

# FORERUNNER

St. John  Lutheran Church  
Williston, Ohio

Volume 0676

Issue 301

May 2021

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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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## Ask the Pastor

"There is a footnote to Psalm 119 that it "is an acrostic poem; the verses of each stanza begin with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet." Can you please shed more light on this - significances, purpose, meaning, and other insights about reading this Psalm?"

The psalms are to be read as poetry. More specifically, they were likely poetry set to music, so they were hymns or songs to be sung during worship. Like our poetry or songs today, psalms can be distinguished with meter and rhyme

For example, "Mary had a little lamb, it's fleece was white as snow,  
And everywhere that Mary went, her lamb was sure to go."

Each line has thirteen beats and the words 'snow' and 'go' rhyme. But, if we were to translate this poem into another language, especially a language that didn't use a Latin alphabet, those features would likely be lost. That's what happens with the psalms – meter and rhyme are lost in translation from Hebrew. The translated words do not necessarily have the same number of beats and they do not necessarily "rhyme".

In Psalm 2:11-12, for example:

Serve the Lord with fear,  
with trembling kiss his feet,  
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;

The words "serve" and "destroy" (perish in the NRSV) rhyme. There is a one character difference in the Hebrew. If you were reading this in Hebrew you would likely see it, but without knowledge of Hebrew or a commentary, we would not know those words rhyme.

To further complicate the issue, it's not always the sound or appearance of words that the psalmist rhyme. Another example of "rhyming" in the psalms is parallelism or thought rhyming. It is where the same idea is repeated. For example:

The cords of death encompassed me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me; (Psalm 18.4)

Note how the "thought" of the first line corresponds to a similar "thought" in the second line. With this type of "rhyming" there are different sub-categories; synonymous parallelism, contrasting, comparative, incomplete, etc. depending on the type of parallel the psalmist is trying to make.

There are other types of "rhyming" in the psalms, but I should probably answer the question... An "acrostic" poem is a literary device where the poem would "rhyme" at the beginning instead of the end. Each line of the poem would begin with a different letter. For example, an acrostic poem about your dog could be;

Devoted friend  
Outstanding companion  
Guardian of the family

The first letter of each line spells out the word "dog". (I didn't say it was a good acrostic poem.) In Psalm 119, each line\* of the psalm begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The commentators think this has to do with commutating a sense of wholeness and completeness. Sort of like, the glory of God's law from A to Z - one hundred and seventy six good reasons to follow the instructions of Yahweh.

\*note that Psalm 119 is actually acrostic eight verses at a time. (I looked it up and mathed it out – 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet x 8 = 176 verses.)

*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.*



The church office will be closed on Monday May 31st in observation of Memorial Day.

# memorials & gifts



## In Memory of Mark Witt

Elaine Gruetter  
Richard and Shirley Crosskill  
Roland and Janice Sandrock  
Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson  
Diane Dickinson  
Steve and Marcia Morgan  
Bernie Blausey  
Doris Titgemeyer  
Gene and Amy Bihn  
Don and Shirley Witt  
Margaret Berger  
Dan and Pam Berger  
Cheryl Berger  
Carolyn Lasseter  
Marilyn Sandrock  
Carol Vargo  
Walt and Joanne Tier  
Diana Pfaff  
Mike and Todd Haeft  
Phyllis Haeft  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Schimming  
Gary and Darlene Carstensen  
Gloria Krauss  
Richard and Joni Hillman  
Al and Traci Brown  
James and Mona Vogelbacher  
Lowell and Elizabeth Hartman  
Allen and Beverly Harder  
Larry and Nancy Strohscher  
Ed and Karen Jennings  
Brad and Angie Berry  
Rod and Patty Surles  
Lee and Deborah Wehner  
Patricia Stoycheff Lacumsky and  
Theodore Ehrman  
Leslie and Linda Wyse  
Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer  
Phyllis Parks

## In Memory of Doug Yohe Doris Titgemeyer

## In Memory of Edna Sandrock Steve and Marcia Morgan John, Tammy and Anna Mazur

## In memory of Elaine Gardner Ray and Judy Robaszkiewicz James Hogan Robert and Karen Larey

## A NOISEY OFFERING

May 1st and 2nd

and

June 5th and 6th.

All money will go  
towards

Vacation Bible School



## 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 School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

May newsletter is

Monday, May 24th @ 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."**

*Come what may*  
**AND LOVE IT.**

≡ JOSEPH B. WIRTHLIN ≡

## The Blanket Ladies....Still Hard at Work!!

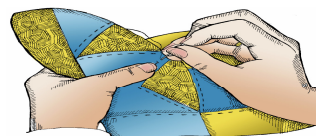
Everyone is invited to join in and help tie!

No experience needed.

**Every Tuesday at 9am.**

**Everyone is**

**welcome!**



QUILTING GROUP



Church  
Office  
Hours

Amelia Burkey  
Office

Administrator

8:30 am—2:30  
pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org

Esther Circle meeting for April will be on **Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM** in the Social Hall

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tuesday **evening May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM** in the lounge.

**There will be no WELCA board meeting in May!**



The Evangelism Committee is updating the church directory. Please look for a letter in the mail this month regarding information on how to do so.

## Faith Practice #3 Readings PSALMS



May 3 – Psalm 4  
May 10 – Psalm 5  
May 17 – Psalm 6  
May 24 – Psalm 7  
May 31 – Psalm 8

## **CAT AND DOG FOOD DRIVE!**

Christian Community Life is putting on a drive to collect cat and dog food, treats, or kitty litter for seniors who could use a little help with their animals.



If you can help please drop off items at St John Church or Genoa Jewelers. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

# THANKYOU!

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for making a difference to a cancer patient for 25 years. Your gift to The Victory Center will stay right here in our community helping us serve the cancer patients, survivors and families who are most in need to love, support and hope.

We are so grateful for your support.  
Yours in Victory,  
The Victory Center

Dear Congregation Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your very generous gift to Bistro 183 for our missions to improve food security in Ottawa County. Your support is very much appreciated.

Our staff is inspired by your continuing commitment to our mission. Thank you so much. Hopefully we are serving people in your area when we deliver meals.

Blessings,  
Ed Carlson  
Bistro 163

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for your generous donation to Ottawa County Family Advocacy. Your support allows our center to continue serving families and children through all our programs. We could not continue the important work being done without the financial support from our community. May God continue to bless all that you do.

Connie Cornett  
Ottawa County Family Advocacy

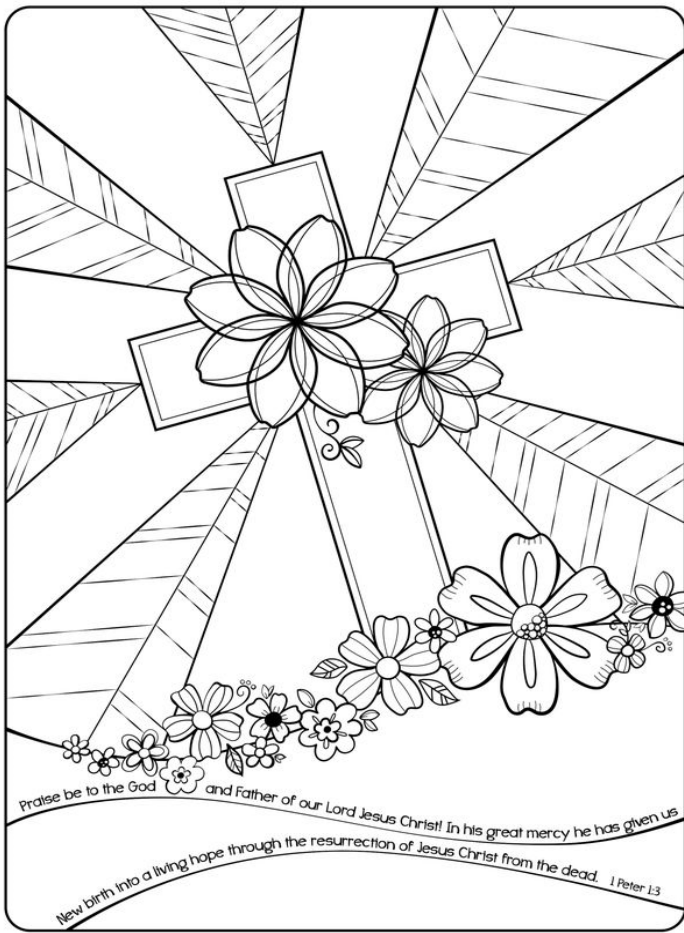
I would like to thank the St. John Church family for all the prayers and kindness you gave Mark during his surgeries, treatments and for all the memorials and cards.  
Thank you to Pastor Shawn for his beautiful memorial service.

Please remember Mark with a smile and laughter.  
Alice Witt and family

Pastor O'Brien,  
Thank you for the private service for Gertrude Henningsen at the funeral home and for braving the cold at the cemetery. Even though we could not be there it was meaningful to our children and grandchildren.

Henry and Carrol Krukemyer





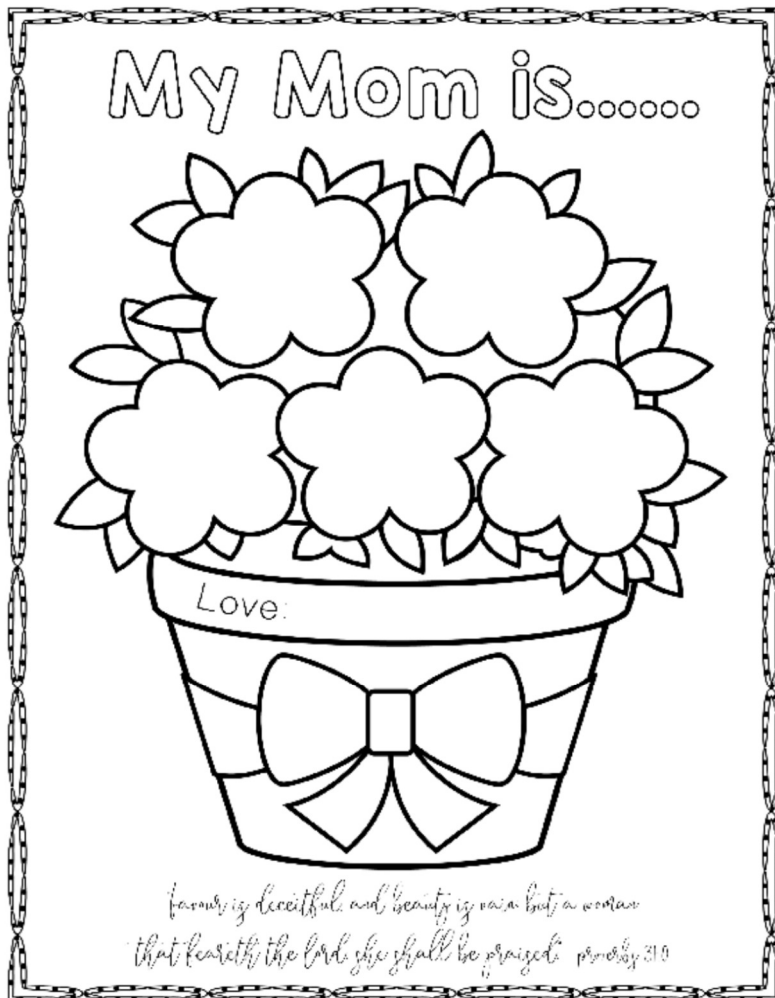
CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

# The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



JOIN US FOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children  
are  
A gift  
FROM THE  
Lord;  
THEY are  
A reward  
from Him.  
PSALMS 127:3



## May Stewardship



### The Stewardship of Motherhood

We happen to be living in a day when motherhood has fallen on hard times. Being a wife and a mother is insufficient and unfulfilling as a career for a number of women in the 21st century. But a lot of us would disagree. We believe motherhood is one of the greatest callings in all the world. According to the Word of God, the greatest institution is the home and the first gift God can give any woman is that of being a mother.

It is true as someone has stated, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Behind each child is a mother— and what a tremendous force and dynamic influence she can be in the life of that child. It is not easy to be a mother. It's one thing to give birth to a baby but it's quite another thing to raise a child. But it can be done with God's help.

Christian mothers are greatly needed today. On this Mother's Day, May 9th, let this be our prayer:

*Lord, we thank you for the flowers that grow, for the birds and the bees, and the moons night time glow, for our Mother's love and devotion we will always hold dear, for the beauty of friends and the memories we share, for the precious gifts of your blessings on us you bestow especially your love that we certainly know. Amen.*





# ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468  
[www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org) (419)836-5144 email: [office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto: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 banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			
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 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees  Total \$ ____	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: ____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b> Account Number: ____ ⑆ 1234567890 123 1234567 000 ⑆ Routing Number      Account Number      Check Number
	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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship <u>NOISEY OFFERING</u>
<b>2</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM Traditional Worship <u>NOISEY OFFERING</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>9</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Blankets  Esther Circle 2pm  Rebekah Circle 7pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Committee Night	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>16</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Council Meeting 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>23</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>24</b> 9:00 AM Forerunner  d'SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES!	<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Church office closed!					

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

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

**E-mail address:**  
[pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org)

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

**E-mail address:**  
[office@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston.org)

## **In person and online!**

**Worship Hours at St. John**  
**Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday School (in person) 8:30 AM**  
**Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM**

**\*Visit us on Facebook**