is also responsible for the month of December.

- -On the last day of Bible School (June10th) we served a luncheon for approximately 30 people.
- -The first Williston Encounter had about 10 people and this last week 3.
- -Handed out bags of trail mix and chocolate to all the Dads on Father's Day.
- -Putting an ad in the Genoa Sports Programs.

Evangelism: No report

Parish Education: No report

Stewardship: Ron Gerkensmeyer - Starting to look at

the golf outing on Saturday, September 24th.

Worship Life: Diana Pfaff motioned to appoint Kellie Ulrich to the Worship life committee to fulfill a vacated term expiring Jan 2024; seconded by Jennifer Nelson.

-They are going to start contacting lectors/ushers to get back on a rotation.

Property: Gary Johnson - Work continues mounting of access points for the wifi system.

- -Replaced several lights throughout the building.
- -Met with Sheahan Mechanical and Construction Consulting (SMCC) on May 26th regarding replacement of the AC system. After discussion with Roger, agreed to hire SMCC as consultant representing the congregation.
- -Representatives from 4 companies (IPS, GEM, Dimech and Wadsworth) met and walked through the building on June 3rd, regarding the AC system.
- -Received 3 bids for AC replacement (June 10th), held property meeting June 15th, and the property committee unanimously recommended accepting the id received from Dimech Mechanical.
- -Bids were: IPS \$59,893.00, GEM \$64,510, and Dimech \$59,800. Dimech also has agreed to donate the equipment and their labor for this project, resulting in a final cost of \$33,000.
- -Gary Johnson motioned to accept the bid received from Dimech for replacement of the AC system that services the sanctuary and seconded by Jennifer Nelson. This will be presented to the congregation to vote as a scheduled special congregational meeting with printed ballots on July 9 and 10 following worship.
- -The replacement fencing around outdoor units will need to be replaced.

Old Business: Still reviewing the constitution and committees have been reviewing their bylaws -Bathroom at west end of building vanity is ordered and still in progress.

-We had a movie night and game night that were not well attended, looking at how to improve attendance.

New Business: Had conversations about how communion is done following covid including the communion set-up/servers as well as the passing of the plate and if any changes need to be made.

- -Upstairs Women's bathroom stall door doesn't close.
- -Had conversation about new ideas and ways to get people involved. Council welcomes any ideas!
- **-Next Committee Mtg**: Thursday, Aug 11, 7pm (no committee meetings for June or July)
- -Next Council Mtg: Thursday, August 18 (no council meeting for July)

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



May

Finance report

St. John Lutheran Church Statement of Income and Expense As of May 31, 2022

	Full Year	Month to Date		
	Budget	Budget	Actual	%
Income: *	290,000	27,538	23,290	85%
* does not include memorial	s and other dedi	 cated offerings	3	
* online giving IS included.				
Expenses:				
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%
Board/Ministries	11,900	992	2,639	266%
Staff Salaries	105,500	8,897	9,439	106%
Staff Benefits	63,100	5,258	4,797	91%
Operating Expenses	71,500	4,529	3,215	71%
Expense Totals	290,000	22,634	23,048	102%
Income less Expenses		4.904	241	

	Year to	Date		
			Prior	%
Budget	Actual	%	Year	Growth
120,369	114,912	95%	114,490	0.4%
14,792 4,958 44,862 26,292 33,590	14,792 5,069 43,288 24,513 31,695	100% 102% 96% 93% 94%		
124,494	119,357	96%		
(4,125)	(4,444)			

Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development Endowment Fund Savings Activity Center Savings Music Fund HVAC Fund Future Development Courtyard Memorials Youth	4,932 124,222 48,238 333,449 4,878 33,004 38,562 9,260 5,369 23,019
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Good Samaritan	10,553
Scholarships	85,885
Other	13,175
Total	734,547



(Other includes designated offerings, Stephen Ministries, etc.)

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance - Jennifer Nelson, Kent Delventhal or Kristina Wildman

Finance pg. 1

Did you know St. John offers online giving?
We process giving through VANCO, a nationally recognized leader in church giving.
It's easy, it's secure and you can get started today!
Not online? No problem! Just fill out an authorization form or see Amelia in the office.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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

www.stjohnwilliston.org (419)836-5144 email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ENVELOPE/DONOR #			DATE					
	Effective date of authorization:/ Type of authorization: New authorization Change donation amount Change donation date Discontinue electronic donation							
Los		Change banking information						
	t Name		First Name					
	Iress							
City	·		State Zip					
Em	ail Address		Phone #					
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: Weekly - DAY General/Operating \$ Other (please specify below \$ Monthly on the 1st Add'l donation to offset fees \$ Total \$								
If yo	ou would like to designate you	ur giving to another fund not listed:	please state your desire here. Thank You.					
CHECKING / SAVINGS		om my (check one): act your financial institution for Routing # ch a voided check below)	Routing Number: Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: 1:123455?891: 123 1234551* 000 1 ————————————————————————————————					
CHECKIN	l authorize the above organiz reasonable notification to ten		count. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide					
	Authorized Signature:		Date:					
	Card Brand (check one):	☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard	☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card					
RD	Card Number:		Expiration Date:					
IIT CA	Name on Card:							
r/DEB	Billing Address (if different fro	om above):						
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	I authorize the above organiz	zation to process transactions in accord	ance with the information above.					
	Signature (as it appears on the	he 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.

Happy Birthday!

Mirandon Goldstein	7/3	Brooklyn Wojciechowski	7/25
Parker Schimming	7/5	Tammy Mazur	7/25
Chad Huber	7/6	Kenneth Wolf	7/25
Colton Huber	7/8	Braison Wehner	7/26
Jonah Danhoff	7/10	Alice Witt	7/26
Jane Lentz	7/11	Carol Ambrose	7/27
John Joseph	7/12	Steven Morgan	7/28
Merle Moritz	7/14	Jessica Jensen	7/30
Richard Brossia	7/16	Sarah Joseph	7/30
Allison Woods	7/16	Pamela Langenderfer	7/30
Logan Wehner	7/16	Matthew Schimming	7/30
Lori Buhrow	7/17	Timothy Titgemeyer	7/31
Donna Mathews	7/18		



imison woods	,,10
Logan Wehner	7/16
Lori Buhrow	7/17
Donna Mathews	7/18
Randy Grosjean	7/20
Christopher Nissen	7/20
Thomas Truman	7/21
Linda Vogtsberger	7/21
Alexa Wegman	7/21
Jillian Brandt	7/22
Stefanie Neuman	7/24
Jonathan Lowe	7/25

Allison & Nick Woods	7/3
Steven & Carol Jensen	7/9
Michael & Julie Fredericksen	7/12
Matthew & Lacy Schimming	7/13
Chad & Erin Huber	7/16
Jodi & Shaun Martin	7/27
Merle & Rita Moritz	7/28
Rob & Kristen Orians	7/31



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9:00 AM Traditional Worship	NO Gospel Discussion Office Closed	9:00 AM Blankets Office Closed	7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	7	8	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9:00 AM Traditional Worship	10 AM Gospel Discussion	9:00 AM Blankets Office Closed	7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	14	15	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9:00 AM Traditional Worship	10 AM Gospel Discussion	9:00 AM Blankets Office Closed	7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	21	22	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9:00 AM Traditional Worship	10 AM Gospel Discussion 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!	9:00 AM Blankets Office Closed	7:00 AM Breakfast Gathering	28	29	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9:00 AM Traditional Worship						

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

Volume 0690 Issue 315 July2022



July 2022



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

E-mail address: pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

> **Church Office Hours** Amelia Burkey, Office Administrator Monday – Friday 8:30 am —2:30 pm Closed Tuesdays Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address: office@stjohnwilliston.org

In person and online!

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

*Visit us on Facebook