

Volume 0705 Issue 330  
October 2023

## Ask the Pastor

### *"Do Lutherans believe in Predestination?"*

The short answer is "no". The longer answer is "well, sort of... but not in the way most people use the term, so still "no".

First an explanation... Predestination is the idea that everything – all events past, present, and future, are willed by God. Whatever happens, happens because God is following a script written long ago. This belief is most commonly used to explain who is going to heaven and who is going to hell and how that decision has already been determined by God (sometimes called "double predestination"). The implication would be that it doesn't matter what you do, God has already decided if you are in or if you are out. As you can imagine, this idea brings up a host of issues. I won't list them all, but one of the big issues with Predestination is the roll of individual "free will" in contrast to God's omniscience (knowing everything there is to know) and divine will. How do those two ideas work together?

Now the short answer... No; Lutherans do not believe that certain people are predetermined to salvation or damnation. We are not saved or condemned because, for whatever reason, God made that choice before we were born.

As to the more nebulous response; Lutherans believe we have free will in matters of this life (what to have for breakfast, who to marry, whether to love your neighbor or TP their house, etc.), but we do not have free will in the matters of the life to come. That is, we can't choose to go to heaven like we would choose to go to the grocery store. Our place in God's kingdom is predestined in that Christ suffered, died, and rose for us while we were still sinners so that we might have life. A place in the resurrection has been predetermined for those who seek God (thus the 'sort of' answer), but it is based on the grace of God and the work of Christ, not a traditional understanding of the Doctrine of Predestination where God has a mysterious system of picking winners and losers (thus the 'still no' answer).

So, when we read passages like Romans 8:28-30, we understand Paul was speaking to those who wanted to exclude some from the Christian community (likely for not following the covenant completely). Paul was not trying to say who was in and who was out, what is predestined is what will happen to all who are in Christ. They will eventually be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ and glorified. So perhaps a good Lutheran response would be that God predestines the consequence of the choice to be in Christ or not, but God doesn't predestine the choice itself. "While we were still sinners Christ died

*Continued Page 2*

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Fall Worship Hours  
Saturday Worship 5pm  
Sunday Worship 9:45am  
Confirmation Class:  
Sundays 8:30am  
Sunday School:  
October-May 8:30am  
(First Sunday of the month)



*"Ask the Pastor" continued from page 1*

for us" (Romans 5:8), that act of salvation was predestined. God wants everyone to put their trust in Jesus, and through the Spirit God empowers us toward this end. But we also know that some people refuse to participate in that relationship.

*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.*



*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 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!



memorials  
& gifts

In In Memory of George Webb  
David and Deanna Neuman

In Memory of Betty Lou Roberts  
Alice Witt

In Honor of Mary Schimming's 90th Birthday  
Donation to Hunger Fund  
Jeanene Brough

If we inadvertently missed your name, please let the office know.

**The Forerunner**  
is published monthly  
by St. John Lutheran Church  
21140 W. Toledo Street  
Williston, Ohio 43468  
Corner of Main and Toledo Street

Telephone: 419-836-5514  
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office@stjohnwilliston.org

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

**Fall Worship**  
**Saturday at 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday Worship 9:45 AM**

Deadline for the  
**November 2023 Forerunner**  
is  
**Monday, October 23rd**  
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 (M & F)  
Lori Buhrow (T, W & Th)  
Office  
Administrators  
(419) 836-5514  
office@stjohnwilliston.org



Monday—Friday  
9am—2pm





Thank you for the cards, prayers and well wishes following my recent surgery. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Kimberly Sommers

Friends in Christ:

Thank you so much for the generous gift of \$1,250.00 to Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Trinity and its predecessor seminaries have been providing theological education in Ohio since 1830. Your gift supports the seminary's ongoing mission of forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world.

Gratefully,  
Rev. Kathryn A Kleinhans, Ph. D.  
April R. Novotny

Thank you to everyone who worked the Genoa Food Pantry on September 13th, packaging the food, and on September 16th, distributing the food.

Tim Titgemeyer  
Heather Cashen  
Pam LaRue  
Margaret Berger  
Rick & Lori Buhrow  
Zack Buhrow  
Susie Mathews  
AJ Rubeis  
Cheryl Berger  
Deb Wehner  
Denise Hoeft  
Megan Hoeft  
Lauren Hoeft  
Donna Mathews  
Charlene Higginbotham  
Jacob Higginbotham  
Melissa Hays  
Caleb Hays  
Logan Hays  
Scouts

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the \$2,500.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no the matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,  
Amanda White

Director, Congregational Generosity



Thank you!!

Thank you so very much to the sweet Blanket Ladies who gave me a baby blanket for my up coming grandchild. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. I will cherish it and hopefully get good use out of it with many more grandchildren in many future!

God's blessings!  
Lori Buhrow



### Circle Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting in the Social Hall

Bible Study: Diane Gerkenmeyer

Hostesses: Pat

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting in the Lounge



### ***Our Seven Faith Practices***

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily
2. **WORSHIP** weekly
3. **READ** and study the Bible
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others

## **Faith Practice #3 Reading PSALMS**

## **BOOK #5**

**Week of Oct 2- Psalm 130**  
**Week of Oct 9- Psalm 131**  
**Week of Oct 16- Psalm 132**  
**Week of Oct 23- Psalm 133**  
**Week of Oct 30- Psalm 134**  
**Week of Nov 6- Psalm 135**

## **THE STORY OF JESUS**

The Synod Office has published a Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2023 entitled, “The Story of Jesus”. It is designed to lead us through the life and ministry of Jesus. Most of the readings are of reasonable length (multiple verses instead of multiple chapters) so it should be easy to stay on track even if you miss a day. I will have copies of the reading guide available at the church, and I will share the document electronically when it becomes available.

### **Jesus’ Ministry in Jerusalem**

Oct. 1 Cleansing the Temple Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48

Oct. 2 Jesus Curses the Fig Tree Matt. 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-26; Luke 13:6-9

Oct. 3 The Authority of Jesus Is Questioned Matt. 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8

Oct. 4 The Parable of the Two Sons Matt. 21:28-32

Oct. 5 The Parable of the Wicked Tenants Matt. 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19

Oct. 6 The Parable of the Wedding Banquet Matt. 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24

Oct. 7 On Paying Taxes Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26

Oct. 8 The Question about the Resurrection Matt. 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40

Oct. 9 The Great Commandment Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28

**Oct. 10 Who Is David’s Son? Matt. 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44**

Oct. 11 Jesus Denounces the Scribes and Pharisees Matt. 23:1-36; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

Oct. 12 The Lament over Jerusalem Matt. 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

**Oct. 13 The Widow’s Offering Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4**

The Eschatological Discourse in Jerusalem

Oct. 14 The Destruction of the Temple Matt. 24:1-2; Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6

Oct. 15 Signs of the End of the Age Matt. 24:3-8; Mark 13:3-8; Luke 21:7-11

Oct. 16 Persecutions Foretold Matt. 24:9-14; Mark 13:9-13; Luke 21:12-19

Oct. 17 The Desolating Sacrilege Matt. 24:15-28; Mark 13:14-23; Luke 21:20-24

Oct. 18 The Coming of the Son of Man Matt. 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28

Oct. 19 The Lesson of the Fig Tree Matt. 24:32-35; Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:29-33

Oct. 20 Watchfulness Matt. 24:36-44; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-38

Oct. 21 The Faithful and Unfaithful Slave Matt. 24:45-51; Luke 12:41-48

Oct. 22 The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids Matt. 25:1-13

Oct. 23 The Parable of the Talents Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27

Oct. 24 The Judgment of the Nations Matt. 25:31-46

Oct. 25 Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus John 12:20-26

Oct. 26 Jesus Speaks about His Death John 12:27-36

Oct. 27 The Unbelief of the People John 12:37-43

**Oct. 28 Summary of Jesus’ Teaching John 12:44-50**

The Passion Begins

Oct. 29 The Plot to Kill Jesus Matt. 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2; John 11:45-53

Oct. 30 The Anointing at Bethany Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8

Oct. 31 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus Matt. 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6





## *Annual Blanket Raffle Weekends*

Bid early! Bid Often!

The Blanket Ladies will again be displaying their 261 blankets starting the weekend of **September 30-October 1** and on **October 7-8**. They will again be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 each. Plus having a silent auction on some. Yes, we do have Ohio State and University of Michigan. Also a "home divided" one. Raffle tickets and auction will continue for another two weeks for a total of four weeks. Blankets will be sold for a **donation of \$30.00**. Baby and small children size are \$20.00. These will be placed in the front rows of the church. Remember you must mark any monies turned into the offering plate or office "blankets". You can also give the money to the ladies selling raffle tickets, before and after services. The raffle, silent auction and sale of blankets is the only funds we receive to purchase filler and backs for the blankets. This year we have already give or sold 61 blankets. Some went to earthquake victims in Turkey and the Nightengales Harvest. If you know of an organization or person who could use a blanket let one of the ladies or the office know. We will distribute after October 8, but always have some available all year long. We tie each Tuesday morning from 9:00am-11:30am. We invite you to join us or just stop to visit and see how it is done. Thanks to all for the donations of sheets (any size), fabric, thread and yarn we find in our blanket room.

## **2024 Holy Land Tour Opportunities**

Have you ever wanted to see the places where Jesus walked and taught in the New Testament? Well, 2024 is offering you not one, but two opportunities to join with other Northwestern Ohio Lutherans in traveling to the Holy Land. The first trip is in late January 2024 (January 30-Feb 9th) with Bishop Beaudoin and the other trip will be in June of 2024 (June 17-27) **led by Pastor O'Brien**. If you have any questions you can speak to Pastor O'Brien any time. For more information (and trip brochures), contact Pastor O'Brien at [pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org).



The January tour is \$4,190, the June tour is \$4,090. Both include all meals, accommodations, sight-seeing in a modern air conditioned bus, English speaking tour guide, and airfare from Detroit.

If you would like more information, I will be glad to talk with you about the trip. -Pastor Shawn O'Brien



## **The Blessing Box needs your help!**

Needed:

- \*Canned Meat
- \*Boxed Pasta Sides
- Applesauce
- Fruit (canned)
- Snacks (small)
- Cereal

**Thank you for your help and support to continue to keep our Blessing Box full!**



If anyone interested in joining the bell choir and/or singing with the choir this fall, please contact Beckie Goldstein or see her after church services. Practice are after Sunday's service.



**CHURCH  
KEYS**

**NEEDED**



If anyone has a church key that they don't need- please turn it into office.  
Thank You!!

## SACK FOR A SACK



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.

*Sunday School*  
**SCHEDULE**

October—May at 8:30am  
1st Sunday of each month  
Children and Parents invited!

Candy, lots of candy, is needed!  
You may place in box by office. Thank you!

**TRUNK OR  
TREAT**



JOIN US at ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2:00pm-4:00pm

**USHERS**



## USHERS NEEDED

Why anyone want to be an usher? Unlocking doors and standing in the back handing out bulletins may not seem like much, but some of our current ushers share that it is actually rewarding. One usher commented they feel like they have accomplished something when they can greet people, make them smile, and make them feel welcome when they enter for worship. Another shared they like being able to assist with worship, but they don't necessarily want to read in front of people. Therefore, working in the back is the perfect job. Plus, when it comes to serving at your church, being an usher is about the easiest job there is. Another usher shared for a person who can't sit still, being an usher is a good way to stay moving yet still be involved in worship. We would like to add more ushers to both our Saturday and Sunday rotation. If you would like to discover your own reasons for being an usher, contact Pastor O'Brien or the church office to learn more or be added to the rotation list.





## THE CHOSEN SERIES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

11:00 A.M.

SEASON 1 EPISODE 7

NEXT MTG- 10/15

WE WILL GATHER FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S WORSHIP (11:00ISH) AND HAVE PIZZA WHILE WE WATCH THE SHOW. WE WELCOME ANYONE TO JOIN US. IF YOU MISS AN EPISODE OR NEED TO CATCH UP, YOU CAN FIND THE SHOW AT

[HTTPS://WWW.ANGEL.COM/WATCH/THE-CHOZEN](https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chozen)

### SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1, 15, AND 29

NOVEMBER 12 (BUT NOT 26 DUE TO THANKSGIVING WEEKEND)

DECEMBER 10 (BUT NOT 24 DUE TO CHRISTMAS EVE)

JANUARY 7 AND 21

FEBRUARY 4 AND 18

MARCH 3 AND 17 (NOT 31 DUE TO EASTER)

APRIL 14 AND 28

MAY 12 THEN BREAK FOR SUMMER



## Build a Bed Change a life.

Saturday, October 14, 2023  
9am-Noon

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
20 S. Yondota Road  
Curtice, OH 43412

We are partnering with Let's Build Beds to serve Children in NW Ohio who are in need. You can donate money (\$200 buys lumber, mattresses, and bedding for one bed).

You can donate new twin size bedding.

You can pray for this ministry

Sign Up at [tinyurl.com/letsbuildbeds](https://tinyurl.com/letsbuildbeds)  
You can also call 419-654-9444

## BAUMANN AUTO GROUP

### 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BIG CHARITY — RAFFLE —

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



NEW CHEVROLET  
TRAILBLAZER\*



NEW FORD  
ESCAPE\*



NEW JEEP  
COMPASS\*

OR CASH OPTION OF \$20,000  
\* MSRP UP TO \$27,000

**\$5.00 PER TICKET**

100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY  
TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN THE PAST  
20 YEARS IS \$1,183,997

Tickets for the 21st Annual Baumann Auto Group Charity Raffle are available in the church office until October 15th (M-F 9-2)

Tickets are \$5.00. When you buy your ticket at St. John, 100% of the proceeds go to the Genoa Food Pantry.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Please join us in our new Sunday School format!**



Bring the whole family for a bible story, craft, snack, video, and music! (Yes, we want parents too!)



**We will meet every first Sunday of the month, October through May, in the basement. See you October 1st at 8:30!**



Confirmation Class  
Every Sunday  
at 8:30a.m.

## MAUI DISASTER RELIEF

Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires

You can give online... <https://community.elca.org/uswildfires>

## **Prayer/Contact Cards...**

You will see blue Prayer/Contact cards in the pews. Please fill them out if you have a prayer request, a change in your contact information, would like to join the St. John family or to speak with the Pastor. Just place them in the offering plate.

By mail...

Make checks payable to  
Lutheran Disaster Response.  
Write "U.S. Wildfires" on your  
check's memo line and send to:  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Or by phone...

800-638-3522  
Monday through Friday,  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. central time.





# October Stewardship Page

# Thank you!

To all our Sponsors & Participants!



A morning chill and slight breeze turned into a bright and sunny day of golf and fellowship as our 11th annual golf outing was held Saturday, September 23, 2023 at Chippewa Golf Course. 19 teams, consisting of 75 golfers participated in this year's event.

Following golf, teams gathered back in the clubhouse to enjoy a BBQ chicken dinner from Blackberry Corners and to receive LOTS of PRIZES! Team Genoa Bank took home 1st place honors with a score of 18 under par! WOW! Congratulations!

The real winner though, is the Good Samaritan Fund which raised over \$3100, This money is used to support the Genoa Food Pantry, Parking lot pantry, outreach and to provide emergency financial aid to families in need. This past year we also supported the Palestine, Ohio community after the train derailment.

The continued success of this event would not be possible without YOU! Your generosity over the years has enabled us to raise over \$27,000. Thank You!

Next year's event is scheduled for Saturday Sept 21, 2024.

**Thank you!**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you who you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

## October Stewardship Prayer

*Dear Heavenly Father,  
I want to thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for everything that You're doing in my life. Thank you for the talent that You've given to me.*

*Amen*

**And always  
BEE in Prayer!**





CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

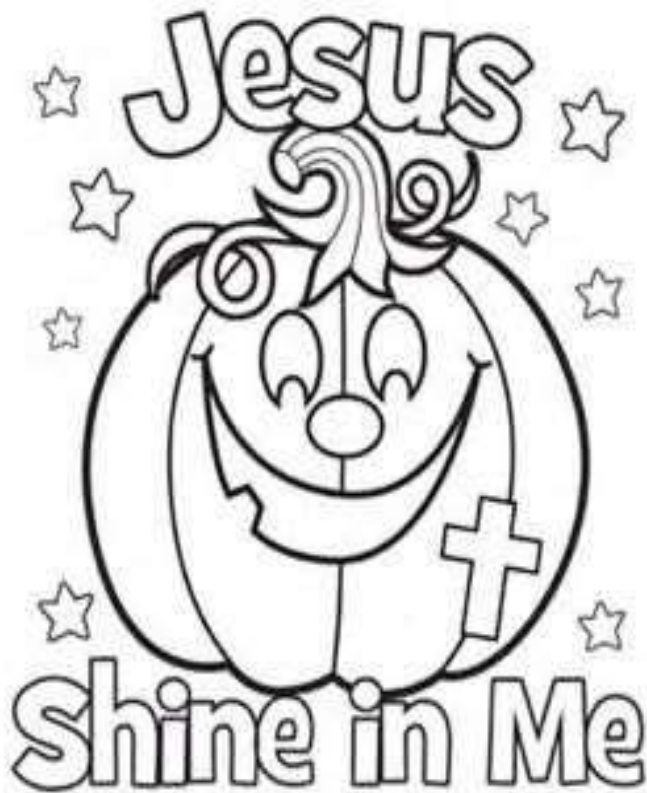
# The Connection

St. John Kid's Page

Let your light shine so  
people everywhere may  
see your good actions  
and praise God in  
heaven because of it.  
Matthew 5:16

God is pure light,  
undimmed by darkness  
of any kind.

1 John 1:5



Being a Christian  
is like being a Pumpkin.

God picks you from the patch and  
brings you in. (John 15:16)

Then washes all the dirt off of you.  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the  
yucky stuff. He removes the seeds  
of doubt, hate, greed, etc.  
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling  
face. (Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside you to  
shine for all the world to see.  
(Matthew 5:16)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL Kickoff



**Join us for Sunday School!**  
**Sunday, October 1st- 8:30 AM**  
**Invite a friend to Sunday School!**



Dear Friends in Christ,

I am recently returned from an extended Sabbath. I am grateful to the Synod Council and the Synod Staff for the gift of a summer sabbatical. It was a sacred time of rest, release, and reset. The word sabbatical comes from the word Sabbath, and Sabbath is a sacred time for rest and release.

My time away had a 4-Fold Purpose:

1. Rest, renewal, and retreat (Tend to Body, Mind, and Soul)
2. Increase my Fundraising Capacity through a Lily School of Philanthropy Course of Study
3. Trace the geographic sojourn of my French-Canadian ancestors in Quebec and Northern Michigan
4. **Reconnect with God's creation as a thru-hiker**

Much of my time was spent in monasteries and monastic communities in Kentucky, Quebec, and Indiana. They were all quite different. My Sabbatical started with a silent retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemani in rural Kentucky. These are the Trappist monks. Thomas Merton was a member of this community from 1941 to 1968. The Trappists observe silence throughout the day. The only time they speak is during the seven daily prayer services. Vigils at 3:15 a.m., Lauds at 5:45 a.m., Terce at 7:30 a.m., Sext at 12:15 p.m., None at 2:15p.m., Vespers at 5:30 p.m., and Compline at 7:30 p.m. Yes, I went to them all. I ate very simple meals. I hiked in the hills in the late afternoon. I watched the sun rise and set. The days of silence were jarring, but good for my soul. I needed that sacred silence and prayerful rhythm. It was a true change of pace. No cell phone. No email. No deadlines. No rush.

While in Quebec City I stayed with the Augustinian sisters. Six nuns in their 70's and 80's, who treated me like a dear member of the family. We prayed morning prayer and ate breakfast together. In the afternoon, I was able to hike and explore. In the evening we prayed Vespers. The sisters spoke no English, and they were very patient with my French. My original cell (room) was ancient and small. I had to duck to get in through the door. A bed. A wardrobe. A desk. A window. A crucifix.

In northern Quebec, I was 2 hours south of the wildfires. In the middle of the day, it was dusk. The smell of smoke was strong. My clothing smelled like a campfire. Fr. Garipey from St. Irenaeus was my guide for the week. In the early mornings we engaged in prayer and spiritual direction. In the afternoons and evenings, I was off exploring. I was able to pray in the church where four generations of my ancestors were baptized, married, and buried. I was able to stand on the ground where my great-great-greats cleared the land and plowed the earth. I was able to car camp along the St. Lawrence River at the exact place where my first ancestors landed in New France in 1656.

My sabbatical ended in southern Indiana with the Benedictines at St. Meinrad Archabbey. They were the opposite of the Trappists. Really rich food. Beautiful prayer services with powerful voices. Lots of laughter. All of these monastic moments helped me to connect with God in a new way and strengthened my faith. There is something inspirational about being around godly people who dedicate the full of their days to loving and worshipping God. And even though I'm not Roman Catholic these communities of faith welcomed me with open hearts and open arms.

My prayer is that we might build our communities into sacred places of welcome, love, and openness. Places where people can find God's gift of rest and release.

Bless you,  
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost






**NORTHWEST OHIO WOMEN OF THE ELCA**  
**Invite you to the**  
**2023 Gathering**  
**Friday, October 27th–Saturday, October 28th**  
**Findlay Inn, Findlay, Ohio**



**Watch for information in your church newsletter and the  
"Sonlight".**

**Featured Speaker–Friday**  
**Dr. Lisa Chavers**

**"Hearing God's Rhythm and Answering the Call"**  
**We will be putting together a prayer book.**  
**Please send your favorite prayer or write**  
**a prayer to be included.**

*Please include credit if taken from another author/book.*

**Send to: Sonlight Editor, Elaine Conley**  
**canread78@yahoo.com**

**We will be collecting new underwear for men, women**  
**and children in all sizes. These will be given to the**  
**Orphan Grain Train–headquartered for NWO in Napoleon,**  
**Ohio**

**Guest Speaker on Saturday–Nancy Helmke with**  
**Ohio Grain Train**  
**Silent Auction**

**There will be a silent auction of gift baskets, and other items**  
**donated.**

**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
**"12 SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS"**  
**WILL BE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023**  
**DURING THE 9:45AM CHURCH SERVICE**

**THE ADVENT TEA WILL FOLLOW THE CHURCH SERVICE**  
**IN THE BASEMENT.**  
**PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE**  
**FOR THE ADVENT TEA.**





## September 2023 Church Council Highlights

**Members Present:** Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Dan Kessler, Deanna Neuman, Dave Neuman, Melissa Hays, Kristina Wildman, Susie Mathews, Kellie Ulrich, Gary Johnson, and Jennifer Nelson

**Devotions led by Pastor:** Matthew 6:13 & Luke 11:4 "and deliver us from evil or but deliver us from evil" and Deanna Neuman led us in a prayer.

**Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance:** In person average for July 2023 - 105.8 compared to July 2022 - 90.8. Online average for July 2023 - 92.7 compared to July 2022 - 82.3. **Numbers:** 9 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings. 5 committee/group meetings. 4 community/youth/fellowship events. 5 professional/clergy activities. 3 Baptisms. **Baptisms:** Jimmy Hyde (son of Pat and Rachel) on August 12th and Ashley and Hailey Hudulick on August 19th.

**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:** Thank you to everyone who participated in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday (9/10). Thank you to the bingo helpers, the weed pullers, and especially the crew who fed us lunch. We did good work serving in the community and our help was very much appreciated.

### **Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance**

**Committee Report:** Dan Kessler, Jennifer Nelson & Kristina Wildman

**Expenses:** We are 91% of the monthly budget and 97% of the year to date budget. **Income:** We are 89% of our monthly budget and 92% of our year to date budget. **Income over expenses:** On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$16,462 compared to our budget of negative \$8,260. Semi-Annual Letter going out. We charter the Boy Scout troop and they provided us a copy of their financials. Our current 3 year investments with Mission Investment Fund (MIF) for the activity center fund and endowment fund are coming due in November. We have an option to invest with Genoa Financial (investment arm of Genoa Bank). Jordan Moore, financial consultant with Genoa Financial, presented the finance board with options. Rates look to be much more attractive and can be FDIC insured. Also, given our committee changes each year, keeping up with signers can be much easier as we can make changes at the same time we make changes with Genoa Bank. Finance board is looking to move forward with this option once the current CD investments mature.

### **Christian Community Life:** Susie Mathews

August Food Pantry, 35 families were served and 6 new wagons were purchased. 80 backpacks were donated and we were able to fill all of them with school supplies that were also donated. The backpacks were given to Genoa Schools and Bright Side (a Head Start program in East Toledo). On Sept 10 we served a luncheon for God's work. We served at the Food Pantry the 13th packaging the food, we had 13 volunteers. And on the 16th we distributed the food.

We had 11 volunteers plus the scouts and a few seniors from Genoa school.

### **Evangelism:** Melissa Hays

We put together the Halloween basket we are donating for the trunk or treat. We also discussed the Community Christmas tree lighting which will be on December 2, after the service. We will be taking donations for Nightingales Harvest. We also discussed our menu for the event and trying to get a donation for the food. Welcome pamphlet being developed for new visitors.

### **Parish Education:** Deanna Neuman

The Chosen schedule: Sept. 17, Oct. 1, 15, and 29, Nov. 12 (but not 26 due to Thanksgiving weekend), Dec. 10 (but not 24 due to Christmas Eve), Jan. 7 and 21, Feb. 4 and 18, March 3 and 17 (not 31 due to Easter), April 14 and 28, May 12 and then break for summer. We are asking for donations of candy and decorated trunks for Trunk or Treat on Oct. 22. New Sunday School format will happen the first Sunday of the month through May. October has been planned. Deanna will lead and Stefanie will assist. Children's Christmas Program will happen during worship on Dec (10 or 17). Tammy Mazur will stop in at Sunday School to give families info. The program is about the symbolism of the Christmas tree.

### **Stewardship:** No Report

### **Worship Life:** Kellie Ulrich

We will be having a Thanksgiving service on Sunday Nov. 19th at 5:00, with a meal to follow at 6:00. We would like to have a sign up sheet for food and desserts. We have invited the other churches in the community to participate, but will worship whether they do or not. WELCAs Thankoffering service will not be happening this year. There still will be offering envelopes available in Nov. to support WELCA. More information will be provided about this in the November forerunner.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have the regular 9:45 am service (4th Sunday of Advent), and 2 additional Christmas eve services. One will be at 4:00 pm and the other is to be determined.

### **Property:** Gary Johnson

Process of getting some bids on roof replacement for the area over the office and addition over elevators. Last rain we had leakage. Roof has been temporarily patched. The roof there is likely 30 years old. Also, have them check an area leaking near the chimney.

**New Business:** Nominating committee is getting together next week to schedule a meeting. If anyone knows of anyone that would like to serve on a committee please reach out. The Ottawa County Commission suggested a need for affordable housing and childcare and we are looking to see if we can help with space for them for childcare options.

**Next Committee Mtg:** Thurs., Oct. 12, 2023 @7pm **Next Council Mtg:** Thurs., Oct. 19, 2023 @7pm

Dave Neuman moved to adjourn the meeting and Deanna Neuman seconded, motion passed.

**Minutes submitted by:** Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



# 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)



<b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>		<b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>		<b>DATE</b>	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
<b>Type of authorization:</b> <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 #	
<b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b> ____/____/____		<b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b> <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>		<b>FUNDS:</b> <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;"><b>Total</b></div>	
<b>AMOUNTS:</b> \$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____					
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
<b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>	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: _____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">                     6 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 0 0 1                      └─ 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: _____				
<b>CREDIT / DEBIT CARD</b>	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.*



# **Worship Assistants**

## **Saturdays 5:00pm**

### Ushers

7- Donnelly Family  
14- Buhrow Family  
21- Jack Mathews  
28-Ron Gerkenmeyer

### Lectors

7- Beverly Harder  
14- Amy Schloegl  
21- Christine Danhoff  
28- Nancy Strohscher

### Acolytes

7- Jacob Higginbotham  
14- Nolan Delventhal  
21- Mila McQueary  
28-Jacob Higginbotham

### Communion

7- Ron Gerkenmeyer  
14- Nancy Strohscher  
21- Al & Traci Brown  
28- Carol Vargo

## **Sundays 9:00am**

### Ushers

1- Jill Kao  
8- Titgemeyer Family  
15- Diana Pfaff/Riley B  
22- Jill Kao  
29-Titgemeyer Family

### Lectors

1-Roland Sandrock  
8- Cebie Titgemeyer  
15- Diana Pfaff  
22- Deanna Neuman  
29- Tim Titgemeyer

### Acolytes

1- Logan Hays  
8- Logan Hays  
15- Open  
22- Lauren Hoeft  
29- Lauren Hoeft

### Communion

1- Margaret Berger  
8- Open  
15- Rosemarie Dickinson  
22- Dave/Deanna Neuman  
29- Kellie Ulrich

## **Saturdays 5:00pm**

### Ushers

4- Donnelly Family  
11- Buhrow Family  
18-Jack Mathews  
25-Ron Gerkenmeyer

### Lectors

4- Beverly Harder  
11- Amy Schloegl  
18- Christine Danhoff  
25- Nancy Strohscher

### Acolytes

4- Nolan Delventhal  
11- Mila McQueary  
18-Liam Delventhal  
25-Jacob Higginbotham

### Communion

4- JoElaine Schimming  
11- Nancy Strohscher  
18-Ron Gerkenmeyer  
25- Alice Witt

## **Sundays 9:00am**

### Ushers

5-Titgemeyer Family  
12- Diana Pfaff/Riley B  
19- Jill Kao  
26-Titgemeyer Family

### Lectors

5- Melissa Lammers  
12- Kellie Ulrich  
19- Jill Kao  
26-Roland Sandrock

### Acolytes

5- Lauren Hoeft  
12- Logan Hays  
19- Lauren Hoeft  
26-Logan Hays

### Communion

5- Pam LaRue  
12- Diana Pfaff  
19- Roland Sandrock  
26- Cebie Titgemeyer



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

**More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!**



# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Blankets Weekend Sale to benefit Quilt Ministry 8:30am Confirmation Class 8:30am - 9:30am Sunday School for ALL AGES 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm The Chosen Series 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00am Blankets 2:00pm Esther Circle 7:00pm Rebekah Circle	<b>4</b> 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Blankets Weekend Sale to benefit Quilt Ministry 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>8</b> Blankets Weekend Sale to benefit Quilt Ministry 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am Blankets - Pack	<b>11</b> 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	<b>12</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Committee Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>15</b> 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm The Chosen Series 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00am Blankets	<b>18</b> 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	<b>19</b> 7:00pm - 8:00pm Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 4:00pm - 9:00pm Witt - Base- ment Rental	<b>21</b> 9:00am - 3:30pm Jensen - SH Rental 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>22</b> 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 2:00pm - 4:00pm Trunk or Treat 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	<b>23</b> November Forerunner Deadline	<b>24</b> 9:00am Blankets	<b>25</b> 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
<b>29</b> 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am - 10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am - 11:45am Choir Practice 11:00am - 12:00pm The Chosen Series 12:00pm - 4:00pm Higginbotham - SH Rental 6:00pm - 7:30pm Scouts	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am Blankets	<b>1</b> 7:00am - 8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDon- alds	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Contemporary Worship



# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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OCTOBER 2023

**Pastor Shawn O'Brien**

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Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow,

Office Administrators

Monday –Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

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

## In person and online!

Fall Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday- Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class– Sunday 8:30 AM

Sunday School- October-May 8:30 AM

First Sunday of each month– All Ages

Sunday- Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

\*Visit us on Facebook