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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

"I was told there were not supposed to be preludes or postludes during Lent. Is this something Lutherans aren't supposed to do?"

I'm not exactly sure where this idea came from, but the short answer to your question is; *preludes and postludes are okay. There are no restrictions widely observed by Lutherans about not having pre or post worship music during Lent.*

But of course, short answers don't always tell the whole story, so we need a long answer... While there are no written rules about such things, to keep the penitential, reflective, repentant feel of the season of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter) we often change some of the things we do during worship for this season. For example, it is common practice to remove the "Hallelujahs" during Lent. It's not a rule, per se; there are no liturgical police who will ticket us if an "Hallelujah" happens to slip in. Rather avoiding the word is something we do to remind us that Lent is a more introspective, penitent time of the church year. Plus, it's very impactful to shout "Hallelujah!" on Easter after we have been forgoing the word for six weeks.

The same is true with the issue of music. Music in Lent tends to be more subdued and reflective to keep us mindful of the season. You've probably noticed that the hymns in the "Lent" section of the hymnal are not very upbeat and cheerful. That's intentional in keeping with the theme/ mood of the season. Therefore, similar to the Hallelujahs, we save the trumpets and full organ on "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" for Easter. Prelude and postlude music during Lent is different as well, but for Lutherans it is generally not absent.

It *is* common practice to not have prelude or postlude music during the great three days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). The Triduum (a fancy word for those three days) is to be treated as one service that begins on Thursday (with a prelude) and ends on Sunday (with a postlude). So, following this practice would mean there should be no postlude on Maundy Thursday, neither pre nor post on Good Friday, and no prelude on Easter morning. But... every congregation I have been a part of for 25 years has had a prelude on Easter morning, which illustrates all this is related more to practice than rules.

The technical term for this type of thing is *adiaphora* (from Greek literally means "indifferent things") which refers to a thing that exists outside of moral categories, something that in and of itself is neither approved nor condemned. There are neither rules requiring nor rules forbidding pre or post worship music during Lent. It is adiaphora. It can go either way based on what is most appropriate for the situation. In our cases, the pastor, musicians, and Worship Life Committee all sit down and determine which types of music are most appropriate based on the season of the church year, the common practices of the Lutheran tradition, the setting or mood we are seeking to convey, the musical gifts of the congregation, etc. Our challenge is to make sure we have good reasons for why we do what we do. There may be times when we *do* forgo prelude or postlude during our time of worship. We might do it to appreciate silence, or because it fits the season of the church year, or because absence could help us reach one of the above-mentioned goals. Those would be good reasons. Forgoing prelude or postlude music because "We're not supposed to...", "We've never/always done it that way...", or "This book from a different denomination says such and such..." are not necessarily good reasons.

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.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 16, 2022

11:00AM

All Ages Invited to Grade 5
Goodie Bags for Everyone
Drawing for Easter Baskets

Easter Breakfast

April 17, 2022

8:30AM-9:30AM

Scrambled Eggs, Sausage,
Fruit and Assorted Sweet Rolls
Coffee, Tea, Milk or Juice

Free Will Donation

**Catechism Students Help is Needed for both
Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast.**

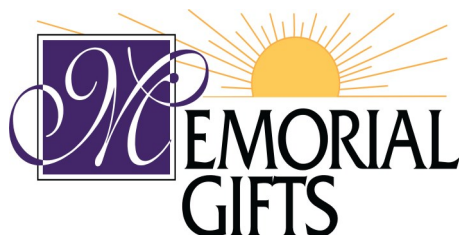
Service points will be given.

Sign Up Sheets are posted by Pastors office door.

**Faith Practice
#3 Readings
PSALMS**



April 4- Psalm 52
April 11- Psalm 53
April 18- Psalm 54
April 25- Psalm 55
May 2- Psalm 56



In Memory of Richard Ferne
Lowell and Diane Hartman
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

In Memorial of Clyde Sandrock
Mary Schimming

In Memory of Clayton Strobridge
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer



Join us
for a free, fun filled
afternoon
as we gather for
**Family Movie
Time!**

Now Showing:

SING

Who: Everyone! Bring family, bring a friend, bring a neighbor

What: A family friendly movie, candy, popcorn, beverages

When: Saturday, April 30, 2022 1:00PM

Where: St John Lutheran Church, Social Hall

Bring a chair / pillow / blanket / anything to sit on
(we will have the standard chairs if you do not wish to bring something)

Women of the **ELCA**

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Circle Meetings

Esther Circle

2022 Meeting Dates:
April 5th, 2pm Social Hall

Rebekah Circle:

2022 Meeting Dates:
April 5th, 7pm Lounge

2022 Acolyte Schedule

Saturday

April

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

May

7 Kennedy Donnelly
14 Emma Morgan
21 Lindsay Krumnow
28 Benjamin Sommers

Sunday

April

3 Aiden Johnson
10 Lucas Titgemeyer
17 Caleb Hays
24 Logan Hays
May 1st Lily Sondergeld

May

8 Aiden Johnson
15 Lucas Titgemeyer
22 Caleb Hays
29 Logan Hays



A special thanks to my church family for all the prayers for my brother, Donald Witt, while he was in Hospice. Also thank you for all the phone calls, sympathy cards, visits and food. It was all appreciated not only by me and my family but by Shirley and Mike. We will miss him, but know that he is in a much better place.

Margaret Berger



We would like to thank everyone that helped set up, prepare, serve and clean up for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. A big thank you to the youth and scouts for all their help. Through everyone's generous free will offering we were able to give the Blessing Box \$652.00 for supplies.

Christian Community Life Committee

OUR BLESSING BOX

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

Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!

If you would be willing to help as an usher or lector, please sign up outside the church office. Now accepting volunteers! If you have any questions please see Pastor Shawn or contact the church office.



Love. Grow. Serve.

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

**Deadline for the
May newsletter is**

Monday, April 25 @ 9AM

**Please send articles and/or
information to**

office@stjohnwilliston.org.



**"Creating and nurturing life
changing relationships
based on the love of God in
Jesus Christ, so that we may
grow in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."**



Amelia Burkey
Office

Administrator

**8:30 am—2:30
pm**

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org

Puzzle!

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

BEGIN

END



Easter It's ALL about Jesus and what He did
is not about the bunny or the eggs
1 Peter 2:24
about the Jesus and what He did



4



BY NOW YOU KNOW that St. John is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay people, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-on-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

BUT DID YOU KNOW that we have a small library of books available for members to borrow? Take a look at what we have to offer:

“Cancer - Now What?” For those with Cancer and loved ones helping them, navigate the medical, emotional, and spiritual challenges that Cancer brings. (This is the only book we have several of, so if you would like to keep it, you may)

“Christian Caregiving” Readers learn how to rely on God as the Caregiver.

“Joy Comes in the Morning” The author reassures the reader of Christ’s love in the midst of life crisis. Devotions included.

“201 Great Questions” This book helps you start conversations, stimulate discussions, and strengthen existing relationships.

“Coping with Anxiety” If you suffer from anxiety, you may try to avoid situations that cause you to feel uneasy. But avoidance isn’t the answer and letting your fears and worries constantly hold you back will keep you from living the life you truly want.

“Bible Promises for You” With over 80 topics, you’re sure to find just the right word of encouragement when facing a challenge or looking for direction.

“Speaking the Truth in Love” Readers learn how to be an assertive Christian.

“Messy Spirituality” Do you feel like you don’t pray enough, read the Bible enough, share your faith enough, not spiritual enough? This book was written for those of us who don’t feel like we do Christianity right.

“Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart” For anyone who has ever felt unsure how to address another person’s suffering.

If you’re interested in borrowing a book, please see one of the Stephen Ministers or Pastor and we’d be glad to show you where the books are located.

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

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

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

April Stewardship

How well do you care for and use everything that God has given you-not just possessions and wealth but relationships, creativity, special talents, intelligence, time, everything? Using all our gifts wisely and for godly purposes is what being a steward is all about. And it's the key to being a disciple.

April Stewardship Prayer

Lord, we know that all we have comes from you. Teach us to share willingly our time, talents, prayers and resources with a joyful and loving heart.
Amen

*Grow your faith
through generosity.*





Social Hall and Basement Rental Guidelines

Guidelines for Social Hall and Basement Rental have been updated and finalized as follows. Copies of this rental agreement can be found in either kitchen (basement and/or social hall) or can be obtained from Amelia in the church office.

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF THE SOCIAL HALL AND/OR BASEMENT AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

1. Cost of the room and janitor's time is **\$50.00 for members (\$150 for non-members*)**. Please send this payment to the church office **BEFORE** the rental date. **The reservation cannot be confirmed until payment is received.**
 2. **No alcoholic beverages** are to be consumed on church grounds.
 3. **Smoking is not permitted** within the church building nor on the church grounds.
 4. Each group is responsible for **cleaning** up after themselves. Leave the space as you found it. The custodian will dispose of trash. Please have it bagged and sitting near the trash cans in the hall. Please be sure to turn off all lights before you leave.
 5. Those using the room should **provide** their own table service, paper products, etc. We ask that all tables be covered with plastic table cover (purchased at Gordon Food Service {GFS}). Hot dishes and large foil serving pans **MUST** be set on Formica mats which can be found in the southwest lower corner cabinet.
 6. **No parking** of vehicles in front of parking lot entrance doors or in front of adjacent garage. Please use the parking lot so as not to block the garage. **Please** inform your guests so that cars do not have to be moved.
 7. **Please do not slide tables and chairs.** Picking them up as they are moved prevents scratching of the floor's finish. Please remember to turn off all lights -- check the bathroom lights, etc.
 8. **Reservations** to use the room may be made by contacting the church office. For members making the reservation, they **MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE** at the gathering. Reservation must be made by the party desiring to use the facility. Members are not allowed to make reservations for non-members.
 9. **Please supervise children and do not allow them to roam around the building or play on the elevator.**
 10. **NO** decorating with **GLITTER, CONFETTI** or anything that tends to spread or that sticks to surfaces.
 11. **Rental times** on week days (Monday – Friday) are 9:00 a.m. – out by 8:00 p.m. On weekends hours of rental are limited to Saturday 9:00 a.m. – out by 4:00 p.m., or start after 6:00 p.m. – out by 8:00 p.m. Sunday events must start after 11:00 a.m. – out by 8:00 p.m.
- If you need the building to be opened for your event please notify the church office. For concerns during the event, you may contact Paul at 419-297-0217.

***Non-members** must contact Diane Gerkenmeyer (419-836-7052) or Carol Vargo (419-836-8569) for further instructions.

Church Council Highlights

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – 3.24.22

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Jennifer Nelson, Donna Mathews, Melissa Hayes, Kim Sommers, Ron Gerkenmeyer, Audrey Milbrodt, Gary Johnson, Kent Delventhal, and Pam LaRue

Devotions led by Pastor:

Luke 15: Grace Unbounded Lent Devotion from Grace Lutheran in Indiana

February secretary minutes approved: Motion made by: Donna Mathews and Motion seconded by: Audrey Milbrodt

Pastor's Report:

Attendance:

- In person average for February 2022 - 111.8
- Online average for February 2022 - 106.7

Lenten Worship

- Midweek worship continues March 30 and April 6 at 11am. Holy week worship will be Maundy Thursday (4/14) and Good Friday (4/15) at 7pm.
- Easter worship on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 9:45am.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee Report: (report included in council packet)

Kristina Wildman, Jennifer Nelson and Kent Delventhal

- Expenses: We are 97% of monthly budget and 95% of year to date budget.
- Income: We are 98% of our monthly budget and 94% of our year to date budget.
- Income over expenses: We are currently \$3,572 compared to our budget of \$3,865 on the monthly budget and \$5,193 compared to our budget of \$4,960 of our year to date income over expenses.

Christian Community Life: Donna Mathews

- Food Pantry: On February 21st they served 24 families.
- At the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper we served 75 people and had 10 carry out orders. From the Free Will donations we were able to give The Blessing Box \$652.00 for supplies. The committee would like to thank everyone for their help.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers

- Easter egg hunt will be Saturday April 16th at 11:00 AM. We are asking for confirmation youth to volunteer to help stuff eggs, set up and assist during the hunt. Please arrive at 9:00 AM to begin preparing. Service hours will be awarded. We are asking the congregation for donations of small, individually wrapped candy that will fit into Easter eggs.
- The Easter breakfast will be Sunday, April 17th at 8:30 AM.
- Parish Ed is hosting a movie day, Saturday, April 30 at 1 PM, featuring the movie "Sing". Drinks, popcorn and candy will be provided.
- We are beginning to make plans for Vacation Bible

School.

- We are collecting noisy offering on April 16-17 and May 21-22 to help with Vacation Bible School costs.

Worship Life: Audrey Milbrodt

- Wednesday Lenten services – Ron G. and Phil M. are serving as sound techs for these services. Need more ushers! Leaders are signed up except the last Wednesday, April 6th.
- Looking for a volunteer to direct the kids' bells for Easter – on Saturday and Sunday.
- Confirmation will be Saturday, May 21. Amelia was informed of the weekend date and order forms for gowns and Bibles were made and the photographer will be called.

Property: Gary Johnson

- Met with rep from GEM Energy for bid proposal for sanctuary AC system.
- Agreed with proposed amendments to Social Hall/ Basement rental guidelines suggested by Diane.
- Anna Sommers presented her Eagle Scout project idea for shelving in the upstairs storage room for the mini pantry. Property agrees with the project and has given her approval to move forward. Part of the project will involve moving items currently stored in the room, part of which is disassembled extra pews. We don't foresee a future reassembly and need for these pews and are entertaining ideas for their future.
- Andy Kessler presented his proposal for phone and Wi-Fi upgrade for the church. Also, plan is to convert phone system over to a VOIP system, with a monthly savings of approximately \$50. Only possible hiccup would be for the fire alarm system. Still waiting to hear back from Protegis on their proposal. Finance is aware of proposal, and there are funds in the Tech account to cover said proposal. Property agrees with proposal and has given Andy approval for acquisition of needed equipment.

Old Business:

- Is there a group for reviewing constitution and financial audits in 5 years. The church self audits. Scouts have to do their audits separately. Kim will get with Amy about that.

New Business:

- Where will the Lenten services donations go. The finance committee will make a recommendation in the near future.
- Last committee meeting a family approached Christian community life about getting new high chairs for upstairs and downstairs. A family would like to donate two chairs to the church. Going to talk with the ladies of church about storage, maintenance, and safety.
- **Next Committee Mtg:** Thursday, April 14th, will follow the Maundy Thursday service.
- **Next Council Mtg:** Thursday, April 21st.



February

Finance report

| | Full Year | Month to Date | | | Year to Date | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| | | Budget | Actual | % | Budget | Actual | % | Prior Year | % Growth |
| Income: * | 290,000 | 21,019 | 20,524 | 98% | 46,481 | 43,913 | 94% | 40,528 | 8.4% |
| * does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS included. | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | | | | | | |
| Benevolence | 38,000 | 2,958 | 2,958 | 100% | 5,917 | 5,917 | 100% | | |
| Board/Ministries | 11,900 | 992 | 724 | 73% | 1,983 | 952 | 48% | | |
| Staff Salaries | 105,500 | 8,537 | 8,000 | 94% | 17,433 | 16,746 | 96% | | |
| Staff Benefits | 63,100 | 5,258 | 4,736 | 90% | 10,517 | 9,344 | 89% | | |
| Operating Expenses | 71,500 | 7,139 | 7,679 | 108% | 15,591 | 16,147 | 104% | | |
| Expense Totals | 290,000 | 24,884 | 24,097 | 97% | 51,441 | 49,106 | 95% | | |
| Income less Expenses | | (3,865) | (3,572) | | (4,960) | (5,193) | | | |

Dedicated Fund Balances

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Building/Development | 5,432 |
| Endowment Fund | 124,722 |
| Savings | 48,219 |
| Activity Center Savings | 330,306 |
| Music Fund | 4,878 |
| HVAC Fund | 31,910 |
| Future Development | 38,543 |
| Courtyard | 9,260 |
| Memorials | 5,891 |
| Youth | 24,399 |
| Good Samaritan | 10,553 |
| Scholarships | 88,857 |
| Other | 12,351 |
| Total | 735,320 |

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 | Google play

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

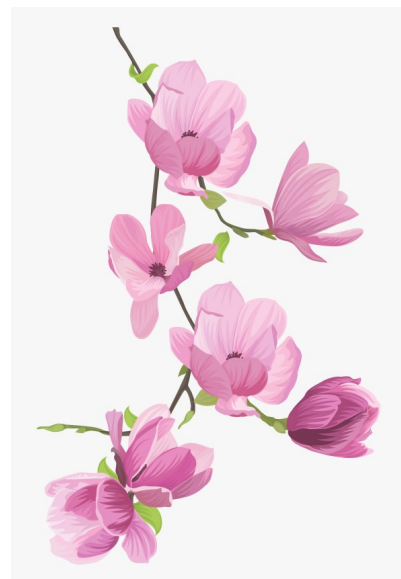
If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance - Jennifer Nelson, Kent Delventhal or Kristina Wildman

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



Happy Birthday!

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Janet Clough | 4/2 | Shirley Frederickson | 4/18 |
| Shirley Mravec | 4/2 | Joni Hillman | 4/19 |
| Lucas Titgemeyer | 4/2 | Benjamin Netry | 4/20 |
| Craig Blausey | 4/3 | Lucy Witt | 4/20 |
| Scott Martzke | 4/3 | Lauren Hoeft | 4/22 |
| Tracy Orians | 4/3 | Paige Paulson | 4/22 |
| Melissa Clough | 4/4 | Thomas Higginbotham | 4/24 |
| Michael Frederickson | 4/5 | Amy Bihn | 4/25 |
| Alice Siglar | 4/5 | Aaron Delventhal | 4/25 |
| Kaylee Lyle | 4/6 | Brenda Lowe | 4/25 |
| Paul Beamer | 4/7 | Lindsey Cashen | 4/26 |
| Jill Kao | 4/7 | Mason LaRue | 4/26 |
| Karen Cutcher | 4/8 | Alan Brown | 4/27 |
| Evan Nickles | 4/8 | Shane O'Brien | 4/27 |
| Douglas Blausey | 4/9 | Tracy Wojciechowski | 4/27 |
| John Hansen | 4/9 | Tucker Frederickson | 4/28 |
| Natalie Jensen | 4/9 | Richard Crosskill | 4/30 |
| Alexa Sheahan | 4/9 | | |
| Lisa Kessler | 4/10 | | |
| Lauren Martin | 4/10 | | |
| Mallory Nelson | 4/10 | | |
| Laura Frederickson | 4/11 | | |
| Andrew Schloegl | 4/11 | | |
| Jacob LaRue | 4/13 | | |
| Dan Nelson | 4/17 | | |



Happy Anniversary

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Susan & Ronald Kozina | 4/2 |
| Jack & Jill Mathews | 4/4 |
| Kimberly & Ben Sommers | 4/6 |
| Dennis & Linda Vogtsberger | 4/11 |
| Larry & Terrie Ziegler | 4/12 |
| Wayne & Linda Bauman | 4/15 |
| Jeff & Janet Clough | 4/19 |
| Bob & Diane Kapp | 4/20 |
| Kevin & Natalie Symanski | 4/22 |
| Jeff & Cheryl Smarcel | 4/22 |





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 3 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship | 4 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 5 9:00 AM Blankets WELCA Circle Meetings | 6 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11am Lenten Worship | 7 | 8 | 9 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 10 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship | 11 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 12 9:00 AM Blankets | 13 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 14 Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm 8:00 PM Committee Meeting | 15 Good Friday Worship 7pm | 16 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Easter Egg Hunt 11AM |
| 17 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:45 AM Traditional Worship EASTER | 18 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline! No Gospel Discussion | 19 9:00 AM Blankets | 20 No Breakfast Gathering | 21 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 22 | 23 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 24 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship | 25 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 26 9:00 AM Blankets | 27 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 28 | 29 | 30 1pm Family Movie "SING" 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 31 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship | | | | | | |

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Volume 0687 Issue 312
April 2022



April 2022



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419-972-4003 (home)

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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

In person and online!

Worship Hours at St. John
Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM
Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

***Visit us on Facebook**