



Volume 0707 Issue 332
December 2023

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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

Why Preparing for a sermon a week or so ago on the lesson of sorting the sheep and goats I came across the question, "What is Jesus teaching and inviting his disciples to think and do?"

At its heart, this story is about incarnation. (That's the 'churchy' word for God taking on flesh.) We usually hear that word at Christmas; God becoming flesh in the baby Jesus. Jesus is God incarnate; but it goes deeper than that... God has also taken up residence in each one of us as well. With this sheep and goats lesson, Jesus was teaching his disciples that if we want to find him, we look to others. Especially the "least of these" ...

We normally expect to see Jesus in holy places; on mountaintops, in sunsets, in a church/cathedral during worship, in the bread and wine during Holy Communion, or in the Bible when we read our devotional. And Jesus certainly is in all those places... but they may not be his primary residence. Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel... "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

Where do we find Jesus? Jesus is living on the streets... Jesus is in soup kitchen lines and food pantries... Jesus is waiting at the Salvation Army to get a coat... Jesus is in a holding cell at the border... Jesus is in a refugee camp... Jesus is in the hospital, or more likely, suffering outside, because he can't afford to go to the hospital... Jesus is in prison...

There's no way we can misread what Jesus said in this Gospel account; "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." In other words, wherever people are in need, wherever people suffer, wherever people do without their basic needs, Jesus is there. And Jesus is not just there to comfort those who suffer. He is suffering right along with them. That's where Jesus is... With this business of sorting sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus is telling us that he is out in the world right now, waiting - not for a church service to start, but for human contact. For caring. For compassion. For love. The kind of love our Lord meant when he told us to love God and love our neighbors.

We discover that we are doing God's work; we are doing Kingdom work, when we learn to see Jesus is all these people and respond with compassion and love.



Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!



FORERUNNER NEWS

Please note that because of the timing of the Christmas Holiday, the deadline for the **January Forerunner** is on **Monday, December 11th at 9:00 AM.** Thank you for your understanding!

Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!



UPCOMING!

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 following the service. Please planning on attending!

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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@stjohnwilliston.org

Fall/Winter Worship

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

January 2024 newsletter is
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th

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

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow

Office

Administrators

9am—2pm

Monday—Friday





THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all who helped out with the Thanksgiving Dinner (preparing and serving) on Sunday, November 19th. We could have NOT done it without ALL your help and dedication.

God's blessings to all!!

A very special THANK YOU to our church decorating elves for putting up and taking down our decorations for every season all year around. You make the church look so festive and beautiful! Thank you and GOD BLESS YOU!!!



St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the recent contribution of the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. We are so grateful for your generous donation of \$1,000.00 to the pantry from your Sack 4 A Sack donation. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry.

It's wonderful to have the support of the community of giving people. What a nice way to help support events in the community and to give to the pantry.

Sincerely,

Robin Miller, Treasurer

Genoa Area Community Food Pantry



IN MEMORY OF MERLE MORITZ

Diane Dickinson

Al and Traci Brown

Lowell and Diane Hartman



**Thanks to our St. John Staff
for a great 2023!**

**As we reflect on the wonderful
accomplishments of 2023 here at St. John,
we extend an invitation to the congregation
to contribute to**

**“Gifts for our Staff” for their hard work and
dedication through the year.**

**If you feel you would like to
contribute, please**

**use an envelope and mark
“staff gifts”**

**on the front and place it in the
offering plate.**

Thank you!

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, December 5
2:00 p.m.
In the Social Hall

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Monday, December 11
7:00 p.m. at Nancy
Strohscher's house

2024 NEW OFFICE HOURS

M-T-W: 9am-3pm

Thursday: Hours will vary

Friday: Office Closed



HOLIDAY CHURCH HOURS

Closed- December 25th

Church hours will vary

December 26-29

Please call first to see if we
are available.

Emergencies can call Pastor Shawn
at 419-378-1112



Altar Flowers

The 2024 Altar and Chancel Flower
chart is posted on the door
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 and label it flowers
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.**

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

We are using Hirzel Bros. Florists
again this year.

They do such a nice job and are very
customer friendly.

Please pass the word if you know
someone looking for flowers!

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!



St. John Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

6th ANNUAL WILLISTON COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 2, 2023

Meal will be served in the St John Church
basement at 6 p.m.

The tree lighting will be approximately 6:45 p.m.

You are welcome to join us for worship at
5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

No charge, however we ask that you bring
paper products or toiletries for
Nightingales Harvest

This is an organization that provides help to
families with cancer.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee and
Thrivent Insurance Company

ALL ARE WELCOME

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS 2023

Offerings will split between
Elliston Food Pantry and
Luther Home of Mercy- Special projects for
cottages



Change in Christmas Eve Schedule

This year we are combining the "Candlelight" worship service with the choir service to one time of worship **at 7:00pm.**

With attendance numbers decreasing and fluctuating over the years, the Worship Life Committee has discussed on a yearly basis how many Christmas Eve worship services we need to accommodate worshipers yet still be a good use of time and resources of our worship leaders and volunteers. This year, with Christmas Eve falling on Sunday, Worship Life proposed, and the Church Council agreed, we experiment with a change. We will still have three worship services on Christmas Eve, but the schedule will be different...

This year, on December 24th, we will celebrate the Fourth week in Advent at 9:45am (and 5:00p on 12/23). We will celebrate Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and 7:00pm.

Change can be hard, but it's important to not be afraid to try different things. We will seek a way for the congregation to provide feedback and evaluate our experiment after the first of the year. Thank you for your patience and your willingness to adapt and adjust with us.

END OF YEAR FINANCES

Remember to have your December envelopes into the church **NO LATER** than DECEMBER 31st and mailings/drop off need to be received by noon on Friday, December 29th in order to be recognized as a 2023 contribution. This includes any reimbursements too. There are FIVE weekends in **December...so don't forget to use ALL** of those envelopes!



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Will be available the week of December 24th. Please use the 2023 envelopes until the end of the year. Thank you!

WEEKLY EVENTS @ST. JOHN WILLISTON



First Sunday of the month,
October-May
All ages welcome!!!
See you
Dec 3rd at 8:30am!

The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on
Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am.

These beautiful blankets are then distributed to those in need all over the country! Come join us! No experience needed!

Any bed sheets (preferably queen size) are needed for quilt backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office. Join us! You only need to know how to tie a knot!



McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship at
the Northwood McDonald's. We will
gather starting at 7:00 AM and if you
are available, I would like to invite you
to stop by and have breakfast with your
St. John friends.

Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Get those pitching arms ready! Join us for fun on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM
as the Western Ottawa County Dartball League continues its season.

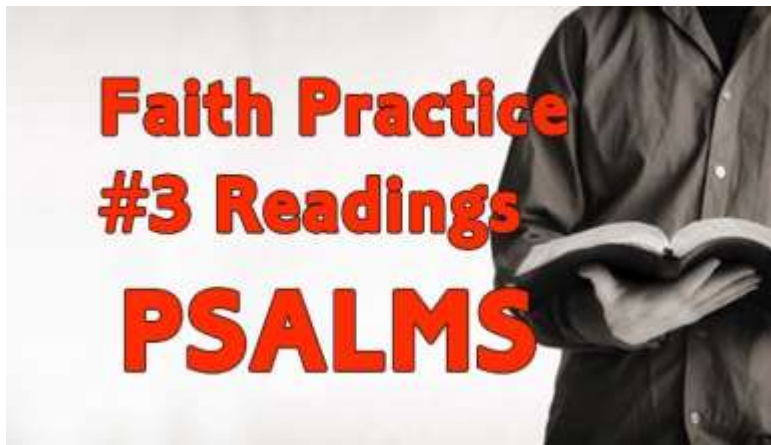
All are welcome. No experience is needed.

All are welcome to come and cheer on our St. John Team, too!
See or call Jeff Schimming for more info. 419-356-3552

Upcoming games:

Dec. 5 7:30 PM Home vs OLOMC
Dec. 12 7:30 PM at Elliston Trinity UCC
Jan. 9 7:30 PM at Genoa St John UCC
Jan. 16 7:30 PM at Elmore St Paul
Jan. 23 7:30 PM Home vs RR St. John





Dec 4 – Psalm 139
 Dec 11 – Psalm 140
 Dec 18 – Psalm 141
 Dec 25– Psalm 142
 Jan 1– Psalm 143
 Jan 8– Psalm 144
 Jan 15– Psalm 145
 Jan 22– Psalm 146
 Jan 29– Psalm 147

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.

The Farwell Discourse (According to John)

Dec. 1 The Death of Jesus Matt. 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:28-37
 Dec. 2 The Burial of Jesus Matt. 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42
 Dec. 3 The Tomb is Guarded Matt. 27:62-66

The Resurrection of Jesus

Dec. 4 The Resurrection of Jesus Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-10
 Dec. 5 The Report of the Guard Matt. 28:11-15
 Dec. 6 Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
 Dec. 7 Jesus Appears on the Way to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13
 Dec. 8 Jesus Appears to His Disciples Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23
 Dec. 9 Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:24-29
 Dec. 10 The Purpose of the Gospel of John John 20:30-31
 Dec. 11 Jesus Commissions the Disciples Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:44-49
 Dec. 12 Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias John 21:1-14
 Dec. 13 Jesus and Peter John 21:15-19
 Dec. 14 Jesus and the Beloved Disciple John 21:20-23
 Dec. 15 Final Authentication John 21:24-25
 Dec. 16 The Ascension of Jesus Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53

Christmas Readings

Dec. 17 Luke 1:1-4
 Dec. 18 Luke 1:5-25
 Dec. 19 Luke 1:26-38
 Dec. 20 Luke 1:39-45
 Dec. 21 Luke 1:46-56
 Dec. 22 Luke 1:57-66
 Dec. 23 Luke 1:67-80
 Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Luke 2:1-7
 Dec. 24 Christmas Day Luke 2:8-20
 Dec. 26 John 1:1-18
 Dec. 27 John 1:19-28
 Dec. 28 John 1:29-34
 Dec. 29 John 1:35-42
 Dec. 30 John 1:43-51
 Dec. 31 Psalm 150



Sack 4 Sack
We will be donating \$1,000.00 to the Genoa Food Pantry this year. Thank you to everyone who donated to this great cause!



SHOPPING WITH THE STARS!
Help us celebrate the spirit of Christmas as we provide wonderful gifts for the residents of the Luther Home of Mercy. Simply pick a star from the tree ...and shop! Then, bring your **unwrapped** gift back to church and place it under the tree.

All gifts must be at church by December 3rd

We are in need of ushers, lectors, acolytes, communion set up and servers for Christmas Eve services at 4pm and 7pm. If you are willing to help out, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex or call the church office at (419) 836-5514 or email office@stjohnwilliston.org . Thank you!!



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

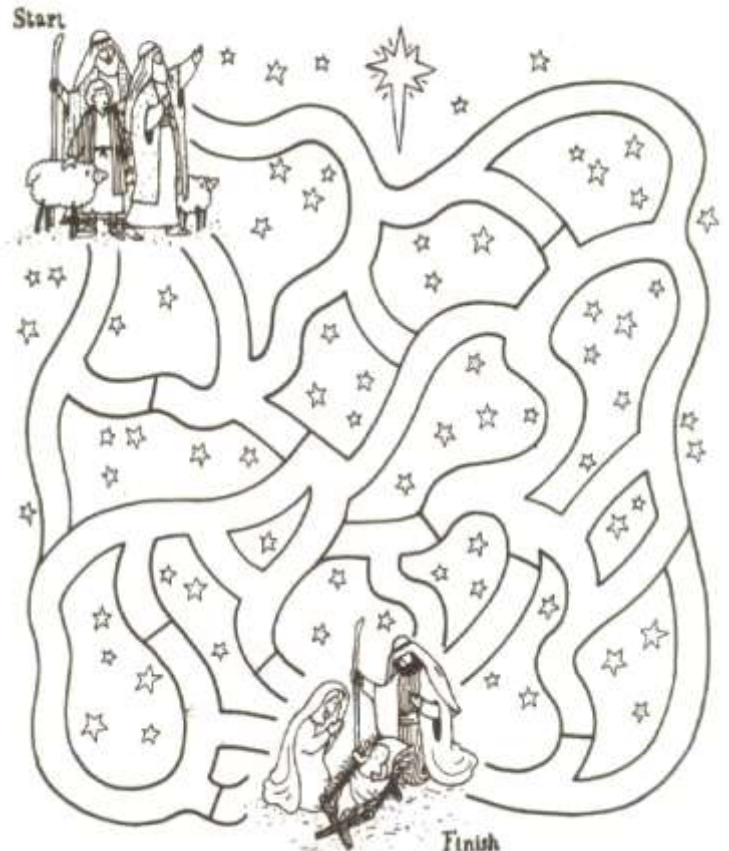
We are looking for members to help serve as Salvation Army bell ringers for Wednesday, December 10, at Miller's in Genoa. We need someone for the 10am-4pm shift. Each shift is two hours. Bell ringers will be at the front of the store. If you would like to volunteer, please see the sign-up sheet located by the office.

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection



Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



Jesus, Gentle Shepherd
This cane of red and white
Proclaims the sweet
love story,
Born on Christmas night.

This cane, you see,
when turned around
Begins your name of Love;
And now becomes
a symbol
Of peace proclaimed above.

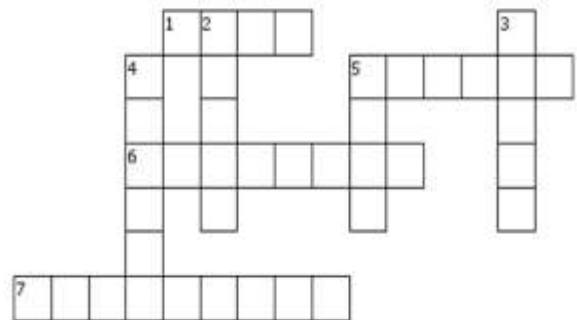
The lively peppermint flavor
is the regal gift of spice,
The white is Your purity
And the red Your sacrifice.

And so this cane
reminds us
Of just how much You care,
And like Your Christmas
gift to us,
It's meant for all to share.

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

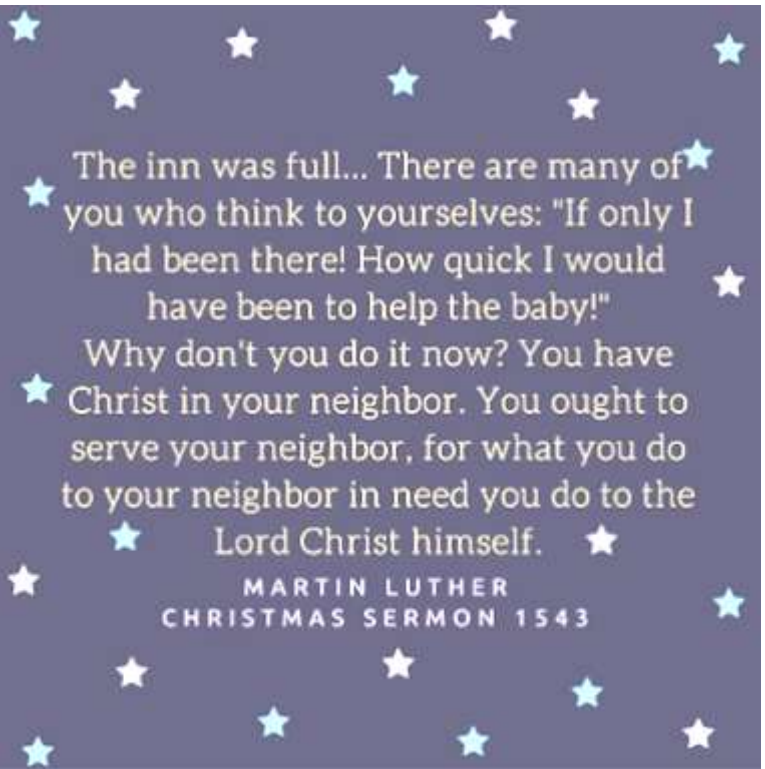
JOSEPH
MARY

ANGEL
SHEPHERD

BETHLEHEM
JESUS

BABY
MANGER

December Stewardship Page



December Stewardship Prayer

Gracious Lord,

Let your goodness reveal itself to us, that we, made in your image, may conform ourselves to it. We cannot imagine your majesty, power and wonder on our own; nor is it fitting for us to try. But your kindness and mercy reach from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below to show us the fruits of your Incarnation. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of your eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and soften our hearts with your tender voice so that we might respond as humble stewards of your active presence in the world. We pray this through Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux



You have special gifts!

And you can use them to serve in worship at St. John!

There are several opportunities to serve at both Saturday and Sunday worship services.

Sign up today to be an usher, communion server, lector or greeter! See Pastor or the office for details!



STEWARDSHIP OF PROPERTY

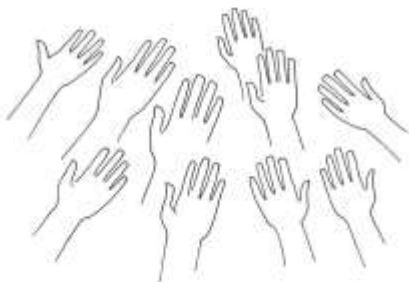
We bring nothing into this world... and we take nothing out of it.

EVERYTHING that we have while we are here comes as a GIFT FROM GOD...

In appreciation, we choose to share a portion of these gifts.

The stewardship of our property is an ongoing process. We give regularly and systematically in proportion to the gifts which we are given...

...the talents which earn us our possessions. Because we love God, we gladly dedicate these gifts to God's service, and give a worthy portion for the care of people in need.



"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
Matthew 1:23

Chicken Paprikash Fundraiser

**Saturday, January 13, 2024
6:00p.m.—7:30p.m.**

The St. John youth would like to invite you to
a Chicken Paprikash dinner on Saturday, January 13th..

We will be serving Chicken Paprikash, Salad, and deserts
from 6-7:30p.

This dinner is to raise money for the youth traveling to the
2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. The number of dinners are
limited. Tickets will be available after worship or in the
church office two weeks prior to the dinner.

Please support
our youth raising
money for their
trip and eat some
yummy food!!



**St. John's Annual Children's
Christmas Pageant
"12 Symbols of Christmas"
December 17, 2023 at 9:45AM**



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

**THE ADVENT TEA WILL FOLLOW THE CHURCH SERVICE
IN THE BASEMENT.**



**Deadline to order
is Dec. 6th!**

ORDER DEADLINE -December 6th!

Please place this order form and payment in an envelope marked with your name and "Poinsettia" in the offering plate, or drop your payment off at the church office.

Please make checks out to St. John.

The deadline to order is Wednesday, December 6th.

Poinsettias will be red or white.

Quantity

_____ \$ 10.00 each

In Loving Memory of: _____

Or In Honor of: _____

Color: Red White

In Loving Memory of: _____

Or In Honor of: _____

Color: Red White

In Loving Memory of: _____

Or In Honor of: _____

Color: Red White

In Loving Memory of: _____

Or In Honor of: _____

Color: Red White

Purchaser's name _____

Phone _____

Total Ordered

_____ plants at \$10.00 = _____ (amount enclosed)

Unwrap the best Gift this Christmas!

Come and Celebrate the birth of Christ
with us at St. John Lutheran Church

12/24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
at 7:00 PM

*No Christmas Day
Services





Dear Friends in Christ,

“You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted” (Psalm 40:5)

The Psalmist recognizes the goodness and the generosity of God, whose deeds and thoughts are uncountable. Though that didn't keep generations of Sunday School students from trying their very best to tally up God's gifts. I am sure you can recall the tune.

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

During these days after Thanksgiving, I have not counted God's many blessings, but I have pondered a few of them. And in the pondering, I find that I am so very grateful.

I have pondered the blessing of Baptism, and the honor of officiating at Rome Josiah Nelson's Baptism at Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville. Rome is the son of Josiah and Ellie and the grandson of Pastor Meg Boger.



I have pondered the blessing of Ecumenical Partnerships, and the honor of preaching and presiding at Pastor Mark Kuhlman's recent Invitation to Extended Service. Pastor Mark is a United Methodist Pastor who is serving at Trilby United Methodist Church and at Messiah Lutheran Church in Point Place.

I have pondered the blessing of Global Connections, and the honor of worshipping with and learning from the people of God in the Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (Mexican Lutheran Church) this past week. Below is Pastor Ricardo Flores and his family at Gracia Iglesia Luterana. Along with Bishop Deborah Hutterer of the Grand Canyon Synod, Presidenté Roberto Trejo of the Iglesia Luterana Mexicana (Mexican Lutheran Church), and myself.

The psalmist is right. God's blessings are too numerous to be counted. But they can be pondered. And in the pondering, we can give thanks.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



November 2023 Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Dan Kessler, Kellie Ulrich, Gary Johnson, Ron Gerkensmeyer, Margaret Berger, Cheryl Berger, & Jennifer Nelson

Pastor's Report:

Worship Attendance: In person average for Oct 2023 - 106.6 compared to Oct 2022 - 110. Online average for Oct 2023 - 68.4 compared to Oct 2022 - 85. **Numbers:** 20 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings. 3 committee/group meetings. 5 community/youth/fellowship events. 7 professional/clergy activities. 1 funeral (Merle Moritz on October 10th.). **Day Care Update:** On November 1, Mike Muslof, Fire Chief, walked through the building. He had some minor suggestions but saw no major issues. We are still waiting on a meeting with an architect who assists with setting up day care sites so she can see the space and give recommendations. **Thanksgiving Worship:** Sunday, November 19th at 5:00p followed by a community meal at 6:00p. **Advent Study:** We will be reading "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. The book is \$17.99 on Amazon, \$13.49 on Kindle. There will be TWO different opportunities to gather (the same material will be covered at both). Monday mornings at 10:00a (11/27, 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18) and Tuesday evening at 7:00p (11/28, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19). If this is something you would be interested in participating in please let me know.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee

Report: Dan Kessler, Jennifer Nelson & Kristina Wildman (report included in packet)
Expenses: We are 93% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year to date budget. **Income:** We are 105% of our monthly budget and 93% of our year to date budget. **Income over expenses:** On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$14,829 compared to our budget of negative \$7,672. Budget for this year was 292,000 this year. Next year they are preliminary recommending a budget of 293,500 for next year. **Thanksgiving offering:** Pastor O'Brien motioned to designate the Thanksgiving offering to the Jerusalem Food Pantry, motioned seconded by Cheryl Berger, motioned passed. **Christmas offering:** Jennifer Nelson motioned to designate the Christmas offering to be split between Lutheran Home of Mercy: Special Projects (The Cottages), and the Elliston Food Pantry, motion seconded by Dan Kessler, motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger

We had a great day for Trunk or Treat. There were a lot of decorated cars! We served 100 hot dogs, along with popcorn, snacks and water. Our committee discussed plans for decorating & serving for the Advent tea. Reminder to have your gifts for Shopping with the Stars by Dec 3rd. **Food pantry minutes:** Patrons: 83 - Families: 38 (includes 3 new families) - Donations: \$2390.00 - Expenses: \$4111.23

Evangelism: Margaret Berger

Final plans were made for the Christmas Tree Lighting. We will decorate the tree on Nov 20 (weather permitting). Set up tables and bake cookies on Friday, Dec. 1. Margaret will check with the Boy Scouts to see if this will interfere with their overnight camp out. Invited reps from Nightingales Harvest to attend. Revisions will be made on the church layout pamphlet.

Parish Education: Deanna Neuman

Not much to report from Parish Ed—nobody could make it so we met via text. Trunk or Treat was a huge success! November Sunday School had 11 kids in attendance. Next Sunday School will be on December 3.

Stewardship: Ron Gerkensmeyer

St. Johns is going to ring the bell at Millers for the Salvation Army, Wed., December 6th. Contact Pam LaRue or Ron Gerkensmeyer to help with the shifts. They are 2 hour increments.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Community Thanksgiving service and dinner have been planned for November 19th. Service at 5 and meal at 6pm. Carol Vargo is preparing food and desserts are being brought in by volunteers. Sign up sheet has been posted. Becky has ordered new music for the Thanksgiving service and Advent music has been chosen. We are still looking for choir and bell choir members. Piano tuning was completed in October.

Property: Gary Johnson

Met with someone from Ace and they spoke about the roof but haven't heard back. Gary Johnson motioned to recommend accepting the proposal from Salgau Roofing for \$15,420 to replace the newer area roof, motioned seconded by Cheryl Berger, motion passed. Looking into potential water issues in the library. Discussed the proposals for repairs on the boilers, but at this time will sit tight.

Old Business:

Nominating committee has been getting together. Please reach out if you would like to be on a committee.

Next Committee Mtg: Thurs., Dec 14, 2023 @7pm **Next Council Mtg:** Thurs., Dec 21, 2023 @7pm

Margaret Berger moved to adjourn the meeting and Jennifer Nelson seconded, motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



Worship Volunteer Schedule



Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

2- Donnelly Family
9- Buhrow Family
16- Jack Mathews
23- Ron Gerkenmeyer
30- Donnelly Family

Lectors

2- Beverly Harder
9- Amy Schloegl
16- Nancy Strohscher
23- Christine Danhoff
30- Beverly Harder

Acolytes

2- Nolan Delventhal
9- Liam Delventhal
16- Lauren Hoeft
23- Jacob Higginbotham
30- Nolan Delventhal

Communion

2- JoElaine Schimming
9- Al & Traci Brown
16- Carol Vargo
23- Nancy Strohscher
30- Ron Gerkenmeyer

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

3- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
10- Jill Kao
17- Titgemeyer Family
24- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
31- Jill Kao

Lectors

3- Diana Pfaff
10- Kellie Ulrich
17- Cebie Titgemeyer
24- Deanna Neuman
31- Tim Titgemeyer

Acolytes

3- Mila McQueary
10- Logan Hays
17- Lauren Hoeft
24- Logan Hays
31- Lauren Hoeft

Communion

3- Margaret Berger
10- Rosemarie Dickinson
17- Tim Titgemeyer
24- Dave/Deanna Neuman
31- Kellie Ulrich

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

6- Ron Gerkenmeyer
13- Jack Mathews
20- Rick & Lori Buhrow
27- Donnelly Family

Lectors

6- Nancy Strohscher
13- Amy Schloegl
20- Jonah Danhoff
27- Beverly Harder

Acolytes

6- Liam Delventhal
13- Jacob Higginbotham
20- Nolan Delventhal
27- Liam Delventhal

Communion

6- JoElaine Schimming
13- Al & Traci Brown
20- Alice Witt
27- Nancy Strohscher

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

7- Titgemeyer Family
14- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
21- Jill Kao
28- Titgemeyer Family

Lectors

7- Jill Kao
14- Kellie Ulrich
21- Melissa Lammers
28- Roland Sandrock

Acolytes

7- Mila McQueary
14- Logan Hays
21- Lauren Hoeft
28- Mila McQueary

Communion

7- Pam LaRue
14- Diana Pfaff
21- Roland Sandrock
28- Cebie Titgemeyer











**NEEDED: Christmas Eve 4pm and 7pm
Services- Worship Assistants
Please sign up by the office.
Thank you!!**

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.

DECEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	27 10:00am -11:00am Advent Study	28 9:00am Blankets 7:00pm -8:00pm Advent Study 7:30pm -8:30pm Dartball	29 7:00am -8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	30	1 6:00pm Boys Scouts-SH overnigher	2  9:00am Boys Scouts-Breakfast/Clean Up 5:00pm Contemporary Worship 6:00pm Christmas Tree Lighting Service
3  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30am Confirmation Class 8:30am -9:30am Sunday School for ALL AGES 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	4 10:00am -11:00am Advent Study	5 9:00am Blankets 2:00pm Esther Circle 7:00pm -8:00pm Advent Study 7:30pm -8:30pm Dartball- Home (OLOMC)	6 Poinsettia Orders Due 7:00am -8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds 10:00am -6:00pm Bell Ringing- Miller's	7 Community Christmas @ St John UCC Genoa	8	9 11:00am -4:00pm Bauman- SH Rental 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
10  <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am The Chosen Series 6:00pm -7:30pm Scouts	11 January Forerunner Deadline 10:00am -11:00am Advent Study 7:00pm Rebekah Circle at Nancy S's house	12 9:00am Blankets 7:00pm -8:00pm Advent Study 7:30pm -8:30pm Dartball@Elliston Trinity UCC	13 7:00am -8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	14 7:00pm Committee Meeting	15	16 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
17  <i>Children's Program</i> 8:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Christmas Pageant 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship- "12 Symbols of Christmas" (in place of sermon) 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am -12:00pm Advent Tea	18 10:00am -11:00am Advent Study	19 No Dartball 9:00am Blankets 7:00pm -8:00pm Advent Study	20 7:00am -8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	21 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	22	23 10:00am -3:00pm Mathews- SH Rental 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
24  <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25  Merry Christmas- Office Closed No Church Services	26 Church Office Closed No Dartball	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
31 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	1  Happy New Year- Office Closed	2 No Dartball 9:00am Blankets	3 7:00am -8:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	4	5	6  EPIPHANY 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

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

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December 2023

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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

Pastor Shawn O'Brien
419-378-1112 cell

E-mail address:
pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office
LisaAnne Gregg
Lori Buhrow,
Office Administrators
Monday –Friday
9:00am-2:00pm
Church Office: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:
office@stjohnwilliston.org

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