

The Forerunner

April 2026

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Ask the Pastor

“What does Jesus mean when he talks about bringing fire to the earth? That sounds pretty bad.”

The summer after I graduated from seminary, I worked with juvenile offenders doing community service. It was July, and the heat never dipped below 90. We painted fences, pulled weeds, and during the hottest week of the summer stripped plaster from the walls of an old log cabin.

One of the kids on my crew was named Daniel. He was on probation for “inducing panic.” He pulled the fire alarm at the junior high school during class. Daniel thought it would be a funny joke - everyone would get out of class, laugh, and think he was a hero. But Daniel didn’t expect the chaos that followed. Police, firefighters, blocked streets, terrified parents rushing to the school. He learned the hard way that shouting “fire” is serious business.

In Luke 12:49, Jesus says, “I came to bring fire.” That’s not a statement we expect from the Prince of Peace. It sounds dangerous. But for Israel, fire was more than destruction. It was the pillar of fire that led them out of Egypt (Exodus 13:21). It was the burning bush where God called Moses (Exodus 3:4). It was a symbol of God’s presence and power.

Fire is serious. But serious is not the same as bad. Wildfires, for example, consume and destroy – but they also clear out dead wood so new growth can take root. In Yellowstone, fire is essential for the health of the forest. Without it, the forest chokes on what’s old and lifeless.

Perhaps that’s a good analogy for Jesus’ fire... It burns away what cannot remain – selfishness, greed, pride – so that God’s new life can grow. (The prophet Malachi talks about a ‘refiners fire’ that purifies metals 3:2-4, sharing the ideas of cleansing and refinement.) Baptism works the same way: we die to sin and rise to new life. The bad stuff is washed away and we are made new.

This is all good, but when Jesus shouts “fire,” not everyone is ready. In the early church, choosing to follow Jesus could divide families, cost jobs, even threaten lives. That’s why Jesus says he didn’t come to bring peace but division – because his way of life confronts the status quo. Jesus’ fire calls us out of comfort. It calls us to a life centered not on personal advancement but on sacrifice. It calls us to risk love, generosity, justice – even if it sets the world on edge.

It’s not about the bunny.
It’s about the Lamb



John 10:11

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.



In Memory of Don and Tim Berger by Margaret Berger

In Honor of Judy Yockey’s Birthday by Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer



St. John Lutheran Church,
We wish to acknowledge your donation of 172 canned vegetables and tuna, many toiletries, quilts and 168 rolls of bathroom tissue to our organization. Rest assured your donations were appreciated and the impact your generosity is making a difference in the lives of our cancer patients and their families. May God bless you all.

Nightingale’s Harvest



Thank you to all donors and Marilyn, Carolyn, and Margaret for a successful blood drive. We collected 23 units. We saw a few walk-ins and first time donors.

Our next blood drive will be Friday, June 26th from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

I am looking for volunteers who will provide food, help setup and teardown, serve food, and check-in donors. Please contact Robin Perkins if you'd like to help or have questions.

To Our Friends at St. John,
We are getting comfortable in our new home at the Genoa Care Center. We very content with the apartment, the care and the food. We have everything we need here. Thanks to the many wonderful members who have sent cookies, cards or visited with us. God bless you all!
Lowell and Diane Hartman

The Forerunner
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pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

**Deadline for the
May 2026 newsletter is
Monday, April 20th @ 9 AM**
**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.”

In Loving Memory of Elaine Gruetter



Elaine E. Gruetter, 90, of Curtice, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Genoa Retirement Village. Elaine was born on August 28, 1935, in Elmore, Ohio, to Lloyd and Laura (Epling) Schlievert. She graduated from Harris-Elmore High School in 1953. On January 22, 1956, she married the love of her life, Lawrence Gruetter.

Elaine devoted her life to her family and wholeheartedly embraced her role as a farmer's wife throughout their 45 years of farming. She was a longtime member of St. John Lutheran Church, Williston, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and was active in WELCA. She was also a member of the Ohio Farm Bureau Council, International Flying Farmers, and a dedicated poll worker with the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Elaine had a fondness for collecting pig figurines and salt and pepper shakers. She loved traveling and especially cherished winters spent in Florida with Lawrence. Above all, Elaine found her greatest joy in spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and attending their many activities and events.

Elaine is survived by her children, Paul (Joy) Gruetter, Judy (Ray) Robaszkiwicz, Carol (Steven) Jensen, and Annette (Stephen) Lazenby; grandchildren, Kevin (Sarah), Kristi (Jason), Jill (TJ), Daniel, Jessica (Chic), Ben (Mallory), Austin, Grant (Raegan), James, Alex and Oliver; 5 great-grandchildren; siblings, Warren (Rosemary) Schlievert and Sue Hatcher-Wilson; and sister-in-law, Karen Schlievert. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Lawrence; and brother, Lyle Schlievert.

Services were held on Monday March 23rd at St. John with interment at Allen Township Cemetery. Memorials for Elaine may be directed to St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

Circle Meetings-April 2026

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 7 @ 2 PM
Bible Study-Diane Dickinson

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 7 @ 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Ann M.



April 25, 2026

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church

303 Park Dr., Luckey, Ohio 43443

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:15 AM in the church fellowship hall located in the basement. The church is handicap accessible at the door under the carport and the elevator is just inside the door. The program begins at 9 AM upstairs in the sanctuary. The cost of the program is \$12 and includes a continental breakfast, the speakers, and lunch.

Speaker: The Cocoon

The Cocoon is Wood County's comprehensive domestic and sexual violence agency providing shelter and advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, stalking, and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. The speakers will discuss the Cocoon's mission, what services they offer, basic statistics, their history over the last 20 years and how we can help. We are asking all women to bring a non-perishable food item, women's personal hygiene products, or feminine products to be given to The Cocoon. Items that The Cocoon cannot use, will be given to the Luckey Food Bank. Please return the registration slip and a \$12 check made to Zion Lutheran with WELCA in the memo line to PO Box 155, Luckey, Ohio 43443. Or, Venmo payment to @Brooke-Hahn-8 and email the registration to zionluckey@gmail.com Please note on the registration "Venmo Payment". Pre-registration is GREATLY appreciated and due by April 18th but we will take registrations at the door too. For questions, please contact Brooke Hahn with a call or text at 419-704-7040 or email her at zionluckey@gmail.com

Furniture Available!

We are in the process of re-decorating our church lounge. We will have furniture available for our church members (for FREE) as follows — sofa, two side chairs, two end tables, two lamps, and a coffee table. These items will be placed in the hallway for you to look at within the next several weeks. They will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each item will have a card on it for you to sign if you're interested. You will be responsible to haul the piece(s) away. Please note the meeting table, chairs, rocking chair, caned back chair and decorative pieces WILL NOT be replaced. Those items available will be placed in the hallway.



The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join! The coffee will be on! No experience is needed. You just have to know how to tie a knot.

Bed sheets (Queen size) are needed for quilt backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office.



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

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

Matthew 21:22

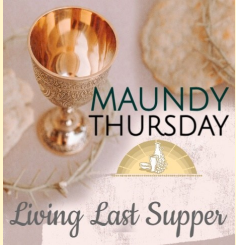
When there is illness, a special need, or a time of thanksgiving in your family, or among friends or neighbors, you may wish to ask for the prayers of your sisters and brothers at St. John. If such a need arises, call Margaret Berger (419 340-2150), Pastor O'Brien (cell phone 419-378-1112) or the church 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!



Holy Week at St. John



Maundy Thursday Service -The Living Last Supper
April 2nd @ 7 PM (dress rehearsal 4/1 at 6 PM)



Good Friday Service-The Last Words of Christ
April 3rd @ 7 PM

Saturday April 4th



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday April 4th at 10:30 AM
**(we are taking donations of candy to fill the Easter Eggs!
Please drop your in the box near the office.)**
Catechism students please arrive by 9:30 AM to help!



Holy Saturday
Worship with Holy Communion 5 PM

Easter Sunday April 5th



Easter Breakfast
8:30-9:30 AM
Scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, assorted sweet rolls, coffee, tea, milk or juice. Free will donation. All are welcome!



Easter Sunday with Holy Communion
Worship at 9:45

Easter Flowers

Thank you for sharing your Easter Flowers with the congregation.



Please pick up your flowers after Easter Sunday service. Any remaining flowers will be delivered to our shut ins or given to others.

Faith Practice #3 Readings Isaiah

As part of our Seven Faith Practices, we are committed to read and study the Bible.

Through Advent, we will read through the *Book of Isaiah*.

We will study each verse independently and then Pastor will discuss it during worship. Answer the question-and receive a treat!

Mar. 23 – Isaiah 12

Mar. 30 – Isaiah 13

April 6 – Isaiah 14

April 13 – Isaiah 15

April 20 – Isaiah 16

April 27 – Isaiah 17

May 3 – Isaiah 18

May 11 – Isaiah 19

May 18 – Isaiah 20

May 25 – Isaiah 21

In Memory of	By
Don Berger	Margaret Berger
Tim Berger	Margaret Berger
Clarence & Helen Schlievert	Linda Schlievert
Richard & Rosalie Baumbach	Jon & Valerie Baumbach
John, Norma & Joe Rensch	Jon & Valerie Baumbach
Our Parents	Ron & Diane Gerkensmeyer
Our Sisters	Ron & Diane Gerkensmeyer
Kenneth Schimming	JoElaine Schimming & family
Emory Lasseter	Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Rob & Clara Lasseter	Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Jennifer Johnson	Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Ralph & Edna Sandrock	Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Frederick & Karen Sandrock	Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Jeanette Lentz	Gerald Lentz, Mike & Jane Lentz and Jill & Chris Brandt
Loved Ones	Larry & Nancy Strohscher
Bobby Begell	LisaAnne Gregg
Wade & Audrey Wolf	Bob & Diane Kapp
Richard Armstrong	Bob & Diane Kapp
Earl, Arnold & Grace Johnson	Bob & Diane Kapp
Robert Kapp	Bob & Diane Kapp
In Honor of our Grandkids	Bob & Diane Kapp
Rosella Fleitz	LisaAnne Gregg
Loved Ones	Beth Johnson
Loved Ones	Mary Harmeyer
Loved Ones	Bernard Blausey
Marjorie Blausey	Bernard Blausey
Friends and Family	Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer
Dan Beamer & Helen Schlievert	Paul Beamer
Dan Beamer	Carole Beamer
Clarence & Helen Schlievert	Carole Beamer
Loved Ones	Dave & Kris Lee
Dilly Schimming	Grandkids
Our Parents	Lee & Debbie Wehner
Our Parents	Lee & Debbie Wehner
Megan Elizabeth Goldstein	Jerry & Beckie Goldstein & family
Arica Grace Goldstein	Jerry & Beckie Goldstein & family
Leonard & Mildred Carstensen	Darlene Carstensen
Gary Carstensen & Roy & Frieda Zunk	Darlene Carstensen
Katie Hoenbrink	Jack & Jill Mathews
Mary Mathews	Jack & Jill Mathews
Jerry Blausey	Brenda Powell & family
Dick Harmeyer	Brenda Powell & family
Charles & Mary Mathews	Donna Mathews
Richard Harmeyer	Lenore Harmeyer
In Honor of our Risen Lord	Lenore Harmeyer

News around St. John!

Join us for **SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

We host Sunday School for kids age 3 through 5th grade every Sunday at 9 AM! Come join us and enjoy music, bible stories, crafts and videos! It is fun and learning for everyone! Invite a friend!



McDonalds Breakfast

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



for Adults!

Luther League on the Road!

On **April 30** we will meet at the church at **8:15a** to travel to Springboro, OH for a performance of **Jesus Christ Superstar at LaComedia Dinner Theater**. (Buffet opens around 11:15a, show begins around 12:30p) Cost for tickets, including lunch, is **\$65**. We will be renting a van for the day that can hold 15 passengers. The cost to ride with the group is **\$15** (you may also travel in your own vehicle). If you would like to attend, sign-up outside Pastor O'Brien's office or call the church office. \$15 deposit reserves your spot in the van. Final payment is due before March 27. Please note if you would like a ride or drive yourself. If you have any questions, contact Pastor O'Brien.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS!

We're planning some future **Adult Luther League** events and looking to gauge interest.

Use this form or send an email to the Pastor (pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org) Please indicate which activities you would be interested in and likely to attend.

If you have any additional ideas, please write those down or let Pastor O'Brien know.

- Merry-Go-Round Museum and lunch in Sandusky (approximately \$10, plus lunch)
- Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (approximately \$40, plus lunch and transportation)
- Maritime Museum of the Great Lakes and lunch in Toledo (\$14, plus lunch)
- Frankenmuth, Michigan – shopping at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and Bavarian food for lunch
- Future show at the Stranahan or Valentine theater and dinner/lunch (price varies)
- Digital Scavenger Hunt (the youth group did this several years ago, it involves traveling around the area with your group and finding local attractions)
- Euchre Tournament 2 (in the church basement)
- Amish Country visit (similar to what we did last year; approximately \$235)
- Other ideas listed below...



Chicken & Biscuit DINNER

St. John Lutheran Church

450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd. Oak Harbor, OH

Sunday, April 12th

Serving time: 11:30a-1:30p
or sold out

Cost: Free Will Donation

Dine In or Carry out

Menu

- Chicken w/gravy and Biscuit
- Green Beans
- Homemade Desserts



All proceeds will benefit
The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry and
Luther Home of Mercy, Williston

A Thrivent Action Team will help offset expenses.
Help support our neighbors, and we'll do the dishes.



Join us for our first monthly
LUNCH AND LEARN!
Thursday April 30th at 11 AM
Elliston Zion United Methodist Church— Graytown
(off Elliston Trowbridge Rd)

Hear our guest speaker, Cathy Boldt, from the Area
Office on Aging teaching tips on Healthy Eating.
And then, stay for lunch!! RSVP to Health Ministry
Coordinator-Julie at 419-276-4018

You are invited!

Ottawa County Women of Faith Fellowship Brunch

Saturday May 9, 2026 * 10:00 AM

Elliston Zion United Methodist Church
18045 W. William St. Graytown, Ohio

Come enjoy a delicious meal, with
devotions and gentle brunch music.
Then, our program features our friend
and award winning songwriter and
musician-

KERRY PATRICK CLARK

With songs from his CD,
HIS Story-My Story
and other selected favorites.

Please RSVP by May 5th by email to:
ellistonzionpastor@gmail.com or call: 419-250-1188
or use the QR code below. Tickets are \$10 Table of 6 \$50
You may pay at the door or pay online at www.ellistonzion.com
and go to the online giving link.

Join Us for Fun!

ENJOY A DAY AWAY TO WORK ON YOUR FAVORITE
CRAFT PROJECTS

Unleash your creativity and help us make a difference, in the lives
of adults with disabilities, through crafting!

April 11, 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 31.
NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

November 14, 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 3.
NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE.

9am-9pm

\$40 for 4' space | \$50 for 8' space

Enjoy Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Snacks

REGISTER & PAY AT LUTHERHOME.ORG OR MAIL THIS FORM WITH A
CHECK PAYABLE TO LUTHER HOME OF MERCY.

APRIL 11, 2026 NOVEMBER 14, 2026

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I need electricity (bring painter's tape, ext cord & power strip)

Seating preference: _____



REGISTER AT
LUTHERHOME.ORG

Contact Melissa at
419-972-4338 or
mgregg@lutherhome.org if you
have questions about sponsoring or
attending.



Stewardship



Online Giving Easy & Secure Available Now

Online giving is now available at St. John.
Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwilliston.org
and click on the "online giving" link at the top of the page.
*Not online? See LisaAnne in the office to set up an account
or fill out an "Authorization Form" and return it to the office.*



Rooted in
Christ
Growing in
Grace

What is Stewardship to Us??



Stewardship is what we as stewards do. Stewardship is the living out of our faith through our serving, giving, witnessing, and relating to others. It is the faithful use of our lives, gifts, talents, and money in doing God's will.

It is our faithful response to God's gift of forgiveness and salvation.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit through the reading of God's Word, we freely and joyously commit all that we are and have for His purpose.

Simply put, stewardship gives God honor and glory, helps others, and enriches us.



Helping Our Neighbors

St John Council voted to support two neighboring ministries with our Lenten offerings. Our 2026 Lenten Offerings will benefit **The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC and the Jerusalem Township Food Pantry.**

The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry is open on the 2nd Weds. of each month from **5 to 7 PM**. It is a free choice food pantry serving **all** of Ottawa County. Each month,

the LIGHT Pantry serves a free home-cooked meal and our friendly volunteers help each family "shop" in the pantry which is set up like a small grocery store. The LIGHT MOBILE Pantry is also on the road the following Saturday and distributes the same items to those who are unable to travel. At this time, they are serving the Elmore Retirement Village with plans to expand. The Elliston Zion Health Ministry Coordinator is also available for blood pressure checks and conversations on health and well-being. For information, see LisaAnne in the St. John office.

The Jerusalem Township Food Pantry is located at the Jerusalem Twp. Fire Station. The Food Pantry operates on the second Wednesday of the month from 9-11am. On food pantry day, there is a nurse on site to provide mini check-ups for its patrons. Food is picked up and boxes filled on the Tuesday before. This group welcomes anyone who would like to volunteer to help on either day. For information, call 419.836.1210. Thank you for your generosity!



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

If you are a Thrivent investment or insurance policy holder, our church may be eligible to earn Thrivent Action Team Dollars to financially assist the efforts of our St. John congregation. This is a very quick and easy process which can qualify you for \$250 Thrivent Action Team dollars that can be used for many projects in our church and our community. In 2025 our St. John Family qualified for more than \$7,000 from this process. Please contact Diane Gerkenmeyer at rondiangerk@aol.com or 419-276-3800 to learn how you can get Thrivent support for our church and our St. John community.

St. John Kid's



April 4th 10:30 am
Treats, prizes, fun!

you're invited



To join us for
SUNDAY SCHOOL!

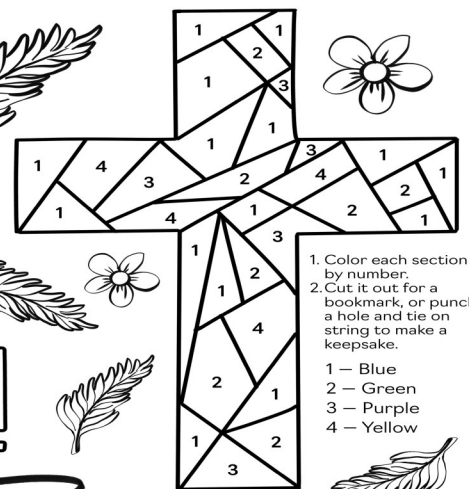
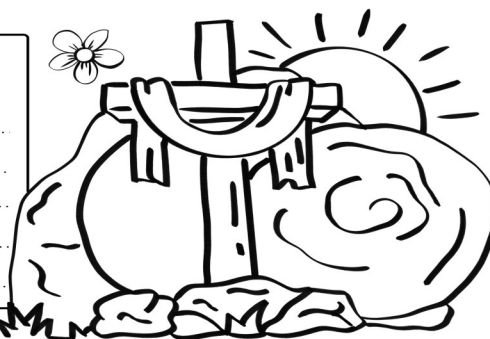
Kids age 3 through 5th grade

Every Sunday at 9 am to 9:30 am

Songs, crafts, Fun and Jesus!!

WORD SCRAMBLE

EJSSU
 SCOSR
 VELO
 ATEESR
 MOBT



1. Color each section by number.
 2. Cut it out for a bookmark, or punch a hole and tie on string to make a keepsake.
- 1 - Blue
 - 2 - Green
 - 3 - Purple
 - 4 - Yellow

JESUS IS ALIVE!

HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN, JUST AS HE SAID. MATTHEW 28:6, NIV

Color the wings to create a NEW butterfly.



F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S
X	L	O	V	E	Q	R	T	Y	U	I
P	J	E	S	U	S	O	P	A	R	D
C	R	O	S	S	I	F	G	H	I	K
R	T	Y	U	I	O	R	S	E	S	B
I	N	S	E	R	A	M	N	B	E	C
L	K	J	H	G	F	D	S	A	N	W
E	A	S	T	E	R	Z	X	C	V	B

FIND THE WORDS
 EASTER LOVE
 JESUS CROSS
 RISEN
 FORGIVENESS



How many palm leaves can you find?

A Time to Plant

Ecclesiastes 3:2



Your Evangelical Lutheran neighbors invite you to join us for

Rogation Days

A celebration of agriculture during the planting season

May 10-14: Blessing of Farms

Area pastors will bless local fields, livestock
and equipment.

To have your farm included, contact you pastor or congregational leader
or if they are not available, Pastor Shawn O'Brien at
pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Please include your name, phone number, location, and preferred
date and time of blessing.

May 14: Worship & Dinner

6:00 p.m. Worship Celebration

Following worship: Enjoy a FREE farm-style meal at:

Solomon Lutheran Church

305 W Main St.

Woodville, OH

Prepared by Ole' Zimms Wagon Shed

Sponsored by:



**Northwestern Ohio Synod
North Central Conference
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Listening & Spiritual Discernment Retreat

May 2nd, 2026 | 10AM - 3PM

Schedel Gardens
19255 W Portage River S Road
Elmore, OH 43416-9743

Are you curious where the Holy Spirit might be leading you?

Are you feeling a sense of call to serve the church in a new way?

Are you wondering about what it takes to become a public leader in the ELCA?

Do you feel God's Spirit tugging or nudging you to explore spiritual gifts, passions and interests?

If any of these questions resonate with you, consider joining us for this unique one-day retreat.

Join Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Synod Staff for this time of prayer and discovery together. We will explore scripture, share our faith stories, enjoy lunch together, and spend time with a spiritual director who will help us focus and listen for where God may be calling us next. Weather permitting, there will be time to explore the beautiful gardens at Schedel.

Copy and use the following link to register today.

<https://nwos-elca.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/45/responses/new>

Sent by the crucified and Risen Jesus together we:



for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio & the world.

MULTIFAITH EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



April 26, 2026 | 2pm - 5pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1825 Glendale Avenue | Toledo

Learn about sustainability and eco-spirituality while enjoying music and family-friendly activities with people of many faiths.

Free and open to people of all faiths and none. To volunteer or for more information, contact Angie Fitzpatrick: director@multifaithcouncil.org



Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua

Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua

Celebrate faith, fellowship, and family during Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua.

Join fellow Lutherans for uplifting worship (featuring Rev. Michael Beck), family activities, and joyful community along the shores of Lake Erie. For more information about registration, complimentary passes, and the Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua week, please visit our website! Registration opens April 1st.

June 20-27, 2026



Visit [Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua](#)



St John Council Meeting Held 3-18-2026

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien Dan Kessler, John Mazur, Diana Lambert, Cheryl Berger, Dave Neuman, Rick Buhrow, Joni Hillman, Melissa Lammers and Tracy Donnelly. **Members Absent:** Jack Mathews, Robin Perkins, and Shelley Snider.

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

Devotions – Pastor O'Brien shared from Jeremiah 23 and John 10 for devotions.

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as corrected from 2/19/2026 was from Cheryl Berger and Melissa Lammers 2nd. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: Worship

Attendance: In Person average for February 2026-128.5 compared to February 2025-101.8. Online average for February 2026- 115.5 compared to February 2025- 105.5. **Numbers-** 12 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 2 committee/group meetings. 11 community/youth/fellowship events. 7 professional/clergy activities. 3 Special Worship Services.

Luther League-March 19- Taste of the States at Penta. April 30- Jesus Christ Superstar at the La Comedia Dinner Theater. There is more information on each of these events in the newsletter next to my office door **Lent-**Our mid-week Lenten Worship and Luncheons will conclude on Wednesday, March 25th at 11 am.

Holy Week- Passion Saturday/ Sunday is March 28/29. We will need readers for both services. Maundy Thursday worship is at 7:00 p.m.. Good Friday worship is at 7:00 p.m.

Vacation- I will be out of the office from May 2 through May 12. Pulpit supply for May 2/3 and 9/10 is being arranged.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: **Income:** We are at 132% of our monthly budget and 112% of our year-to-date budget. **Expenses:** We are at 99% of the monthly budget and 99% of the year-to-date budget.

Christian Community Life: Pre-packing for the Genoa Food Pantry will be on Thursday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m. Serving at the Genoa Food Pantry will be on Saturday, March 21st at 9:30 a.m. We discussed ideas for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Evangelism: We discussed the Easter basket for the Easter Egg Hunt and will have completed the basket before the Hunt. We will put the completed basket in the Sunday school office. On another note our next blood drive is scheduled for Friday, June 26th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. I hope to recruit more volunteers to provide food, serve food, set up and teardown, and check-in donors.

Parish Education: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 4th at 10:30 a.m. Dates for VBS will be June 15-19. We are looking for leaders and assistants to help lead stations are walk with the kids

Worship Life: We will post a reminder on communion instructions for cleaning up again especially with cleaning the communion trays. Diana Lambert will discuss the candle oil with the volunteers regarding timely ordering of the candle oil. Pastor will be out the weekends of May 2/3 and May 9/10, LisaAnne has agreed to lead service on one of the weekends; need to confirm which one. Diana Lambert has agreed to lead Sunday service on the weekend that LisaAnne cannot help; will need to ask for a Saturday leader but will wait to confirm the weekend that LisaAnne can lead first.

Property: Replaced the lights on the music stands for the Bell Choir. Property and Stewardship will be serving the Lenten luncheon on March 25.

Old Business: Stewardship committee is still in need of a person for that committee to fill the open position for 1 year.

New Business: Dan Kessler explained that we have had a donation from Calvary Church. A memorial fund has been established with that donation. Dan Kessler made a motion to use \$1800 from this new memorial fund to cover the expense of the meals for the Ascension Rogation Dinner. The Ascension Rogation Dinner is a passion project of Pastor Bob Noble. Dave Neuman 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Tracy Donnelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by John Mazur. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert,
Council Secretary

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

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 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): <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: _____ ⑆ 23456789⑆ 23 23456⑆ 0001 Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.	
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card	
	Card Number: _____	Expiration Date: _____
	Name on Card: _____	
	Billing Address (if different from above): _____	
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.	
Signature (as it appears on the card): _____		Date: _____



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45am
Ushers	Ushers
4-Buhrow Family	5- The Titgemeyer's
11- Ron Gerkenmeyer	12-Diana Lambert
18-Donnelly Family	19-Jim Vogelbacher
25-Jack Mathews	26-The Titgemeyer's
Lectors	Lectors
4- Amy Schloegl	5-Diana Lambert
11-Nancy Strohscher	12-Kellie Ulrich
18- Beverly Harder	19-Melissa Lammers
25-Jonah D.	26-Tim Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
4- Trenton	5-Ellie
11-Liam	12-Makenna C.
18-Pierce	19-Rylie
25-Nolan	26-Rylan S.
Communion	Communion
4- Ron Gerkenmeyer	5-Robin Perkins
11-Carol Vargo	12-Pam LaRue
18-JoElaine Schimming	19-Margaret Berger
25-Al & Traci Brown	26-Rose Marie Dickinson



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45am
Ushers	Ushers
2-Buhrow Family	3- Diana Lambert
9- Ron Gerkenmeyer	10-Jim Vogelbacher
16-Donnelly Family	11-The Titgemeyer's
23-Jack Mathews	24-Diana Lambert
30-Buhrow Family	31-Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
2- Sandra Toth	3-Jerry Goldstein
9-Nancy Strohscher	10-Melissa Lammers
16- Amy Schloegl	17-Diana Lambert
23-Jonah D.	24-Tim Titgemeyer
30- Beverly Harder	31-Cebie Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
2- Nolan	3- Makenna C.
9-Trenton	10-Rylie
16-Jonah	17-Rylan S.
23-Liam	24-Ellie
30-Pierce	31-Rylan
Communion	Communion
2- Nancy Strohscher	3-Dave Neuman
9-Carol Vargo	10-Roland Sandrock
16-JoElaine Schimming	17-Margaret Berger
23-Ron Gerkenmeyer	23-Diana Lambert
30-Al & Traci Brown	31-Robin Perkins



Thank you for serving in worship this week!!

We need more worship assistants! Please add your name to the rotation! No experience needed and training is available.

See Pastor or contact the church office for information.



April

at St John



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p>  <p>8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 1:00pm -4:00pm Bauman-Social Hall Noon to 4 PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 13</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>Dartball Banquet at Ole Zims Scholarship Application Deadline 9:00am - 12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Dress Rehearsal for Living Last Supper 6PM 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B) 6:00pm -8:00pm Wildflower Association Meeting (SH)</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM- THE LIVING LAST SUPPER</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Good Friday -The Last Words of Jesus 7 PM Office closed</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM 5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 14</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>Esther Circle 2 pm Rebekah Circle 7 PM 9:00am - 12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Committee Night 7 PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>12</p> <p>8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 3:00pm -5:00pm Livestock Unlimited 4-H (B) 6:00pm -7:00pm Scouts Court of Honor</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 15 7:00pm -8:00pm Scout Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am - 12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>Church Council Meeting 7 PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 6:00pm -7:30pm Scouts (B)</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 16 FORERUNNER DEADLINE 9 AM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am - 12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:00am -9:30am Sunday School 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 17</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am - 12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Luther League to Springboro, OH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office closed 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

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*Joy Comes in the Morning;
Join us this Easter!*

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

*Visit us/worship with us
YouTube

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday School– Adults & Confirmation 8:30 AM

Sunday School– age 3 thru 5th grade 9:00 AM

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM (thru May)

Our Seven Faith Practices

I will 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