



November FORERUNNER

A publication of St. John Lutheran Church Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

“Are we going to do the Reverse Advent Calendar collection again this year?”

Short answer; YES!

For those who aren't familiar... The idea of the “Advent Calendar” dates back to the German Lutherans in the 1800s. It is based on the tradition of writing chalk tally marks on walls or lighting candles to count the remaining days until Christmas. Modern Advent calendars help you count down the days by either moving a little star on a calendar or opening up a little pocket or box to reveal a tiny gift. Since they were very little, we have gotten chocolate Advent calendars for our kids. Each day they can open the numbered window and count down the days until Christmas with a piece of chocolate.

The Reverse Advent Calendar puts a twist on this idea... Instead of taking something out for yourself, the idea is to put something in or set something aside to give to someone else – thus giving instead of getting. There are boxes and calendars listing different items for each day until Christmas available at the church. Or you can print a calendar from the newsletter or Facebook and use your own box from home. At the end of Advent, the reverse calendar will result in a collection of 24 items that can be dropped off at the church to support a good cause at Christmas time.

The calendar we have created supports the needs pantry at the Advent Center and the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC.

The Advent Lutheran Center is one of five day programs operated by Luther Home of Mercy. Here, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities socialize with others, interact with the community and learn new skills. When this site opened several years ago, there was a strong desire by participants to give back to their community through volunteering. However, they discovered many places are not willing or able to accommodate persons with disabilities as volunteers and the offer to help was frequently declined. That did not deter the Advent participants... instead, they opened their own personal needs pantry. (They believe this to be a first-of-its-kind program in Ohio and a true celebration of the positive community spirit of those they serve.) This project is largely funded by the individuals themselves, their families, and the staff who work there. They are not always able to keep up with the community demand for products. Our help enables the participants to keep the pantry open and keep offering smiles and needed items to others.

The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC is open to all residents of Ottawa County struggling with food insecurity. They are a local free choice food pantry where visitors can select the items they want and will use. The pantry can get many food items from the Toledo-NW Ohio Food Bank, but hygiene and personal need items are rarely available. Our help enables them to provide these items for the people they serve.

Our Reverse Advent Calendars will support both organizations when they are filled.

You will hear more about these ministries in the season of Advent.

Pastor Shawn

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.

Supporting our neighbors at

The Luther Home of
Mercy Needs Pantry

The LIGHT Neighborhood
Pantry at Elliston Zion



1 Shampoo	2 Deodorant	3 Small pack Toilet paper	4 Hairbrush	5 Body Wash
6 Small Laundry Soap	7 Razors	8 Dish Soap	9 Shaving cream	10 Lotion
11 Feminine Hygiene items	12 Dryer sheets	13 Toothbrushes	14 Body powder (Gold Bond type)	15 Toothpaste
16 Small Laundry Soap	17 Q-tips	18 Dish Soap	19 Deodorant	20 Body Wash
21 Disinfectant (Lysol) Wipes	22 Hand Sanitizer	23 Small pack Toilet paper	24 Shampoo	25 Merry Christmas to all!

Advent Book Study

This December, I'm going to be reading the book *A Child Is Born: A Beginner's Guide to Nativity Stories* by Amy-Jill Levine, and I'd love for you to join me.

From the publisher:

"In *A Child Is Born*, beloved New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the familiar nativity stories found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke—stories cherished by Christians worldwide yet often read through layers of tradition and assumption. Levine helps us hear them anew, uncovering what the biblical authors were truly saying about Jesus' birth, about God's work in the world, and about what it means to respond with faith, courage, and joy."

Levine invites readers to look deeper at the Christmas stories we think we know so well—the shepherds and angels, the magi and the star, the manger and the mother—and to rediscover their meaning for our lives today. Her insights help us appreciate not only the beauty of the narratives but also the message of hope and inclusion they offer.

If you'd like to join in, the book is available on Amazon for around \$15 (<https://a.co/d/hdyu1SR>) and also on Kindle for about \$9.99.

It may also be available through your local library or bookstore.

How we'll read together

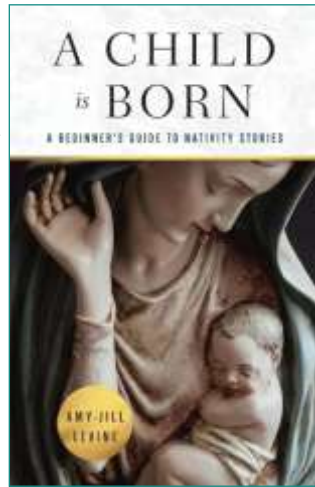
At the very least, I plan to host a discussion on our **St. John Williston – Online Community Facebook group** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3270411673060044>).

This is open to anyone with a Facebook account—no matter your location or mobility. I'll post questions and reflections on a couple of chapters at a time throughout Advent to guide our conversation.

I'm also open to organizing an **in-person discussion group**, similar to what we did last year for *Advent Conspiracy*. We could meet once to discuss the entire book or meet weekly through Advent. We could gather in the church, at a local café, or even someone's home - whatever works best for those interested.

Take a look at the book, maybe read the first chapter, and let me know what kind of gathering you'd enjoy.

However you choose to participate (or not), I hope you'll consider reading the book this Advent season. It's a meaningful way to slow down, revisit the nativity stories with fresh eyes, and rediscover the wonder of Christmas.



Welcome to St. John!

A place to grow, serve & belong.

We want to welcome all the new faces we have met in the recent weeks attending worship at St. John.

With the recent closure of Calvary Lutheran in Northwood, several members have chosen to join us for worship here at St. John.

Members of Calvary: We are so happy and blessed that you have joined us! We welcome you with open hearts and open arms in the name of Christ!

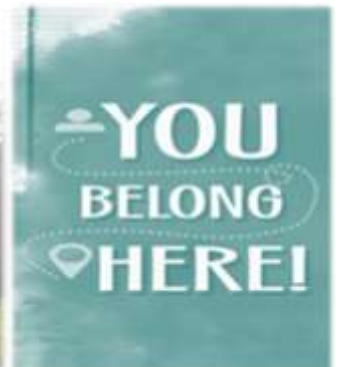
We will hold a "New Member" recognition soon.

In the meantime, please introduce yourself, ask any questions you may have. We are happy to tell you all about life at St. John-Williston!

Please feel free to call or stop in to talk with Pastor O'Brien or with the church office. If you have a specific need or question, you are welcome to email Pastor Shawn at pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org or LisaAnne in the church office at office@stjohnwilliston.org.

You may also call the church at 419-836-5514.

Welcome to the St. John Family!





All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint--a sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus. The family of St. John remembers those who have passed in the last year.

Patsy Bishop Kenneth Wolf
Alice Witt Allen Yockey
Rev. Donald Wukotich
Marilyn Fouke Rosemary Brim

Let us pray... Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

GRATEFUL Thankful & BLESSED



Dear St. John Family,
I would like to thank the congregation for all your support of Nature's Nursery and my leadership project. The organization was pleasantly surprised by the generous donations. I am truly blessed to be a part of this amazing church family. Thank you once again!

Kennedy Donnelly

St. John Family,
A special thank you to the wonderful Tuesday morning blanket ladies for the donation of 20 blankets which will be given to our senior citizens at our November 12th LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry day. What a generous way to help keep our neighbors warm this winter!
And, they are so appreciated-like a warm hug!

Yours in Christ,
LisaAnne Gregg

Thank you to those who helped pack boxes on Thursday and then helped distribute boxes to our neighbors when St. John served at the Genoa Food Pantry on October 16th and 18th. We had a wonderful turnout of volunteers and it was greatly appreciated.

HOW CAN WE
Thank
God
ENOUGH FOR YOU?



Wrapped in Gratitude!

The Blanket Ladies once again would like to thank all who have helped out during the year. It may have been donating material, sheets, thread or money. We again feel we have had a very successful year. We made at least 371 blankets this year!

Many have been special orders and were not included in the above count. We have given 7 or more blankets to members or friends with health issues. During the year and at the end of October, we distribute the rest. They go to charities in the Toledo, Port Clinton and local area. We have also sold many throughout the year.

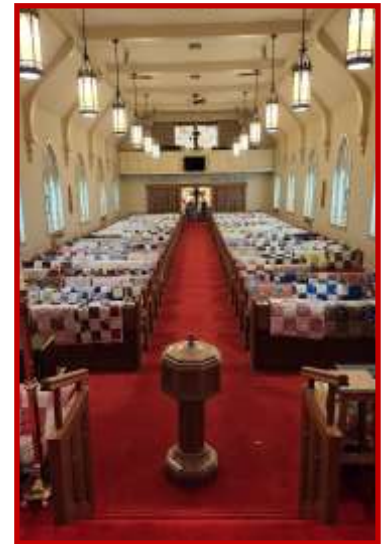
Special thank you to those who received Thrivent Funds for us to use toward the sheets and filler. Our auction blankets went to Helen Meyer, Ben Perkins, Carolyn Lasseter and Judy Yockey. Those winning blankets on the ticket sales were Janice Sheahan, Jill Mathews, Marsha Lee, Rylan Sandrock, Beckie Goldstein and Darlene Carstensen. We thank everyone who purchased tickets. Special thanks to the ladies who showed up to help display and take down the blankets: Jan Sheahan, Judy Encheff, Carol Jensen, Breanna Hodnett, Brenda Powell, Mirandon Goldstein and Brenda Zackel. Morgan Morse pulled the winning tickets. We apologize if we missed anyone! We had a lot of helpers throughout the year!

There is an average of 6 to 8 ladies who come to tie blankets every week. Much of the work is done at individual homes. We have been challenged to make 400 blankets next year and with everyone's support we are hoping to make it!

In case you were wondering, the Blanket Ladies include Arline Sabin, Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Melissa Lammers, Beverly Harder, Diane Gerkensmeyer, Marvel Nelson, Cheryl Berger and Margaret Berger.

We invite anyone to come on Tuesdays mornings at 9:00 AM to help tie or just visit. We usually finish around 11:30 AM.

All are welcome!





**Don't
forget to
turn
your
Clocks
back
1 hour on
Sunday,
November
2nd!**

The *Forerunner*
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by St. John Lutheran Church
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Corner of Main and Toledo Street

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

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

Deadline for the
December 2025 Forerunner is
Monday, November 17th
Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.



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

LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator
419-836-5514
office@stjohnwilliston.org



Mon-Tues-Wed 9am—3pm
Thurs. hours vary
Closed Friday



Need prayers? You may ask
for the prayers of your sisters
and brothers at St. John. If
such a need arises, please call
Margaret Berger (419-340-
2150), Pastor O'Brien (419-
378-1112) or the church
office (419-836-5514) who
will begin the prayer chain.
Please keep your message
short and concise to avoid
misinterpretation. Thanks!

And as always, we prayed for
YOU today!



Fall/Winter Worship Hours

Saturday
Contemporary Service 5 PM
Sunday
Confirmation 8:30 AM
Sunday School:
age 3-5th grade
9-9:30 AM
Traditional Service 9:45 AM

Worship services are also
streamed live on YouTube!



There will be an
OPEN HOUSE
Celebrating
**LOWELL
HARTMAN's
90th Birthday**

On Sunday November 23, 2025
2 PM to 4 PM
Genoa Fire Hall
101 E. 6th Street
Genoa, OH

Light appetizers, desserts and
beverages.
Please no gifts!



**If anyone interested in joining
the Sunday bell choir and/or
singing with the choir this fall
and winter, please contact
Beckie Goldstein or see her
after church services.
Practices are after Sunday's
service. New Saturday Singers
are also welcome! Please see
Tami Tailford for details!**

You are invited
to the Annual
Community
Thanksgiving
Worship & Dinner

Please RSVP by calling St. John Church Office at 419-836-5514 or sending an email to
Office@stjohnwilliston.org by November 15th.

Dinner provided by St. John at no charge.

Please bring a dessert to share!

November 23, 2025
Worship at 5:00pm * Dinner at 6:00 PM

St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo St. (SR 579)
Williston, OH

Please welcome our neighboring churches as we come together in fellowship, worship and thanksgiving!

Donations of desserts would be greatly appreciated.

There is no cost for the dinner, but any donations of items listed on our Reverse Advent Calendar would be welcomed!

Circle Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, November 11, 2:00 p.m.

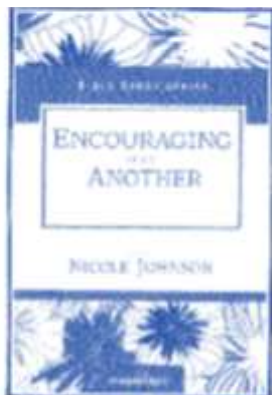
(delayed one week due to Election Day)

Meeting in the Social Hall

Bible Study: Group Study

Tuesday, December 2, 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Sing-a-long



2025-26 STUDY GUIDE
"Encouraging One Another"

REBEKAH CIRCLE:

Books are available at the church.

Tuesday, November 4 7:00 p.m.

Group Study-Love One Another

Tuesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Group Study-One Another Attitudes

The month of November is designated as THANKOFFERING Month by the WELCA. We will not be hosting a special service this year, but ask that you place your Thankoffering in the special envelopes provided in the Forerunner and available near the church entryways.

THANKOFFERING monies are used for scholarships, grants for local projects and global ministries, creating resources for women's spiritual growth. This tradition has been a long standing custom among Lutheran women dating back to the early 1800's. Women set aside small amounts of money throughout the year in response to moments of grace or gratitude. It is a beautiful way to combine a personal spiritual practice of gratitude with financial support for the vital work of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank YOU for your support of the WELCA.



Ladies,
Please Join Us For
Our 28th Annual Advent Brunch

What Gift Will *You* Bring?

December 6, 2025 9:30 a.m.
St. John Lutheran Church, Rocky Ridge

Tickets
\$10.00 with reservation, limited seating

RSVP to LisaAnne at the St. John Williston Church Office by November 16th.

Checks to St. John-Rocky Ridge/cash accepted



Proceeds will benefit the Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center's TNT Mentoring program.

A St. John Lutheran (Rocky Ridge) Endowment Trust Fund grant, along with a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant, will be applied toward expenses.



SIGN UP FOR DAILY GRACE

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](#).

Visit <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>

For more details, to read the daily blog or to sign up for daily emails of encouragement and faith.



Shopping with the Stars
Coming soon!

Just pick a star or take a gift list
from the table located in the
narthex and purchase a gift for
one of our neighbors at
The Luther Home of Mercy

No Wrapping Needed!!
Return to church
by Sunday,
December 7th



Most are inexpensive
but bring great joy to
the residents.



PAJAMAS!
PAJAMAS!
PAJAMAS!
PAJAMAS!
BOOKS!
BOOKS!
BOOKS!

**We are collecting
PAJAMAS**

**for distribution with the
Ottawa County Holiday Bureau.**

**Through November, there will be MOONS
set out with the gender and size needed
for you to pick up! You may wrap your
gift if you like, but make sure you attach
the moon or label it. Please help to
provide the wonderful gift of
snuggly pajamas!**

**We are also collecting very gently used or
new books for all ages.
Any questions call Cheryl
@419-345-3941.**



Join the St. John Dartball Team!
Dartball begins November 4th

**Get those pitching arms ready! Join us
for fun on Tuesday nights when the
Western Ottawa County
Dartball League begins its new season.**

**Nov 4th at Millbury St. Paul 7:30 PM
Nov. 11 at HOME 7:30 PM
Nov. 18 at Oak Harbor St. Paul 7:30 PM**

**All are welcome. No experience is needed.
All are welcome to come and cheer
on our St. John Team, too!
We need more players!!**

**See or call Jeff Schimming for more info.
419-356-3552**



WHY NOT **JOIN US** FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL?

**Join us this
Sunday!**

**Kids age 3
through 5th grade
are welcome
to join us every
Sunday
from 9 to 9:30 am
in the classroom on
the main floor!
Invite a friend and
enjoy stories,
activities and play the
bells!**

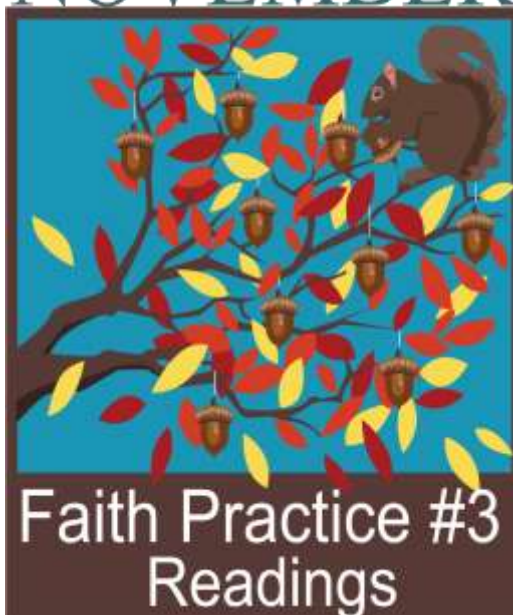


Confirmation Class
Every Sunday
at 8:30a.m.



Our Blessing Box can always use your help in helping our neighbors!
Needed: Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut Butter, Hamburger Helper, Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side dishes, Applesauce- cups, Cereal (small), Fruit cups, soup, snacks, Packaged/shelf stable lunches and snacks.
(no glass, medicine or expired food, please)
There is a donation box near the office

NOVEMBER



Nov. 3-Jonah 1
Nov-10-Jonah 2
Nov. 17-Jonah 3
Nov. 24-Jonah 4

Read the word..
Answer the
Question in
worship..
Get a treat!

Prayer/Contact Cards...

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

2025

Year of Listening



"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." Isaiah 55:3a

How Great Is Our God / Cuán Grande Es Dios (Chris Tomlin) Camino de Vida Worship Band

Camino de Vida (translating to *The Way of Life*) is a synodically-authorized worshipping community in Fremont, Ohio that ministers to residents of the community and worships in Spanish. Music is an important part of life at Camino de Vida, where members of the congregation volunteer their time and talents to provide meaningful worship opportunities. In this recording, Iram Tomas plays bass guitar, Bryan Villareal is on drums and Reyna Deleon is the lead singer. The team chose Psalm 105:6 as the scripture meditation for this special song.



Scan the worship band of Camino de Vida sing *How Great Is Our God / Cuán Grande Es Dios*.

For this Year of Listening, we have invited local musicians to select a song for collective reflection each month. We encourage you to explore the connected monthly scripture and weekly listening practices.

Our song to guide listening resources for November is *How Great Is Our God / Cuán Grande Es Dios* (by Chris Tomlin) sung by the worship band of Camino de Vida.

Sent by the crucified and Risen Jesus together we:

MAKE
DISCIPLES

EQUIP
LEADERS

STRENGTHEN
PARISHES

NURTURE
NEW
COMMUNITIES

for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio & the world.

November 2025 Psalm 105:6 *Cuán Grande Es Dios How Great is Our God*

"Let all the Earth rejoice..."

In this autumn season, what does it look like for the earth to rejoice in a time of quiet, rest and restoration? Take note, and consider how you might learn from the patterns of nature.

"Name above all names, you are worthy of our praise..."

Have a conversation with someone this week about your favorite name for (or image of) God.

"The Lion and the Lamb..."

In your conversations with members of your community this week, identify where our world is in need of peace. Commit together to action. Consider exploring ELCA Advocacy.

"How great is our God..."

As you celebrate Thanksgiving in your community or family, invite the gathered to share gratitude to God with the table.

**Pedals!
Pipes!
& Pizza!**

A special introductory workshop for young musicians 8-18 who want to learn more about the pipe organ!

**Saturday, November 15th
10:30am-3pm**

St. Aloysius Catholic Church
150 S Enterprise St.
Bowling Green, OH 43402

For more information and to register, contact:
toledogo419@gmail.com
or scan the QR code above

Sponsored by
The Toledo Chapter of The American Guild of Organists
and
LIMA PIPE-ORGAN COMPANY, INC.



Grab your friends and donate together!



Second Annual

BLACK FRIDAY F*R*I*E*N*DS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, November 28th 8 AM to 2 PM

St. John Lutheran Church 21140 W Toledo St (SR 579) in Williston

Gather your friends, shop for all your gifts and
then take the time to give the most important
gift of all- the **GIFT OF LIFE!**

(take note of the new time of the blood drive and come early!)

Visit www.redcrossblood.org to make
your appointment today!

November Stewardship



What's the Beauty of Stewardship??

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.



It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

Gratitude Shift

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have,
we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually
have, we shall thank God.



The 7th Annual Williston Community Christmas Tree Lighting & Meal

Saturday, December 6th

Join us for Saturday worship at St. John at **5 PM** and then follow us outside to the Christmas Tree (just east of the parsonage) where we will celebrate the season together!

Following the Christmas Tree lighting, we will join together for a Community Meal to be served in the St. John Church basement. We will also have games with prizes!

Please join the Evangelism Committee, your church family and your neighbors to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season.

Thrivent Choice Dollars will be donating the cost of the meal.

We will be collecting donations of paper products and personal items for Nightingale's Harvest.

They have a need for certain items such as liquid dish soap, liquid hand soap and toilet paper, but all items are greatly appreciated. A box will be placed by the elevator for all to donate at any time.

Nightingale's Harvest provides a food pantry for families with cancer in Northwest Ohio. They are located at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Alexis Rd. in Toledo. They have received many of our blankets over the years. We have invited the founder and representatives to join us.



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

**REMEMBER the Fallen. . .
HONOR those who Serve. . .
TEACH our children the value
of Freedom.**

On **December 13, 2025 at 11:00 am**, Wreaths Across America will be at Harris-Elmore Cemetery and Union Cemetery in Oak Harbor, Ohio to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of Remembrance Wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. Please join us and help lay these wreaths upon the hundred's of graves of our honored veterans. You may also sponsor wreaths with your financial donations at www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org



ONE DAY AT A TIME WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS

Our next meeting is Thursday, November 13th starting at 1130am

In the Fellowship Hall at St. John Lutheran Church in Rocky Ridge.

Lunch will be a variety of soups, breads, 7 layer salad and a pumpkin dessert.

Please RSVP to Sandy Kremer by November 9th At 419-898-2337.

Please join us for a wonderful time of food and fellowship.



Please use caution and be patient on the roads this harvest season.

Watch out for those working in the fields, moving from farm to farm and unloading and loading the harvest!

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



Thank you, God.

God has blessed me in many ways,
Here are the things I am thankful for today!

Draw or write what you are thankful for today!



THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Dear God,
We thank You for this special meal,
For all the love and joy we feel.
Bless our family, bless our friends,
With your love that never ends.
All our blessings, big and small,
We give thanks for one and all.
Amen.



BIBLE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE - THANKSGIVING



Psalm 50:14 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Psalm 107:22 Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the LORD.

Psalm 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God,

Find the words in the verses and add the missing letters

O _ _ ER	_ S _ _ M _	_ _ JO _ C _ _
PRA _ _ SE	E _ _ R	S A _ R _ F _ _ E
_ AGNI _ _	_ H _ _ FUL	_ _ _ D
PR _ SE _ _ E	B _ _ S	S _ _ _
J _ _ F _ LL _	D _ C _ _ RE	TH _ _ _ SGI _ _ _

Find the words. They're hidden in all directions.

```

M M D D N L S P S A L M S N C
A O W T E A I A O H G S D J B
G F E L D C M R C S F B O R B
N F N W P Y L E E R V O J H L
I E T U W G B A V K I D I V E
F R E Z G C S S R B Y F V F S
Y T R B V U X Q V E Q L I S S
T H A N K S G I V I N G Q C V
G R E J O I C I N G F J Q H E
M I S A K B Z X E K F B O K K
K L C T P R E S E N C E J Y J
C O U H P D U V K P R A I S E
K R S D G B M B F J P B A Z L
J D L F E T P J O Y F U L L Y
O L T H A N K F U L S Q X U V
    
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Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Northwestern Ohio Border Immersion by Border Servant Corps, November 5-9, 2025

Las Cruces, New Mexico | El Paso, Texas | Juarez, Mexico

During this Year of Listening, the Northwestern Ohio Synod is partnering with Border Servant Corps (BSC) to journey to the borderlands to learn about the current reality of immigration through a faith lens. Raiden & Jordan Browning (Olivet-Sylvania), Andrew Wells and Pastor Chris Hanley (Glenwood-Toledo), Pastor Shawn & Megan O'Brien and Connor Kacenjar (St. John-Williston), Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Pastor Sarah Schaaf and Calla Gilson (NWOS Synod Staff) will journey together to explore the infrastructure, legal systems and on-the-ground work that impact immigration at the US southern border. The team will also have the opportunity to visit BSC partner shelters on the Mexican side of the border who are responding to the current immigration situation in faithful ways.

Respetrans opened as a shelter during the "Remain in Mexico" (Migrant Protection Protocol) era just before the Covid pandemic. Since that time, the shelter has expanded to house migrant families and is providing a temporary home for folks whose CBP One appointments were canceled by the Trump Administration and are in limbo without established residency in Mexico. BSC supports the work of this shelter with donations of food, medical supplies, children's items, and the installation of electricity in their building.

Cathedral is providing services that more closely resemble the "long welcome" of refugee resettlement, including food distributions and legal aid assistance to migrant families who have found work and housing in Juarez. These families have established residency in Mexico and are seeking asylum in Mexico since access to the United States is not currently an option for them. Border Servant Corps is a newer partner with this shelter and provides regular food donations and volunteer support.

As you bless the participants from your parish on their way, we would ask that members of your congregation consider the following ways to support:



Pray for this journey, each participant and all of the people and places we will learn from during this time.

Give to support the meaningful work of these shelters.

Be Open to the stories that will be brought home by participants, introducing opportunities to learn and act.



Church Council HIGHLIGHTS

**October 15, 2025 7 PM
Meeting**

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien Dan Kessler, John Mazur, Diana Lambert, Cheryl Berger, Kellie Ulrich, Kristina Wildman, Dave Neuman, Deanna Neuman, Jack Mathews.

Meeting Opened: At 7:00 pm, by Dave Neuman

Devotions – Pastor O'Brien shared Mathew 10

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from 9-18-2025 was by Cheryl Berger, 2nd by Jack Mathews Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for September 2025-125.3 compared to September 2024-115. Online average for September 2025- 89.5 compared to September 2024-94.2

Numbers- 10 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 2 committee/group meetings. 4 community/youth/fellowship events. 2 professional/clergy activities. 1 wedding.

Wedding-I presided at the wedding of Andrew Blausey and Emily Fite on September 6th.

Calvary-Calvary Lutheran Church had their final worship service on September 28. They are currently in the process of selling the building. We've welcomed Calvary members to worship with us, as an introduction letter has been sent, and I would like to recommend planning some sort of official welcome in the near future. Also, I would like to have a committee or two to work together to develop a "Member Mentor" to assist with the Calvary members to transition to our church.

Community Thanksgiving Worship-St. John will again host the Community Thanksgiving Worship, Sunday, November 23 at 5:00 pm followed by a community meal. We will need volunteers to serve as ushers, readers and communion servers. We also need volunteers to help clean up following the meal. Carol Vargo will be cooking the meal..

Continuing Education-I will be out of the office November 5-9. LisaAnne Gregg will be leading worship the weekend of November 8/9. I will be traveling with others from the synod and working with Border Servant Corps (BSC) to learn about the current reality of immigration at our southern border through a faith lens. Pastor Bob Noble and Pastor Julie Beitelschees are both available for pastoral emergencies.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee: Income: We are at 102% of our monthly budget and 100% of our year-to-date budget. Expenses: We are at 101% of the monthly budget and 100% of the year-to-date budget.. Member Contribution Statements are ready to be picked up outside the office. Committee Budget Reports will be out to the committees in November

Christian Community Life: Bauman Car Raffle Tickets sales has ended. Drawings will be on November 1st. We have plenty of volunteers signed up for both the pre-packing day on Thursday, 10/16 and the serving at the Food Pantry on Saturday, 10/18. Please pick up a PJ moon outside the office window to purchase pajamas for a Holiday Bureau donation. The pajamas will be needed by the end of November.

Evangelism: Thank you to Linda and Carole for preparing the basket for Trunk-or-Treat. The committee will be receiving funds from Thrivent for the dinner at the Christmas Tree Lighting. Advent begins on November 30th which means we will have the Christmas Tree Lighting and Dinner on Saturday, December 6th. We will work again with Nightengale's harvest and will ask for donations of personal and paper products as a goodwill donation for the Christmas Tree Lighting Dinner

Parish Education: Report on Sunday School: Attendance for Sunday School has been good, between 8-13 kids with 16 kids on the roster. Our format of having one story continue for two weeks is working well, with the Kid's bells being the favorite activity. We start with a prayer, opening, then story time (check out our room) and we end with coloring and playing the bells. We allot approximately ten minutes on each activity. A lot of families stay, and there is coffee for the adults each week. So far so good, with the help of God, Blessings, Melissa Lammers. We are all set for Trunk-or-Treat this Sunday. Still encouraging people to attend, decorate a car trunk, hand out candy or donate candy.

Worship Life: Reformation Sunday weekend is October 25/26, All Saints Day is November 1 and 2. The Thanksgiving Service is on Sunday, November 23rd at 5 p.m., dinner will follow service at 6 :00 p.m. The meal will be chicken sandwiches, mashed potatoes, and green beans. There will be a sign-up sheet for desserts and one for clean-up help after the dinner. Food is being prepared by Carol Vargo, and she has a set-up crew. Thank you, Carol!! Will ask LisaAnne to put out information to the other churches that are invited and put it in November's Forerunner. We had 91 in attendance last year. Beckie is hoping to have the bell choir ring bells for Thanksgiving Service as well as Christmas Eve. She is also planning to purchase new music for fall and winter. Advent begins on the weekend of November 29/30. We will check with Traci Brown about putting out the Christmas decoration again this year. The Kid's Christmas Program will be during the Sunday service on December 21st.

Property: Fixed a light in the parking lot. Put corner protectors at the entrances to the elevator. Dimech will come out for a preventive service on the boiler.

Old Business: The Church Rental Agreement is being revised to allow for the new key code system to be addressed.

New Business: The Nominating Committee is working to fill the slate for officers and Board Members for this next year's term

Deanna Neuman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Kristina Wildman. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary

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: ☐ New authorization ☐ Change donation amount ☐ Change donation date ☐ Change banking information ☐ Discontinue electronic donation					
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City				State	Zip
Email Address				Phone #	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: ☐ Weekly - DAY ____ ☐ Semi-Monthly - 1 st and 15 th ☐ Monthly on the 1 st ☐ Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: ☐ General/Operating ☐ Other (please specify below) ☐ Add'l donation to offset fees Total \$ _____	
AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____					
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): ☐ Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) ☐ Checking Account (attach a voided check below)			Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ ⑆ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 ⑆ 0 0 0 1 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): ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.				
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____					

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



Worship Assistants

December



Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45 am	Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45 am
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
1- Ron Gerkenismeyer	2-Titgemeyer's	6- Jack Mathews	7-The Titgemeyer's
8- Jack Mathews	9-Diana Lambert	13-Buhrow Family	14-Diana Lambert
15-Buhrow Family	16-Jim Vogelbacher	20-Donnelly Family	21- Jim Vogelbacher
22- Donnelly Family	23-Titgemeyer's	27-Ron Gerkenismeyer	28-The Titgemeyer's
29- Ron Gerkenismeyer	30-Diana Lambert		
Lectors	Lectors	Lectors	Lectors
1- Sandy Toth	2-Melissa Lammers	6-Tracy Orians	7-Tim Titgemeyer
8-Beverly Harder	9-Jerry Goldstein	13-Beverly Harder	14-Jerry Goldstein
15- Nancy Strohscher	16- Kellie Ulrich	20-Amy Schloegl	21-Kellie Ulrich
22- Amy Schloegl	23-Cebie Titgemeyer	27-Jonah Danhoff	28-Melissa Lammers
29-Jonah D.	30-Deanna Neuman		
Acolytes	Acolytes	Acolytes	Acolytes
1-Pierce	2-Ellie H.	6-Pierce	7-Makenna
8- Nolan	9-Makenna C.	13-Nolan D.	14-Rylie
15-Trenton	16-Rylie C.	20-Trenton	21-Rylan
22-Jonah	23-Rylan S.	27-Jonah	28-Ellie
29-Liam D.	30-Ellie H.		
Communion	Communion	Communion	Communion
1- Nancy Strohscher	2-Rose Marie Dickinson	6-Ron Gerkenismeyer	7-Margaret Berger
8- No Communion	9-No Communion	13- Carol Vargo	14-Dave Neuman
15- Carol Vargo	16-Pam LaRue	20-JoElaine Schimming	21-Cebie Titgemeyer
22- Ron Gerkenismeyer	23-Robin Perkins	27- Al & Traci Brown	28-Diana Pfaff
29-Al & Traci Brown	30-Roland Sandrock	<i>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.</i>	

**Worship assistants will be needed for our Community Thanksgiving Service on 11/23
Please watch for the sign up sheet next to Pastor's office.**



November

at St. John



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	27 Faith Practice Reading- Jude	28 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	29  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	30	31 Office closed	1 5:00pm Contemporary Worship 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)
2  8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	3	4  No Blankets today Rebekah Circle 7 PM VOTING all day 7:30pm -9:30pm Dartball Millbury St Paul UMC	5  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	6	7 Office closed	8 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
9 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 6:00pm -8:00pm Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	10  POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TODAY!	11  Esther Circle 2 pm 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 7:30pm -9:30pm Dartball-HOME	12  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 7:00pm -8:00pm Scout Committee Meeting (B)	13  Committee Night 7 PM	14 Office closed	15 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
16 RSVP deadline for Ladies Advent Program at Rocky Ridge 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	17  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 7:30pm -9:30pm Dartball at Oak Harbor St. Paul	19  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	20  Council Meeting 7 PM	21 Office closed	22 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
23  Thanksgiving Worship Service 5 PM/Dinner 6 PM 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	24	25 Dartball-BYE this week 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets	26  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	27  Office closed	28  Black Friday Blood Drive 8 AM to 2 PM **NEW TIME** Office closed	29 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
30 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice	1 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2 Esther Circle 2 pm Rebekah Circle 7 PM (Lounge) 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 7:30pm -9:30pm Dartball at St. John Rocky Ridge	3  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	4	5 Office closed	6 Advent Brunch at Rocky Ridge St John 9:30 AM Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Meal 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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NOVEMBER 2025

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrators

M-T-W

(Thurs. hours vary-church office

closed on Fridays)

9:00am-3:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org



In person and online!

Fall Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday- Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Confirmation Class- Sunday 8:30 AM

Sunday School- October-May 8:30 AM

First Sunday of each month- All Ages

Sunday- Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

*Visit us on Facebook