

# FORERUNNER

## January

Volume 0672 \*\* Issue 297\*\* January 2021

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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 me to.*

### Ask the Pastor

### Ask the Congregation...

#### "Would you have any concerns with an electronic Annual Congregational Meeting?"

I'm turning the tables this month and asking a question of you...

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 24. Because of COVID we have to do some things different. We plan on having the meeting in the sanctuary following worship that day without our usual time of gathering and meal. However, using worship attendance to estimate the number of people comfortable returning to the sanctuary, it seems unlikely that we will be able to achieve a quorum for an in-person meeting in January, during a pandemic. Therefore, the Church Council is proposing that we allow people to connect through Zoom (which would be possible in the sanctuary). Zoom would fulfil the ELCA's recommendation to have a format that allows for two way communication; we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be heard.

Unfortunately, our constitution does not have the provision for online meetings beyond the congregational council (the ELCA model constitution does, but ours was updated after that provision was added; we are missing C10.08 in our constitution). For this reason, we are seeking suspend this rule for our 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting. The Church Council thought since we are not voting on anything like spending thousands of dollars on a roof this year we could be flexible.

If you **DO** have concerns with this plan, please let me know (or notify Rick Buhrow or Diana Pfaff) by January 10. This could turn out to be a good way to include some of the folks who usually don't get to attend our Annual Meetings.



### Rebekah Circle

Tuesday January 5th, 7pm, in the lounge

### Esther Circle

Tuesday January 5th, 7pm, social hall

**WELCA board will not meet in January!**



Dear Pastor Shawn,

Thank you for sharing your ministry with us while our interim pastor was on vacation. We actually felt like we were sitting in your sanctuary. Our members were amazed we were able to join a service all the way from Ohio. Not only was this a meaningful worship experience for our congregation but it also demonstrated the benefits of our recent technology investment. We need more people like you who are finding creative ways to care for our pastoral needs during this difficult time. Blessings to you and the congregation of St John Williston.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Johnston  
on behalf of the  
people of Grace Lutheran,  
Syracuse, Indiana



Dear St. John Lutheran,

I'm a Lutheran but not a member of your church. I have gotten joy and peace watching your virtual services. Please use this donation for your Blessing Box.

Thank you,  
Sue Johnson  
Merry Christmas

# memorials & gifts

In Memory of Jean Rollins  
Elaine Gruetter

In Memory of David Jensen  
Jim and Dolores Schimming  
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
Mary Schimming  
Carol Martin  
Gary and Darlene Carlsensen  
Roland and Janice Sandrock  
Diane Dickinson

In Memory of Vicky Zambrano  
Mary Schimming

In Memory of Kay Ozanski  
Lowell and Diane Hartman

In Memory of Bertha Leppert  
Lowell and Diane Hartman  
Alice Witt  
Carol Vargo  
Carolyn Lasseter  
Edna and Marilyn Sandrock  
Elaine Gruetter  
Roland and Janice Sandrock  
Diane Dickinson  
Mary Schimming  
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

In Memory of Don and Jim Berger  
Margaret Berger

In Memory of Stephen Harmeyer  
Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of John Rensch  
Mary Schimming

Please be sure to get all 2020 offerings in before December 29<sup>th</sup> to ensure credit to your 2020 statement.

## The Forerunner

is published monthly  
by St. John Lutheran Church  
Williston, Ohio  
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## Pastor Shawn O'Brien

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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  
February newsletter is  
**Monday, January 25th @  
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."**



Amelia Burkey  
Office

Administrator

8:30 am—2:30  
pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org

# ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2021 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted outside the church office. Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order Altar or Chancel flowers.

Fill out the order slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office with your payment. Or feel free to call the office and Amelia can add your name to the desired dates.

**Altar flowers are \$25.00**  
**Chancel flowers are \$20.00**

**Please submit your order slip as soon as possible before the order date as orders are placed several days in advance.**

*Flowers will not be ordered without a blue slip.*

We are using Hirzel Bros. Florists again this year.



## **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!**



2021 Offering Envelopes are now available outside Pastor O'Brien's office.

Please start using your new envelopes as of January 1st, 2021.

If you have any questions about your envelopes or cannot find yours, please call the office and we can help you!

Thank you for your support of the ministries at St. John!



## **The St. John Mini Pantry /Blessing Box is Open!**

The St. John Mini Pantry is stocked with ready to eat or easily prepared food items and hygiene items which are available to those in our community who may need a little help. It contains boxes of mac and cheese, soup, spaghetti, canned meals, veggies, fruit, peanut butter, jelly and other items. Volunteers check the box daily and replenish it when needed. We are also accepting donations of travel size personal items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, travel size tissues and shampoo.

Thank you to those who continue to support the Blessing Box.

## Worship Helpers...

Thank you very much to those who have volunteered to be virtual lectors, help Andy with sound, and collect our offering.

Worship Helpers; we did not forget about you. When we are ready to transition back to our 'regular' rotation of lectors, communion servers, ushers, acolytes, and AV technicians we will share a schedule in the newsletter.

If you would like to be added to the rotation when we do resume, please contact the church office and we will gladly fill you in on all the details.

"Serve the Lord with GLADNESS!"



Missing Church?

Not ready yet?

**That's ok!**

We have the answer!

We are gathering together in person for worship but you can also worship with St. John ONLINE!

We are gathering in the sanctuary for worship and live streaming our worship services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel on Saturdays at 5PM and Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM.

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

Our Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwilliston/>

For continued services, you may also search YouTube for St John and look for the logo.



Each year our Christmas Eve offering is shared with a special benevolence project (often two or three). This year I recorded the worship service before the council met to discuss where to send the offerings. It was decided that Christmas Eve offerings will be split between the Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center (this group is **providing a record number of 'lunches' for children during Christmas break**) and Luther Home of Mercy (being hit pretty hard by COVID right now). Whether you chose to contribute financially or not, please keep the staff/volunteers of these two organizations in your prayers.

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

*"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."*

**Matthew 21:22**

When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call

Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003,

cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. Thank you!

## Faith Practice #3 Readings

### 1 and 2 Corinthians



Corinth was a large, bustling city (located in southern Greece). Because of its location, goods and people from around the world flowed in and out of its ports. It was a center for art, philosophy and religion. It contained a number of pagan temples including large ones to Apollo and Aphrodite. The city had a reputation for vice, immorality and debauchery. Paul spent 18 months establishing a church in Corinth during his second missionary journey (described in Acts 18).

1 Corinthians (which may actually be the second letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians; the first was lost) was written around 54 AD. It was in response to reports Paul received concerning problems in the church, disputed matters, and competing factions. (The letter written to Paul has not survived.)

Overall, the letter calls this fractious congregation to unity, Paul reminds them their actions should be informed by love (chapters 8 and 13), and closes with an appeal to let this love be the governing power in the life of the community.

2 Corinthians is perhaps the most difficult to interpret of all Paul's letters. Scholars think it is a combination of several fragments of different letters. This makes it seem disjointed in places. It is certainly a mixed letter, containing different styles and various elements; appeals, exhortations, rebukes, threats, attacks, counterattacks, self-defense, self-praise, and irony.

We will continue with our 'one chapter per week' reading plan as follows: *for the week starting...*

September 7 – 1 Corinthians 1  
September 14 – 1 Corinthians 2  
September 21 – 1 Corinthians 3  
September 28 – 1 Corinthians 4  
October 5 – 1 Corinthians 5  
October 12 – 1 Corinthians 6  
October 19 – 1 Corinthians 7  
October 26 – 1 Corinthians 8  
November 2 – 1 Corinthians 9  
November 9 – 1 Corinthians 10  
November 16 – 1 Corinthians 11  
November 23 – 1 Corinthians 12  
November 30 – 1 Corinthians 13  
December 7 – 1 Corinthians 14  
December 14 – 1 Corinthians 15

December 21 – 1 Corinthians 16  
January 4 – 2 Corinthians 1  
January 11 – 2 Corinthians 2  
January 18 – 2 Corinthians 3  
January 25 – 2 Corinthians 4  
February 1 – 2 Corinthians 5  
February 8 – 2 Corinthians 6  
February 15 – 2 Corinthians 7  
February 22 – 2 Corinthians 8  
March 1 – 2 Corinthians 9  
March 8 – 2 Corinthians 10  
March 15 – 2 Corinthians 11  
March 22 – 2 Corinthians 12  
March 29 – 2 Corinthians 13





### **Week of January 4**

#### **2 Corinthians 1**

Praise be to the God of all comfort. Paul suffers and is consoled in Christ. Paul was delivered by God from desperate troubles and a sentence of death in Asia. Paul has acted not with fleshy wisdom, but in accordance with the grace of God.

### **Week of January 11**

#### **2 Corinthians 2**

Paul did not want to come to the Corinthians in sorrow. Paul writes this letter rather than visiting personally. He recommends that the Corinthian Christians forgive the brother who had sinned (and repented) among them.

### **Week of January 18**

#### **2 Corinthians 3**

Does Paul need a letter of recommendation? He has one; the Corinthian Christians themselves – they are an epistle written on his heart, not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. Paul is not sufficient of himself, but is sufficient in Christ. The new covenant is not of the letter, but of the Spirit – for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

### **Week of January 25**

#### **2 Corinthians 4**

Paul has not acted with craftiness or deceit. Our gospel is veiled to those who are perishing. We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, who has shone in our hearts. God's treasure is in earthen vessels. We have suffered, but are resilient, carrying around within us the dying of the Lord Jesus. God will raise us up, as he raised up the Lord Jesus.

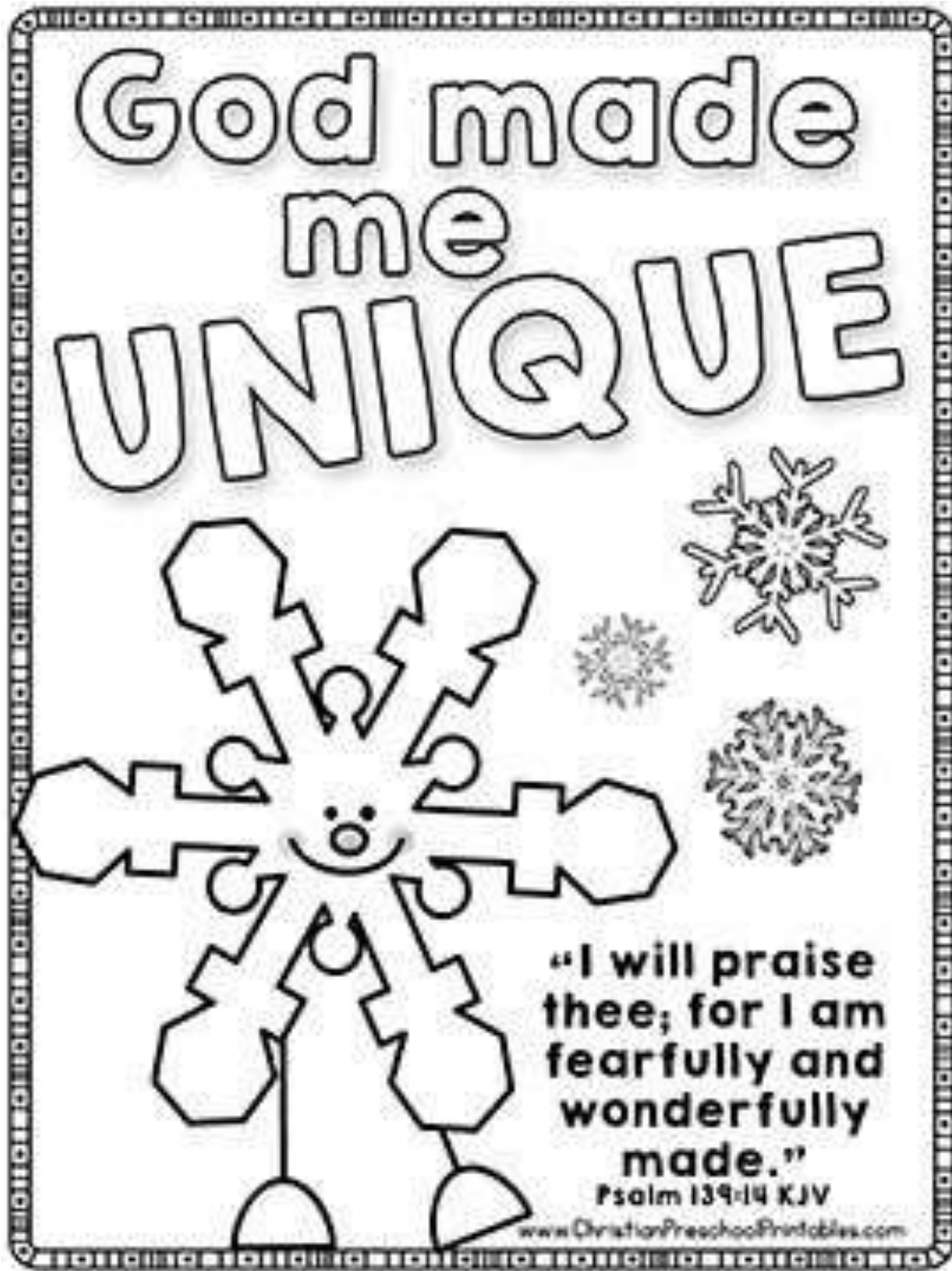
### **Week of February 1**

#### **2 Corinthians 5**

Our earthly house (ie physical bodies) may be destroyed, but we have a heavenly house made by God. We yearn to be clothed with our heavenly habitation, so mortality will be swallowed up by life. When we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. When we pass from these bodies to the world beyond, we must each give an account before the judgment seat of Christ according to what we have done, whether good or bad. We regard no one according to the flesh. Anyone in Christ is a new creation. We are reconciled to God in Christ. God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

# The Connection



Join us!  
Sundays  
at 8:30am  
\*\*Bring a  
friend\*\*



*Healthy Resolutions*

**WHAT'S YOUR  
NEW YEAR  
RESOLUTION?**

**“WHATEVER YOU DO, DO EVERYTHING FOR THE  
GLORY OF GOD.”**

1 Corinthians 10:31



## LIVING A STEWARDSHIP LIFE IN 2021

### A New Year's Plan

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—  
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,  
A motto to live by this coming New Year,  
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice  
Say, "Consider this simple, daily choice;  
With each new dawn and close of day  
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

Don't look back, caught in regret  
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;  
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,  
No, live in this moment, for I am Here.

"I am all you need. Everything. I am.  
You are held secure by my strong hand.  
Give me this one thing— your all in all;  
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

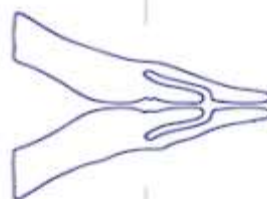
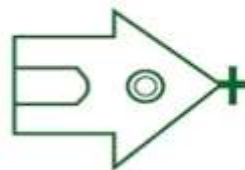
So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.  
It's to daily follow, trust and obey.

From the December issue of Gather magazine:

"For me, as for so many others, 2020 has been a year of great loss and sorrow. Yet, it is also a year of joy in a God, who, unlike many others, always gives us the time of day— God's time. God's time forms a space to cradle us and hold us close, even when twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racism cause painful separation. God makes a present of the moment, allowing us to both love and let ourselves be loved in defiance of calendars and circumstances.

As the apostle Paul wrote in his own love letter to the Romans, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, or anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

**GOD IS WITH US, ALWAYS AND IN ALL TIME.**





# Poinsettia Dedications

In Loving Memory of Emory Lasseter by Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of Ralph Sandrock by Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of Frederick and Karen Sandrock by Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of Rob and Clara Lasseter by Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of Jennifer Johnson by Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of our parents by Lowell and Diane Hartman  
In Loving Memory of Carl Titgemeyer by Doris Titgemeyer  
In Loving Memory of Carl and Ella Kopfman by Carl and Ella Kopfman  
In Loving Memory of our loved ones by Al and Traci Brown  
In Honor of Andy Kessler by Worship Life Committee  
In Loving Memory of Jim Haeft by Phyllis Haeft  
In Loving Memory of Patricia Delventhal by Kent Delventhal  
In Loving Memory of Joe Vargo by Carol Vargo  
In Loving Memory of Kenneth Schimming by JoElaine Schimming and family  
In Loving Memory of Tana Lenz by Matt, Michell, Lindsey and Trenton Krumnow  
In Loving Memory of Minnie Harris by Matt, Michell, Lindsey and Trenton Krumnow  
In Loving Memory of Harold and Grace Lenz by Matt, Michell, Lindsey and Trenton Krumnow  
In Loving Memory of Richard Witt by Alice Witt  
In Loving Memory of Alice Vasill by Alice Witt  
In Loving Memory of Arnold and Grace Johnson by Jane and Richard Phillips  
In Loving Memory of Patricia Delventhal by Jane and Richard Phillips  
In Loving Memory of Bill (Wilson) Hetrick by Gene and Amy Bihn  
In Loving Memory of Patricia Delventhal by Gene and Amy Bihn  
In Loving Memory of Virgil Roecker by Gene and Amy Bihn  
In Loving Memory of our parents by Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
In Loving Memory of our sisters by Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
In Loving Memory of grandparents, Harold and June Siglar and Lyle and Bonnie Shessler by Tom Siglar  
In Loving Memory of parents by Charles (Tom) and Alice Siglar by Tom Siglar  
In Loving Memory of our loved ones by Denny and Rosemarie Dickinson  
In Honor of my grandchildren by Beck Tank  
In Loving Memory of Tim Tank by Beck Tank and family  
In Loving Memory of Richard Harmeyer by Beth Johnson  
In Loving Memory of Bernie Pohlada by Shirley A. Mravec  
In Loving Memory of our loved ones by James and Dolores Schimming  
In Loving Memory of our loved ones by Larry and Nancy Strohscher  
In Loving Memory of Bruce Traver by Diane and Darryl Traver  
In Loving Memory of Richard and Rosalie Baumbach by Jon and Valerie Baumbach  
In Loving Memory of John and Norma Rensch by Jon and Valerie Baumbach  
In Loving Memory of Don and Daisy Davis by Richard and Shirley Crosskill  
In Loving Memory of Glenn and Lou Crosskill by Richard and Shirley Crosskill  
In Loving Memory of Stephen Harmeyer by Mary Harmeyer and Beth Johnson  
In Loving Memory of Lester and Cora Schimming by Mary Harmeyer and Beth Johnson  
In Loving Memory of Blanche Cashen Schimming by Mary Harmeyer and Beth Johnson  
In Loving Memory of Carol Tank's 90th birthday by Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer  
In Loving Memory of Marjorie Blausey by Bernard Blausey  
In Loving Memory of loved ones by Bernard Blausey  
In Loving Memory of Jennifer Johnson by Roland and Janice Sandrock  
In Loving Memory of Robert Plantz and Martin Parks by Phyllis Parks  
In Loving Memory of Patricia Delventhal by Tony, Holly, and Lily Sondergeld  
In Loving Memory of Charles and Mary Mathews by Donna Mathews  
In Honor of our grandchildren by Bob and Diane Kapp  
In Loving Memory of Wade and Audrey Wolf by Bob and Diane Kapp  
In Loving Memory of Earl, Arnold and Grace Johnson by Bob and Diane Kapp  
In Loving Memory of Lawrence Gruetter by Elaine Gruetter  
In Honor of our families by Duane and Tami Tailford  
In Honor of all musicians, singers, Pastor, Andy and Shane for all of your hard work that made our Christmas Eve service possible. By Duane and Tami Tailford.

# 2020 Annual Report

## Staff Support Committee

The Staff Support Committee is appointed annually by the Congregation Council. This committee currently consists of Alan Brown, Diane Gerkenmeyer and Dave Neuman. This group works as the liaison between the Congregation of St. John and our Staff members.

This is the year of the Pandemic (COVID-19) in our country. It was noted that Pastor has been required to continually modify his role due to the virus. Beginning in March we were required to “shut down” the church. We went to virtual (YouTube and Facebook) services. When we were permitted (by the State of Ohio) to return to in-person worship, social distancing was required -- pews were roped off, pew cushions were removed, along with hymnals and pew envelopes. Masks were required. Sanitizing was/is done prior to each service. It was truly a year of challenges -- and continues to be.

As we reflect on the past year, the Staff Support Committee wishes to give grateful thanks and acknowledgement to all of our staff --

Special thanks to **Pastor O'Brien** for his continued Christian Leadership. Many thanks to him for his inspiring weekly messages, his visitations (in-person when permitted and by phone), comforting the ill and bereaved, leading our youth, his countless meetings and his immeasurable services to both our members and to others in need. Through Pastor's guidance the people of God at St. John/Williston continue to love each other and to serve together in doing God's work. We share God's ministry together and many opportunities for ministry continue to be opened to us. The congregation looks forward to the future in growing our congregation. The people of St. John are very fortunate to have the leadership of Pastor O'Brien.

Our new **Office Administrator**, Amelia Burkey, keeps our office running in an efficient and organized manner. Amelia joined our Staff in late-September, replacing LisaAnne Gregg who left St. John to become the Pastor at Zion/Elliston. Amelia continues in her extra efforts to oversee the huge array of administrative activities/duties in an effective and timely manner. Amelia's experience allows our congregation to function at a very smooth pace. She is organized, prepared and controlled, with new ideas very well thought out. This being the year of the Pandemic (COVID-19) in our country many of the office duties have also required change.

Our music leaders, too, have taken on a new role due to the pandemic. All music has been performed virtually.

Thanks to **Beckie** for leading the Sunday morning music, playing the organ/piano and directing the choir(s), including the Bell Choir.

Thanks to **Tami** for her musical talents and for providing leadership and guidance for our Saturday Evening worship.

Many thanks to **Paul** for his continued hard work, pride and dedication in maintaining our building and grounds. As our in-house custodian, Paul attends to custodial duties on a day-to-day basis in order to ensure that our church building is maintained in a healthy and safe environment. Paul put in extra effort to sanitize and clean in order to protect during the pandemic. He is responsible for performing custodial duties, minor maintenance and other miscellaneous duties. Paul is also responsible for snow removal from sidewalks and entrances.

**Andy Kessler** is our **Virtual Technology Coordinator**. Andy has worked very closely with Pastor and is a key player in keeping our virtual services on Facebook and YouTube. Andy records weekly with our musicians and does the entire setup for each virtual service.

Thanks to **Richard Crosskill** who kept our lawn mowed and our grounds looking beautiful. Dick has now retired.

We have contracted with **A&B Clean Team** for weekly (Friday) cleaning of the entire building. Thanks to Amanda and Barb for stepping up during the pandemic and putting extra focus weekly on our entire building, including the sanctuary, for COVID sanitizing and disinfecting.

Many thanks also to our very energetic, supportive, enthusiastic **volunteers** who continually work together with the power of the Holy Spirit. Countless good things continue to happen here at St. John. We are God's people -- chosen to do God's work. We are blessed to be God's messengers of love in our little corner of the world -- Williston.

Should anyone in the congregation have any concerns, suggestions or comments regarding the church, the Pastor or any of our staff, please contact any one of the Staff Support members. This committee is open to hear any observations or remarks that you may have to help make St. John/Williston a more enjoyable, pleasant, enlightening and informative place of Christian Worship. We encourage your feedback.

God's Blessings,  
The Staff Support Committee





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## ***ELCA Future Church design affirmed by ELCA Church***

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has affirmed the proposed Future Church design that is focused on a renewed purpose to activate the entire church so that more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The council, which serves as the ELCA's board of directors and legislative authority for the church between churchwide assemblies, held its electronic meeting Nov. 12-14.

Future Church is based in the belief that members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization must work together to share the powerful witness of the gospel in the world and to invite more new, young and diverse people to experience God's grace in action. The new design identifies three priority areas: a welcoming church that engages new, young and diverse people; a thriving church rooted in tradition and radically relevant; and a connected, sustainable church that shares in a common purpose and direction.

The Future Church structure will be implemented in the churchwide organization on Feb. 1, 2021. The structure will introduce three new home areas: Christian Community and Leadership, led by the Rev. Philip Hirsch; Innovation, led by Ms. Mikka McCracken; and Service and Justice, led by the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. Approximately 5% of the churchwide organization staff will be separated as a result of the new design.

For more than 30 years the ELCA has experienced a rich history of ministry, but the church has also witnessed a pattern of significant decline with aging members and a membership profile that does not reflect the diversity of God's creation.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton told the council that the COVID-19 pandemic had brought into sharper focus the need to respond more quickly to this rapidly changing world.

"Whether there had been a pandemic or not, we know we need to change. I think the pandemic helped us to see the urgency," Eaton said. "We are presenting this design because we believe that this is the way God will enable us to move more quickly, more faithfully, and reach more people so that more people may know the way of Jesus."

William B. Horne II, ELCA vice president and chair of the Church Council, said he believes the new design provides the opportunity to be church together, bringing about collaboration throughout the broader church.

In response to the continuing trends in membership and diversity and the data from an innovation readiness survey, the following new criteria were affirmed for the ELCA:

1. Prioritize the engagement of new, young and diverse people.
2. Unite all expressions of the church (congregations, synods and the churchwide organization) into one church—together.
3. Align decision-making, accountability and leadership where best suited.
4. Operate in agile, flexible and speedy ways.
5. Act based on data and measurable impact.
6. Eliminate silos and divisions.



# December Highlights

## Council Meeting Minutes Zoom/In Person-

### December 17, 2020

Meeting Opened at 7:05pm by President Rick Buhrow

**Devotions** were from Bread for the Day Psalm 89 , led by Pastor O'Brien

Secretary minutes approved

### **Pastor's Report:**

<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>Nov.</b>	<b>YTD 2020</b>
in Person average	<b>48</b>	<b>157.7</b>
On-Line average	<b>174.65</b>	<b>178.4</b>

### **Numbers:**

11 hospital/homeland visit/individual or family meetings

7 committee/group meetings

4 community/youth/fellowship events

4 professional/clergy activities

4 classes/Bible studies

1 special services

2 funerals

**Funerals:** I presided at a committal for Jean Rollins on November 23

### **Dive-Thru Communion**

This Sunday (12/20)AT 10:45am for those who would like to receive the sacrament but aren't quite ready to return to in-person worship in the sanctuary.

### **Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve worship has been recorded. Andy is in the process of putting the videos together. The worship service will play live on Facebook at 4:00pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to worship at the same time as their St. John family. It will also be available any time after that on Facebook or YouTube.

**Financial Report:** Kent Deventhal reported that the Mission Fund rates came from the Bank wrong and was noticed by Al Brown. The bank corrected. Budgeted income was down for November. Year to date income compared to 2019 still shows a 1% increase. Expenses are down for the Boards as well as water, gas and electric due to lack of in-person worship and activities.

Fred Lammers presented the 2011 Budget Worksheet. The budget will be very similar to the 2020 budget. The total of the combined Board budget was reduced by approximately \$3000. The only other notable change was to provide a Tech salary under contract personnel.

This 2021 budget is due to this year's situation. The 2022 budget may be higher. Diana Pfaff reminded all that any board needing money for a project should just present their project. Diana Pfaff made the motion to accept the 2021 Budget recommend from the Finance Committee. Gary Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Rick thanked the committee for completion of the budget.

**Christian Community Life:** Marcia Morgan read the report from Cheryl Berger:

Our church did an awesome job serving in November.

We served 33 families and 73 total people at the Food Pantry. Bauman sells tickets at their dealership and that amount is divided amongst all of the organizations, our portion was \$155.67: we sold \$2985.00 and that totals \$3140.67 total to the pantry. Since 2013, the Genoa Food Pantry has received \$24,270.00 from selling car raffle tickets! Thank you to everyone!

**Cindy Hartman has informed the Food Pantry board she is resigning on 12/31/2020. So, we do have an opening for that position. If anyone is interested!**

Shopping for the Stars - We had a very nice selection of Christmas gifts for the Luther Home of Mercy Residents. Thanks for all your support and to Jane and Richard Phillips for making the stars and their delivery service.

**Parish Education:** Kim Sommers reported that the Parish Ed Christmas Party will be this Sunday!

We will be ringing bells at the Millers Market on Tuesday December 22.

**Worship Life:** Deanna Neuman reported the Longest Night Service has been recorded. CD's and DVD's are available.

Andy Kessler will put the service on line.

The Christmas Eve service is also recorded and is 82 ½ minutes long. It will be posted on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and available on Facebook and You Tube. CD's and DVD's will be available. The first drive-thru communion had 35 participants.

**Property:** Gary Johnson reported the nativity display was set up. The mower deck removed and snow blade installed. The bad breakers for light by altar were replaced as LED bulbs outside social hall. John oiled and serviced the blowers in sanctuary.

**OLD BUSINESS: Nominating committee update:** Diana Pfaff reported the committee has completed the full 2021 nominations for Church officers and Board Members. The committee enjoyed talking to all the members and “catching up” with people not seen in a while. Rick thanked the committee for all their hard in completing the ballot for 2021. Diana reported the installation of officers will be installed the weekend of December 30/31.

**Annual Meeting:** Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2021. It was proposed we have the meeting in the sanctuary following worship at 10:45am without our usual food or meal. However, it is unlikely that we will be able to achieve a quorum for an in-person meeting in January. It was proposed that we allow people to connect through Zoom which would be possible in the sanctuary. We would need someone to act as host and take virtual attendance. And zoom would fulfill the ELCA’s recommendation to have a format that allows for two-way communication. However, our constitution does not have the provision for online meetings beyond the congregational council( we are missing C10.08 in our constitution. C10.08 reads *This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. The extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.* It was the decision of the Council to share this information with the congregation(email and newsletter) and ask if anyone has a problem with a combined in-person and zoom Annual Meeting. There should not be anything that requires a written ballot vote this year. There will be a budget vote and a nomination vote. This may turn out to be a good way to include some of the folks who usually don’t get to attend our Annual Meetings. If someone does have a problem with this plan, please let Pastor, Rick Buhrow or the church office know by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Attendance would be taken on Zoom, comments and voting would be through “chat” and the session would be recorded. Pauses by the host would need to be longer to accommodate the attendees.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Annual Report:** All Reports, including the reports from each Board must be in to Amelia by January 4, giving Amelia time to compile the Annual report to the congregation by January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Committee Meeting will be January 14 at 7:00 pm**

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 21 at 7:00 pm.**



Our Stephen Ministry is here to help through the Holidays!

When we’re going through a tough time, we often feel pressured to “be strong.” But pushing down your feelings to put on a brave face often only makes things harder. True strength isn’t being unemotional and completely independent; it’s letting yourself be human. Our Stephen Ministers are here to help you through the process. For more information, please call or see Pastor O’Brien or contact the church office.

#### Email Reminders

**If you would like to be notified about events, activities, schedule changes, etc. through email, send an email to [pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org) and ask to be added to the list. We maintain a mailing list through Google Groups and you can remove yourself at any time.**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Budget Review Meeting

Sunday January 17 at 10:45am

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday January 24 at 9:45a

### Installation of elected officers/committee members

January 30/31 at worship



# faith and finances

## St. John Lutheran Church Statement of Income and Expense As of November 30, 2020

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	282,300	28,623	22,238	78%	256,561	252,601	98%	250,094	1%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	33,791	30,833	91%		
Board/Ministries	15,000	1,183	1,308	111%	13,536	8,541	63%		
Staff Salaries	99,000	8,257	9,647	117%	90,092	91,758	102%		
Staff Benefits	58,000	4,833	4,781	99%	53,166	47,935	90%		
Operating Expenses	72,300	5,033	3,679	73%	67,166	58,317	87%		
Expense Totals	282,300	22,264	22,373	100%	257,751	237,384	92%		
Income less Expenses		6,359	(135)		(1,190)	15,217			

### 2020 Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	6,406
Endowment Fund	119,814
Savings	31,591
Activity Center Savings	319,700
Music Fund	4,853
HVAC Fund	6,170
Future Development	38,448
Courtyard	7,650
Memorials	8,271
Youth	24,343
Scholarships	87,556
Other	6,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>661,135</b>



**Online Giving**

**Giving made easy!**

An easy, safe, convenient way to support our vision and mission – anywhere, any time!

**GET STARTED!**

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play

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 LisaAnne in the office.

# 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 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 <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 \$ _____	
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: _____ ⑆123456789⑆ 123 123456 0001 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.



## Happy Birthday!


Edward Gilbert III	1/1	Edna Sandrock	1/21
Chad Hartman	1/2	Melissa Grosjean	1/22
Todd Kapp	1/2	Shawn O'Brien	1/22
Dean Lowe	1/2	Hudson Carr	1/23
Michaela Goldstein	1/4	Ray Frederickson	1/23
Micah Mack	1/4	Abbie Nissen	1/23
Clarence Smithers	1/6	Ella Grosjean	1/24
Linda Bauman	1/7	Samuel Horvath	1/24
Erin Huber	1/7	Roger Jensen	1/24
Charles Vogelbacher	1/8	Ethel Schimmel	1/25
Ronald Gerkensmeyer	1/9	Scott Wildman	1/26
Arnold Sutter	1/9	Sophia Cashen	1/28
Betsy Rossler	1/10	Calvin Nelson	1/29
Dakota Sheahan	1/10	Cali Quigg	1/29
Kurtis Lee	1/12	Allen Harder	1/30
Nicholas LaRue	1/13	Allison Bench	1/31
Rachel Nissen	1/13	Robert Bench	1/31
Michael Benadum	1/16	Jessica Hartman	1/31
Taysen Brossia	1/17	Alaina Simok	1/31
Zane McPherson	1/17	Emily Threet	1/31
Frank Ulrich	1/17		
Angel Simok	1/19		
Michael Mann	1/20		
James Vogelbacher	1/20		

## Happy Anniversary!

Robert and Kathy Bench	1/14
Sheldon and Marie Overmyer	1/15
Lee and Debbie Wehner	1/16
Allen and Judith Yockey	1/20

# JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> <i>Happy New Year!</i>	<b>2</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>3</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>4</b> WELCA 7pm	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>10</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Committee Night	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Council Meeting  	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
<b>24</b> 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages!  9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!  	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Blankets	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

**Volume 0672 Issue 297**

**January 2021**



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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) 8:45 AM**

**Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM**

**\*Visit us on Facebook**