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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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What does the word LOGOS mean? Is it an acronym for something?

Logos is the Greek word for "word", but it also carries the meaning of speaking, reason, and thought. It is used to talk about knowledge of or study of something, as in psychoLOGY (the study of the mind), bioLOGY (the study of living things), and theoLOGY (the study of God).

A Greek philosopher named Heraclitus first used the term "logos" around 600BC to designate the divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe. This word was well suited to John's purposes. In the prologue to John's gospel he writes, "In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word (*logos*) was with God, and the Word (*logos*) was God." (John 1:1)

John is communicating to his audience "the divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe" is doing something. Then in the next verse when John writes, "and the Word (*logos*) became flesh and lived among us" we immediately make the connection that he is talking about Jesus. In addition, the word would make a callback to Genesis 1 where God created with a spoken word (not "*logos*", but the idea is there). The word also would have reminded John's readers about the prophets who spoke the "word of God" (again not necessarily "*logos*", but the idea is there).

We put all this together and understand John is telling us Jesus is the divine reason or plan who was with God from the beginning. Jesus the *Logos* is the holy speaking, divine reason, and knowledge – the very mind of God. Jesus the *Logos* is connected to creation and revelation. That's the message John was likely attempting to convey when he used the word *logos*.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" is the startling conclusion of John's prologue. The cosmic Christ enters our humanity. It is the supreme moment of visitation of the eternal with the temporal, the infinite with the finite, the ultimate display of divine love.



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.



Remembering with Love

Memorials and Gifts to St. John



In Memory of Norma Jean Gast
Terry Gast

In Memory of Leroy Fowler
Sugarcreek Men's Morning Golf League

In Memory of Clarence Smithers
Carol Rupert
Gertrude Eckermann
Marlene Schober

In Memory of Emory Lasseter
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock

In Memory of Kenneth Sievert
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock
Doris Titgemeyer
Al and Traci Brown
Dean Lowe
Lowell and Elizabeth Hartman
Elaine Gruetter
Lenore Harmeyer
Madelayne Saionzkowski



A big thank you to everyone who helped with Saturday December 18th Salvation Army collection!

This is from Cindy Bench who was in charge of Miller's collection. "...just had a text from the lady in charge of Ottawa county Salvation Army. We took in over \$6400 on 12/18/21.....and that's before our kettles and Oak Harbor grocery store are counted...or loose change. Hooray! Matching money is met. Tell your group thanks for all of their help. We should easily blow by the goal."

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 



Have you checked out our Little Library at St. John?

At the end of the main church hallway is a cart full of books just waiting to be read!

Check 'em out!

Circle and Board Meetings

Esther Circle

2022 Meeting Dates:
January 4th– 2pm in the Social Hall
February 8th
March 8th
April 5th

Rebekah Circle:

2022 Meeting Dates:
January 4th
February 8th
March 8th

2022 Acolyte Schedule

Saturday

January

1 Lindsey Krumnow
8 Benjamin Sommers
15 Olivia Martin
22 Kennedy Donnelly
29 Emma Morgan

February

5 Lindsey Krumnow
12 Benjamin Sommers
19 Olivia Martin
26 Kennedy Donnelly

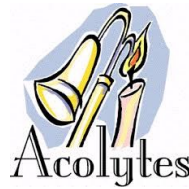
Sunday

January

2 Caleb Hays
9 Logan Hays
16 Lilly Sondergeld
23 Aiden Johnson
30 Lucas Titgemeyer

February

6 Caleb Hays
13 Logan Hays
20 Lilly Sondergeld
27 Aiden Johnson



Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!



Love. Grow. Serve.

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



The 2022 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted near the office.

Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order

Altar or Chancel flowers.

Fill out the blue slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office with your payment.

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

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

Faith Practice
#3 Readings
PSALMS

January 3 – Psalm 39
January 10 – Psalm 40
January 27 – Psalm 41
January 24 – Psalm 42
January 31 – Psalm 43



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! Just fill out an authorization form and see Amelia in the office.

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

February newsletter is

Monday, Jan 24th @ 9AM

Please send articles and/or information to

office@stjohnwilliston.org.



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

Amelia Burkey
Office

Administrator

8:30 am—2:30 pm

Mon. thru Fri.
(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org



CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL

my Sermon NOTES

WHO'S SPEAKING:

DATE:

WHERE IN THE BIBLE?

Book: _____

Chapter: _____

Verse: _____

WHO IS IN THE PASSAGE?

I LEARNED:

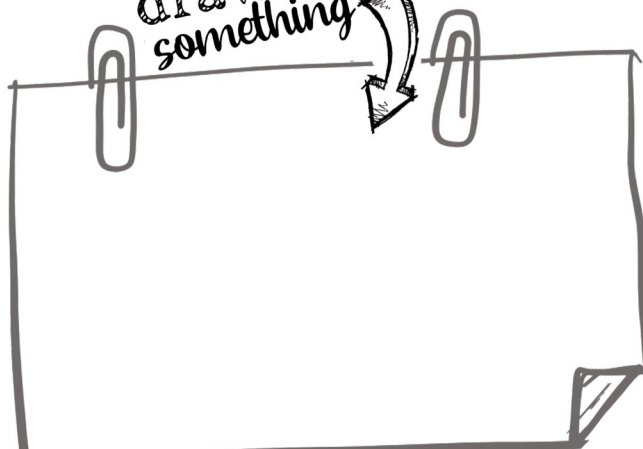
WHAT HAPPENED:

My favorite song:

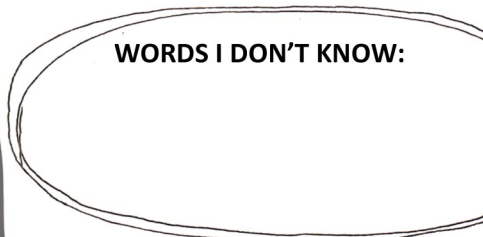


I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND?

draw
something



WORDS I DON'T KNOW:



we are
CHILDREN
of GOD.

ROMANS 8:16

Jesus
loves the
little
children





It's the start of another calendar year – 2022! I have heard and read many saying or writing - “Let's hope we have a better year” or “Let's hope we have a healthier year” or even “Let's hope we can get back to normal this year!” So who is the “we” in getting this done? The “we” is us – you and me. OK. So how do we do it – how do we MAKE it a better year? Each year, at St. John, we have been striving to follow in Seven Faith Practices. I think that's where we start if you haven't already – we each pray daily – find a time that works with your schedule to pray or may I suggest, even throughout the day send a sentence prayer or two. Worship weekly – we are getting back to in person worship. We have grown accustomed to “at home” clothes but now we get back to suits and ties, dresses, casual blue jeans, and now may wear masks even if we are fully vaccinated. We come to church to worship with others, fellowship with others, and support one another. We read and study the Bible which can be done through daily devotions with the devotion book that is available – for FREE! Our church also offers other ways to study God's Word together at Monday morning Bible studies, Circle meetings, and Sunday school, to name a few. Serving at and beyond St. John is the 4th Faith Practice. There are many service opportunities that I don't think I need to start making that list – we see them and hear about them weekly at church and in the bulletin. One service that is available to you is our Stephen Ministers. We are here to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to you that is confidential during times when you feel sadness, grief, loneliness, face hospitalization, changes in health, life transitions that are challenging or any other time you are struggling with life's difficulties. Or maybe you are the spouse or parent of someone going through one of these crises. We are here to help you have a better year by walking along side of you. Call Pastor O'Brien or the church office to learn more and see the benefits from the care of a Stephen Minister.

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.**

Growing as Jesus' Disciples with Seven Faith Practices

We 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



January Stewardship Page

LIVING A STEWARDSHIP LIFE IN 2022

WHAT IS A BIBICAL STEWARDSHIP?

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. Many Christians limit their concept of stewardship by hearing sermons on tithing and calls for church building programs. That barely scratches the surface of God's clearly expressed concept of stewardship for us. Biblical stewardship is much more than your wallet. It is a whole-life responsibility that is a part of being a follower, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

THE PRINCIPLE OF OWNERSHIP

Simply put, it is not your stuff. Our world is consumed with the idea of ownership, possession and having a little but more. Perhaps Paul said it best, "What do you have that you did not receive?" I Corinthians 4:7. Oh, you worked for it? Well, who made it possible for you to breath, much less work? Who gave you the talents and abilities that allowed you to get the job? In all honesty, who got you the job?

THE PRINCIPLE OF REPSONSBILITY

In examining this principle, we run head on into a great American tradition, or at least a strong modern trend, the idea that we have rights and we should hold fast to those rights. It is almost a shame that the founding fathers of these United States did not precede the Bill of Rights with a Bill of Responsibilities. In real life, every right has one or more corresponding responsibilities. That is a literal life truth and biblical one as well.

THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

This principle takes us back to the parable of the talents. The steward who failed in his responsibility over what God entrusted to him was stripped of the talent he had been given. Matthew 25: 26-30.

THE PRINCIPLE OF REWARD

Colossians 3:32-24. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

I tried to think of a clever new phase— 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, says, "consider this simple, daily choice,
With each new dawn and close of day, make a new 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 once 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.

Church Council Highlights

St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

Council Meeting Minutes - December, 2021

Pastor's Report:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Attendance: | in Person average | On-Line average |
| | 174.6 | 178.8 |
| 2020 average | 179.1 | YTD 2021 average 188.5 |

Numbers: 8 hospital/homeland visit/individual or family meetings

4 committee/group meetings
5 Community/youth/fellowship events
5 professional/clergy activities
4 classes/Bible Studies

Bible Discussion Group: Monday morning text study has resumed: 10:00am. If you would be interested in some sort of faith/Bible/topical discussion at a different tie. Please let me know.

Breakfast Gatherings: Continue at the Northwood McDonalds. Join us on Wednesdays after 7:00am.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee report: Kristina Wildman and Kent

Delventhal: Letters were sent to the congregation. Expenses and income are both down. Expenses out of norm were a three-month elevator maintenance bill paid in one month and a replacement dishwasher for the parsonage (came out of kitchen fund). December 19 will be the last offering for the year.

Budget for 2022 was presented. Proposed budget is for \$290,000. This budget is \$20,000 more than the expected income for 2021 or \$270,000. (Current is at \$245,387. Much discussion on cutting the amount to be given to the ELCA. Motion made by Kristina Widman to pass the proposed budget as is. Cheryl Berger seconded. Motion passed with Marcia Morgan descending.

Finance made a motion that the Christmas Eve offering be split between the Kentucky Tornado Relief fund and The Luther Ministry of Mercy. Seconded by Traci Brown. Motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger – Genoa Food Pantry received 66 banana boxes of food and 20 packs of water from the Pack a Pick-up valued at \$2,400. November 23, 2021: 35 families and 70 patrons were served. St John's will be serving February 2022 and July 2022. The winner of the car raffle was Nichole Nitschke of Fremont. The Pantry has purchased two new freezers and a new refrigerator from the Home Depot for roughly \$3,500. Thirty quilts donated by St John were given out to the pantry patrons.

Christian Community Life has the appetizers planned for the Avent Tea. Plans for what to serve at the Annual Meeting in January and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner have been discussed.

Evangelism: Margaret Berger: The Tree Lighting was attended by 35 – 40 people. We thank all who helped in any way. We received \$40.00 plus 2 boxes of food for the Genoa Food Pantry. Expenses for the entire night were \$6.00 as cost was received from Thrivent. Margaret donated the \$6.00.

A rough copy of the directory has been printed and the committee will begin the process of proof reading. We will talk with Amelia as to how the pictures can be done.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers: The Christmas program will be December 19 at 6:00pm with the Advent Tea following. Practice will be Saturday from 9 am to 12:00. Donations from the Christmas program will be given to Joyful Connections, which provides safe and conflict free environments for custody exchanges and supervised visits for Ottawa County.

Stewardship: Carol Beamer: The Bell ringing for Saturday at Millers has been covered. A donation from a member of St John will match all donations up to \$5000 for that day. Pastor to make a sign to post.

Worship Life: Traci Brown – Covid protocols again reviewed. Will continue mask signage as is but make it more obvious with red paper behind signs. Continue social distancing, hand sanitizer, stay home if you are showing symptoms.

Preparations are being made for Christmas Eve services – 4pm, 7pm, and 11 pm. The Christmas Worship guide in the Suburban press was reviewed and it was decided to not put an ad in that but rather make flyers and place in local businesses and locations (similar to what used to be done for Williston Encounter programs)

Dec. 25th (Saturday) and Dec.26th (Sunday) will be pre-recorded and online only. No In-person worship. January 1st (Saturday) and January 2nd (Sunday) will be in-person and streamed online.

Poinsettia orders have been taken. Flowers can be picked up after each service. (Since church will be closed for the next 2 days)

Usher/Lector Sign-up sheets were reviewed – especially for Christmas Eve. There are still a couple of openings. Ushers needed for 7 pm and 11 pm services and Lector needed for 11 pm service as of meeting date.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten services were very briefly discussed and will be finalized in January. Pastor reported that the area Pastors group had a brief discussion regarding services and more to follow.

Property: Gary Johnson – Property has replaced lights on the organ, the dishwasher in the parsonage, and the main exit lights. The women’s restroom and the library will be fixed next year.

OLD BUSINESS: Tim Titgemeyer: The nominating Committee, Jo Elaine Schimming, Janice Sheahan, Doris Titgemeyer, Ellen Wilhelm, Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Chr completed the nominees for Church Officers and Board Members. Tim made a motion to accept the Nominees. Motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Next Committee Meeting will be January 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Annual Meeting is January 23, 2022 following
9:45 Service

Installation of new and old officers will be January 29, 2022
and January 30, 2022 7

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468
www.stjohnwilliston.org (419)836-5144 email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|---|-----|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | ENVELOPE/DONOR # | | DATE | |
| Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____ | | | | | |
| Type of authorization: <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 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th | | FUNDS: <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;">Total \$ _____</div> | |
| 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: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <div style="font-family: monospace; font-size: small;"> 1234567890123 1234567890123 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: _____ | | | | |
| CREDIT / DEBIT CARD | Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card | | | | |
| | Card Number: | | | Expiration Date: | |
| | Name on Card: | | | | |
| | Billing Address (if different from above): | | | | |
| | I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____ | | | | |

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.
We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.
Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 2 No Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship | 3 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 4 9:00 AM Blankets | 5 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 6 | 7 | 8 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 9 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship Youth Mtg. 11am | 10 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 11 9:00 AM Blankets | 12 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 13 7:00 PM Committee Night Meeting | 14 | 15 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 16 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship Budget Mtg. 11am | 17 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 18 9:00 AM Blankets | 19 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 20 7:00 PM Council Meeting | 21 | 22 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship |
| 23 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship Annual Congregation Meeting 11am | 24 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline! 10 AM Gospel Discussion | 25 9:00 AM Blankets | 26 7 AM Breakfast Gathering | 27 | 28 Youth Retreat | 29 Youth Retreat 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship Installation of Officers |
| 30 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship Installation of officers | 31 | | | | | |

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

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January 2022



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419-972-4003 (home)

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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

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**