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Ask the Pastor

“What are the Seven Last Words of Jesus? There seem to be more than seven.”

One of the ways Christians have traditionally meditated on Good Friday in particular, or Holy Week in general, is by reading and reflecting on Jesus’ last words from the cross. (We have been using the Seven Last Words of Jesus as our midweek Lenten worship theme.) Counting seven is difficult because these are not actually “words”, as in a combination of letters – they are “words”, as in phrases or sayings. (And, if you want to get technical, they are not even the last words Jesus speaks. After he is raised from the dead, he speaks quite a bit to his disciples. And after his ascension, he speaks to Paul, and then through the Holy Spirit, he continues to speak to all Christians. But... for our purposes here we will clarify the Seven Last Words of Jesus are the last words that Jesus speaks from the cross. It seems that qualifier is assumed.)

These words or sayings are recorded in the four Gospels. As you will notice when reading the Gospels or from the list below, no Gospel writer records all seven and each Gospel writer has different “words” (except for Matthew and Mark who only list one saying from the cross). If there is an “official” ordering or numbering of the words I am not aware of it.

If you would like to use these for your Holy Week or Good Friday meditation/prayer time the words are listed below with their scripture references. You are also invited to join us for Maundy Thursday worship (4/6) at 7:00p. We will participate in the Living Last Supper. Also, Good Friday worship (4/7) at 7:00p. where we will remember the death of Jesus with a time of prayer and ‘reverse’ Advent candle lighting. I hope you can join us.

The Seven Last Words (Statements) of Jesus...

- “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)
- “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” (Luke 23:46)
- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
- “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).
- “Woman, here is your son!” and “Here is your mother!” (John 19:26-27).
- “I am thirsty” (John 19:28).
- “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

If you would like to submit a question for “Ask the Pastor”, Biblical, theological, church-related, or 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.



**Genoa Area Community Food Pantry
Help Needed.....**

Sat, April 15 from 8:30am-11:45am

Please call

**Donna Mathews 419-855-3301
or Cheryl Berger at 419-345-3941**

if you are willing to help out.

Thank you!!



Lord God, you loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our [salvation](#). Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.

- Maria Miriam

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

FORERUNNER NEWS

The deadline for the May Forerunner is on Monday, April 17th at 9:00 AM.

**Needed.....Maundy Thursday
Choir Singers
Thursday, April 6th at 7pm
Practice is Thursday, March 30th
at 7pm...All are welcome!**



The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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419-378-1112

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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
May 2023 newsletter is
Monday, April 17
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 (M & F)

Lori Buhrow (T, W & Th)

Office

Administrators

(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



Monday—Friday
9am—2pm



In Memory of Gary Carstensen

Alice Siglar and Tom Siglar

In Memory of Leon Maix

Darlene, Brenda and Randy Carstensen

In Memory of Clyde Sandroek

Mary Schimming

In Memory of Carol Mravec

Duane & Tami Tailford

Allen & Beverly Harder

If your name or memorial has been inadvertently left off the list,
please let the office know.



Grateful Hearts 

Dear Pastor O'Brien, Quilters, Friends and Family,

Thank you for the cards, prayers, food, memorials visits and Pastor Shawn coming to Edgewood Nursing Home. It means so much your caring and support.

**The Gary Carstensen Family
Darlene, Brenda, Randy and Tonya**

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone that helped set up, prepare, serve and cleaned up for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. A big thank you to the youth and scouts for all of their hard work. Through everyone's generous free will offering we were able to give the Blessing Box \$673.00 for supplies.

Christian Community Life Committee

Thank you for your support-

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,250.00 to Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Trinity and its predecessor seminaries have been providing theological education in Ohio since 1830. Your gift supports the seminary's ongoing mission of forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

The Rev. Kathryn Kleinhans

Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$693.68 to Luther Home of Mercy. This work of celebrating life would not be possible without our generosity of friends like you. We thank you for your shared partnership in ministry and the joy that your gift brings to those entrusted to our care. Our St. John friends rock!! Thank you for your faithful support!

Sincerely,

Megan O'Brien, Director of Mission Advancement

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$300.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far in the future.

In Christ, Amanda White

Director

St. John,

Thank you St. John Community for your generosity and servant hearts. You are the flowers in our garden of families. You bloom where you are ever planted.

**From: The Patients, Families, Staff, Volunteers, Board Members, Director— Lisa Eisenbach
Nightingale Harvest**



Circle and Board Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 4, 2:00 p.m.
in the Social Hall

Bible Study: Margaret Berger
Hostesses: Margaret Berger

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.
in the Lounge

Bible Study: Nancy Strohscher



WELCA Mini-Bake Sale (Cookies & Chocolates only)



WELCA (both Esther and Rebekah Circles) will be sponsoring a second congregational bake

Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2
(before and after services)

This will be a mini-bake sale featuring cookies and chocolate. This will offer an opportunity for you to purchase cookies in preparation for Easter. We plan to have Easter Cutout Cookies (Sugar), along Chocolate Chip and Oatmeal Raisin Cookies. Please call Diane Gerkenmeyer (419-836-7052) with any questions.

*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!

WELCA North Central Conference News North Central Conference Spring Gathering

A TIME TO PLANT

A sower went out to sow his seed. Matthew 13:5a

A Gathering for Women

The North Central Conference Spring Gathering
April 29, 2019 8:30am-Noon
Zion Lutheran Church (Larcha)
26535 Pemberville Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551

The women of your congregation are invited to join with other women of the North Central Conference on April 29 at Zion Lutheran. The topic for the gathering is "A Time to Plant". The program will begin at 8:30am with registration and social time. The formal program will begin at 9:00am. A brunch will be served at 9:15am and is generously provided by the Women of Zion Lutheran Church, Larcha.

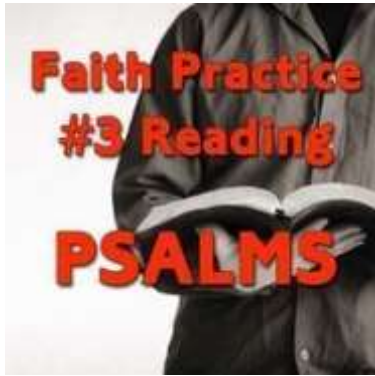
Featured speaker will be Mary Nelson, Master Gardener, from Bowling Green, Ohio. She has worked for 17 years at Wolf's Berries and Blooms Greenhouse. Mrs. Nelson will speak about spring planting.

Leading the Bible Study will be Pastor Robin Small who was ordained in September 2022 and is now serving at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. Pastor Robing will be speaking on the Parables of the Sower.

Offering— A monetary offering will be received at the gathering which will be divided between the food pantry at St. John's Stony Ridge and the NWOSWO.

Sponsored by: St. John Lutheran, Stony Ridge, St. Mark's Lutheran, Bowling Green and Zion Lutheran, Perrysburg; a part of the North Central Conference Women of the ELCA. Return registration with payment of \$5.00, which included brunch by April 20.





BOOK #4

The fourth book (Psalms 90–106) focuses on how God is above us. Psalm 90 is the one psalm credited to Moses. In it, he speaks of how our lives on this earth are brief, so we need to number our days right. God, on the other hand, is eternal, and God will reign forever and ever.

Week of March 27- Psalm 103

Week of April 3- Psalm 104

Week of April 10- Psalm 105

Week of April 17- Psalm 106

Week of April 24- Psalm 107

Week of May 1– Psalm 108

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.

NWOS Daily Bible Reading Guide: The Story of Jesus - April

April 1 Jesus Heals a Paralytic Matt. 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Intermission: Holy Week Readings (According to Matthew)

April 2 Palm Sunday Matt. 21

April 3 Matt. 22-23

April 4 Matt. 24

April 5 Matt. 25

April 6 Maundy Thursday Matt. 26

April 7 Good Friday Matt. 27:1-61

April 8 Easter Vigil Matt. 27:62-66

April 9 Easter Matt. 28

Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee (According to Matthew: Part Three)

April 10 Jesus Calls Levi (Matt.) Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

April 11 The Question about Fasting Matt. 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39

April 12 Jesus Restores a Girl to Life & Heals a Woman Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56

April 13 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men Matt. 9:27-31; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

April 14 Jesus Heals a Demoniac Matt. 9:32-34; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:14-15

April 15 The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Are Few Matt. 9:35-38; Mark 6:34; Luke 10:2

April 16 The Twelve Apostles Matt. 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16

April 17 The Mission of the Twelve Matt. 10:5-15; Mark 6:6-13; Luke 9:1-6

April 18 Coming Persecutions Matt. 10:16-25; Mark 13:9-13; Luke 21:12-19

April 19 Whom to Fear Matt. 10:26-33; Luke 12:4-9

April 20 Divisions Matt. 10:34-36; Luke 12:51-53

April 21 Conditions of Discipleship Matt. 10:37-39; Luke 14:25-27

April 22 Rewards of Discipleship Matt. 10:40-42; Mark 9:41

April 23 Messengers from John the Baptist Matt. 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23

April 24 Jesus Praises John the Baptist Matt. 11:7-19; Luke 7:24-35

April 25 Woe to Unrepentant Cities Matt. 11:20-24; Luke 10:12-15

April 26 Jesus Thanks His Father Matt. 11:25-27; Luke 10:21-24

April 27 Come unto Me Matt. 11:28-30

April 28 Plucking Grain on the Sabbath Matt. 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5

April 29 The Man with the Withered Hand Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11

April 30 A Multitude by the Sea Matt. 12:15-21; Mark 3:7-12; Luke 6:17-19

Happening @ St. John!



No Monday Bible Classes.
It will resume when
there is more
interest.



*"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."*

John 11:25



There will be no
Sunday School on Easter!



The St. John Mini Pantry /Blessing Box is Open!

The St. John Mini Pantry is stocked with ready to eat or easily prepared food items and hygiene items which are available to those in our community who may need a little help. It contains boxes of mac and cheese, soup, spaghetti, canned meals, veggies, fruit, peanut butter, jelly and other items. Volunteers check the box daily and replenish it when needed.



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

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

Come join us! The only need to know how to tie a knot!



McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship
at the Northwood McDonald's on
Wednesdays. 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.



St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street in Williston

Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Children up to 5th grade are welcome!

Volunteers to help please arrive by 9:00 AM

****Candy is needed. Please donate individual wrapped candy pieces small enough to fit in an egg.
They can be left at the office or in the Sunday School room. Thank you!**

Join us....



LIVING LAST SUPPER

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7pm

"Reverse Advent"

GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED!



Friday, April 7 at 7pm

Celebrate Easter with us!

EASTER SUNDAY

WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?
LUKE 24:5, ESV

Saturday, April 8 @ 5pm, Sunday, April 9 @ 9:45am

Matriarch/Patriarch Updates

You may have noticed that we only had room for a couple more pictures in our present frame. Thanks to Richard Phillips for making us a new frame and Cheryl Berger for updating the pictures. Since starting this honors program in October of 2005, we have had 10 matriarchs and 7 patriarchs. It was decided to use one of the frames for our matriarchs and the other for the patriarchs. The frames and pictures are on the wall in the educational hall. When you see either Richard or Cheryl, be sure to thank them for doing this project for us.

2024 Holy Land Tour Opportunities –

Have you ever wanted to see the places where Jesus walked and taught in the New Testament? Well, 2024 is offering you not one, but two opportunities to join with other Northwestern Ohio Lutherans in traveling to the Holy Land. The first trip is in late January 2024 (January 30-Feb 9th) led by Bishop Beaudoin and the other trip will be in June of 2024 (June 17-27) led by **Pastor O'Brien**.

For more information, reach out to Bruce Nieman at bjnimail@gmail.com and let him know which tour date interests you.

The January tour is \$4,190, the June tour is \$4,090. Both include all meals, accommodations, sight-seeing in a modern air conditioned bus, English speaking tour guide and air fare from Detroit.

The 10th Annual Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Annual Meeting “MANY VOICES...ONE STORY”

The annual LHM meeting was held March 13, 2023 at 6:30p.m. at the Pinnacle in Maumee.

We dined on the buffet meal as our own Nancy Strohscher played hymns on the piano. Mr. Charles Winters, board chairman, welcomed all in attendance. Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy delivered the invocation.

Bishop Daniel Beaudoin delivered the introductory remarks followed by introductory remarks from Rev. Jonathan Rusche, Ohio District of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod.

The business meeting included President and C.E.O. Mrs. Terri Rodriguez's report on LHM. Nominations for the LMM board and LSS Foundation board were presented and voted on.

The Agency presentations included our own Mrs. Megan O'Brien, LHM Mission Advancement Director. Megan told her heartfelt story of her boo, boo, blanket and how it was a comfort and safe place for her as a child and beyond. She compared how Luther Home of Mercy is home for the residents that also offers comfort, safety and love through the caring staff. Mrs. Tracia Jaksetic, Lutheran Social Services President, updated us on how the services are making a positive impact on the communities it serves. Mrs. Carol Slight, Filling Homes Vice President, talked about the continued support in helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live their best life.

The meeting ended with a prayer by Bishop Chester Trail. The Benediction was “All God's People”.

Thank you to the members of St. John for the opportunity.
Gene & Amy Bihn

Thank you for sharing your Easter flowers with the congregation during our Easter Worship. You may pick up your flowers after Easter Sunday service or during office hours.

From

Lee & Debbie Wehner
Lee & Debbie Wehner
Lee & Debbie Wehner
Larry & Nancy Strohscher
JoElaine Schimming & Family
John & Helen Meyer
Jack & Jill Mathews
Margaret Berger
Margaret Berger
Chuck & Jeri Permar
Rich & Becky Brossia
Jane & Richard Phillips
Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock
LisaAnne Gregg
LisaAnne Gregg
Doris Titgemeyer
Doris Titgemeyer
Paul Beamer
Paul Beamer
Carol Beamer
Dave & Vicki Huber
Allen & Judy Yockey
Mary Harmeyer & Beth Johnson
Bernard Blausey
Bernard Blausey
Diana Pfaff

From

Chuck & Jeri Permar

Denise Hoeft
LisaAnne Gregg
Marcia Morgan
Bob & Diane Kapp

In Loving Memory Of

Our parents, Ray & Lois Wehner
Our parents, Ollie & MaryAnn Gruben
Brother, Tom Wehner
Loved Ones
Kenneth Schimming
Jay Meyer
Mary Mathews
Don Berger
Tim Berger
John, Norma & Joe Rensch, Robert Permar
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Emory Lasseter
Ralph & Edna Sandrock
Rob & Clara Lasseter
Frederick & Karen Sandrock
Jennifer Johnson
Rosella Fleitz
Son, Robert Begell
My Parents
Carl Titgemeyer
Helen Schlievert
Daniel Beamer
Daniel Beamer
Our Parents
Gregg Yockey
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Marjorie Blausey
Delbert & Lois Base

****Sorry, not ALL are listed on here. The full list will be available in the Easter bulletin and the May Forerunner. Printed were the names available at the time of printing.**



In Honor of

Carol Permar, Grandchildren/Great Grandchildren
and Jim and Nora McGibbeny
Megan and Lauren Hoeft
The St John Family
Beckie Goldstein & the Choir
Our Grandchildren



Love Garden Banquet

Formerly Mother/Daughter Banquet
All Women, Family and Friends
Of St. John's are Invited

April 16, 2023

1:00pm-3:00pm

Tickets: \$10.00 per person
3 and under free

Tickets will be sold before church starting
March 4th to April 1st, 2023

If you need tickets, contact

Tammy Mazur at 419-266-6491 or email jtam97@hotmail.com

Buffet Lunch will be provided
Come celebrate the LOVE
within St. John's





April Stewardship Prayer

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



A Christian steward serves GOD
out of love and gratitude for these gifts
knowing that it's NOT how much we have but
what we DO with WHAT WE HAVE
that is important.



Freely you have received;
freely give.
Matt. 10:8

April Stewardship Page

April Stewardship Verse

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse,
so that there may be food in my house,
and thus put me to the test, says
the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open
the windows of heaven for you and pour
down for you an overflowing blessing.

Malachi 3:10



Growing in Faith and Service





CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page

Easter is not about the bunny or the eggs

It's ALL about Jesus and what He did

1 Peter 2:24



Just for KIDS

Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate! Why do we celebrate?

Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20							

great happiness

a place where plants grow

opposite of evening

a shape that means love

it rises every morning

a close companion

Jesus was nailed to it

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb

Jesus rose from the dead!

joy, garden, morning, heart, sun, friend, cross, stone

HAPPY +

The gift of God is **E**ternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

I am the **A**live forever and ever! *Revelation 1:18*

The Father has sent His Son to be the **S**avior of the world. *1 John 4:34*

I am the **T**ruth and the Life. *John 14:6*

God has given us **E**ternal life, and this life is in His Son. *1 John 5:11*

Remember Jesus Christ **R**aised from the dead. *2 Timothy 2:8*



Scholarships for continuing education are available from St. John Lutheran Church. Applications may be picked up from the church office and are also available on the church's website. **The application deadline for all scholarships is March 31, 2023.** You may return the completed forms to the church office any time before that date. **If you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Pastor O'Brien, Deanna Neuman, and Al Brown.**

Below is a brief summary of the scholarships available. The scholarship committee recommends that anyone that has graduated high school within the last five years take a close look at the application requirements. All eligible students are encouraged to apply.

TANK SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in 1997 and is provided through the generosity of Carol Tank and the late Robert Tank.
- In order to be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must be an active voting member of St. John Lutheran Church for at least three years before the start of the college semester that the applicant is applying for this scholarship.
- The applicant must attend a four year accredited college or university.
- The scholarship is a one year scholarship for \$500 that can be applied for by the applicant for their first or second year.
- A second scholarship is available for those attending Capital University.

ST. JOHN SCHOLARSHIP (Lutheran Partners)

- The purpose of this scholarship fund is to aid in the education of our students who will be attending an ELCA related college.
- The applicant must be a voting member of St. John Lutheran Church.
- The grant will be \$500 for each qualified student contingent upon the dollars available in the scholarship fund.

YOUNKER SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship began in 2006 and is made available by an annual contribution from the Younker Scholarship Fund and is solely dependent on that annual contribution for the scholarship program to continue.
- The student must be a confirmed church member who is actively involved in the life of the Church and who demonstrates their faith.
- Recipient will be a recent high school graduate. Recent defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- The student will attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.

EARL JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- This scholarship was established in January 2016 from a portion of Earl's estate bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church during their high school years.
- Scholarship value will be up to \$1,000 and determined by the applicant's church worship attendance as well as church and community activities.
- The applicant must attend either a public or private accredited college or university and be degree seeking.
- Applicants must be a recent high school graduate. Recent shall be defined as within five years of the date of the beginning of the school year.
- Recipients can apply more than once, but can only receive the scholarship once.
- Scholarship recipient and value will be determined by the St. John scholarship committee.

PHYLLIS PARKS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Phyllis Parks Scholarship Fund was established in August, 2016 from the estate of Martin Parks bequeathed to St. John Lutheran Church.

- The maximum individual scholarship will be \$1,000.
- The applicant must be a confirmed St. John member and active in the life of the church.
- Special preference will be given to the applicant's church worship attendance.



Lord, how can we ever thank You enough? You endured more pain, more shame, more sorrow, more grief than we can possibly fathom. Help us remember why You gave Your life. Because of love. Because of mercy. Because we desperately need them both. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Liz Curtis Higgs



Lord Jesus, how can I ever repay You for what You've done? Thank You for paying the debt for my life. Thank You for erasing my sin and calling me Your own. I am no longer a slave to sin or in debt to a holy God. I am a child of God. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - Arlene Pellicane

These times are frightening, Lord. Headlines daily deliver troubling news. If we dwell there, Father, we will lose all hope. Thank You for Your protection and the promises we have in Your word. Nothing can separate us from Your love and the victory achieved by Christ at the cross. He is our hope and ever-present help in trouble. Thank You, Father. We have no need to fear. You will never leave nor forsake Your own! - Judy Fussell



Dear Jesus, I plead for You to give me Your grief over the people who have missed You and rejected You. This Easter, remind me just how much I need You. Help me see Your grace. Grant me that divine combination of sorrow and tenderness that points people to the cross and to new Life. Dear God, give me Your heart for my world, to see the desperate need for salvation we all have. In Jesus' Name, Amen.- Amy Carroll



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



From the desk of....
Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this morning's passage from the Daily Bible Reading Guide, Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount by teaching his listeners about Two Kinds of Builders. One builder wisely built his house on rock. This wise builder is like those who hear the words of Jesus and put them into practice. The other builder foolishly built his house on sand. This foolish builder is like those who hear the words of Jesus and fail to put them into practice.

Consider for a moment the two houses. How are they similar? How are they different? Consider the two builders. How are they similar? How are they different? Now consider some ways that you have actively practiced hearing God's Word? And some ways that you have actively practiced doing God's Word?

We have been taught that no one is saved by doing works, we are saved by the grace of God, through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus doesn't sound like a very good Lutheran here. How do you reconcile the fact that Jesus calls us to be both hearers and doers? And how do we keep this hearing from simply becoming an exercise in missional gridlock? And how do we keep this doing from becoming an exercise in endless toil? I'd love to hear how you have found a way to balance today's words of Jesus?

"Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!" (Matthew 7:24-27).



Bethany: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

John 11:1-45

Bethany is a little town located only 2 miles from Jerusalem. But, this southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives saw some miraculous sites during the public ministry of Jesus Christ. The town was the home of Jesus' friend Lazarus, and his sisters, Mary and Martha, and was frequently visited by Jesus and his Disciples. It was also the site where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. And, if that isn't enough, it is believed to be the sight of Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Today, you can visit the Tomb of Lazarus, the House of Mary and Martha, and the House of Simon the Leper.



April 2: Palm Sunday (no meeting)
April 16: Episode 3
April 30: Episode 4

We will gather following Sunday worship (11:00ish) and have lunch while we watch the show. We welcome anyone to join us.

East Palestine Collection for Water

We have all seen the reports of the train derailment and chemical explosion in East Palestine Ohio. The resulting chemical spill has left the water in the area unsafe to drink. Health experts are warning of “serious environmental damage” in the area surrounding the crash site. Bottled water is a great need. Several congregations of the North Central Conference led the effort in collecting bottled water to be used by the residents of East Palestine. Monetary gifts were received also and were used to purchase bottled water for the residents.

Pastor Bob Noble (Calvary, Northwood, Christ, Dowling) personally delivered the water that was collected and reported back that the situation is much worse than what is being reported. One glass of water may not have many ‘measurable contaminants’, but the people of that community have to deal with the effects of many glasses of water over the course of weeks, months, and years. Restaurants have been forced to close. Pets have been sent away because water is too precious to use for them and the ground water is not safe for them to drink in the long term.

First Church of Christ in East Palestine has been designated the lead church in the area to assist survivors and their families. First Christ is where residents come to get water and receive medical care and advice supplied by the Columbiana County Department of Health. Mallory Aponick is coordinating efforts on behalf of the churches in the area. Mallory hugged Pastor Bob in thanks telling him, “I don’t know what we would do if it was not for churches.”

The whole situation will undoubtedly have very long-term consequences for the environment and the people of the community. Pastor Bob shared that when he was unloading a woman came up and asked for one of the gallon jugs of water because that is how she has been able to bathe her 4-month-old baby.

To further help the people of East Palestine, we will be joining with the congregations of the North Central Conference and collect donations through Easter Sunday. We are asking members of St. John to consider making a special donations (marked “WATER”) to support this relief effort. Any donations will be combined with the proceeds from our Easter Breakfast and added to the conference wide collection. One hundred percent of the money offered will be used to purchase water for the residents of East Palestine.

Some bottled water may not seem like much when the problems are so big, but as Pastor Bob discovered, our collected acts of care and compassion can be a welcome gift for people who are hurting and fearful of what the future may hold. Please remember the residents of East Palestine in your prayers and consider donating. Even the smallest act of kindness can be a huge blessing.

EASTER BREAKFAST

APRIL 9, 2023

8:30 AM -9:30 AM

**SCRAMBLED EGGS,
SAUSAGE, FRUIT, AND
ASSORTED SWEET ROLLS
COFFEE, TEA, MILK OR
JUICE
FREE WILL DONATION**

**Catechism students are
needed to help serve
and clean up for the
Easter Breakfast on
April 9, 2023.**

**There is a signup sheet
by Pastor’s office. Ser-
vice points will be given
for helping.**

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – 3.16.23

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Gary Johnson, Kellie Ulrich, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, Dan Kessler, Deanna Neuman, Dave Neuman, Melissa Hays, and Pam LaRue

Members Absent: Stefanie Hill Ron Gerkenmeyer

Meeting Opened: At 7pm, by Tim Titgemeyer

Devotions led by Pastor: Matthew 6:10 & Luke 11:2 & Prayer Shared by Kristina Wildman

November secretary minutes approved: Motion made by: Gary Johnson & Motion seconded by: Kristina Wildman

Pastor's Report:

Worship Attendance:

- In person average for February 2023 - 121.5 compared to February 2022 - 118.8
- Online average for February 2023 - 80.5 compared to February 2022 - 103.8 Numbers
- 12 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings
- 4 committee/group meetings
- 5 community/youth/fellowship events
- 6 professional/clergy activities
- 7 classes/Bible studies
- 1 funeral

Holy Land

• I'm scheduling a slide show talk about my pilgrimage to the Holy Land for any who are interested on March 25 th following worship. We will have Middle eastern food first and view pictures after. This weekend is the deadline to reserve a meal.

Lenten Worship

• Our theme for midweek Lenten worship this year will be the seven last words of Jesus. Services are on Wednesdays March 1 through 29. Worship at St. John will be at 11:00a. If you are not available in the morning, worship at St. Peter, Blackberry is 7:00p and Calvary, Northwood is 7p.

Holy Week Worship

• Maundy Thursday (4/6) and Good Friday (4/7) worship will be at 7p. Easter worship on Saturday at 5p and Sunday at 9:45a

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee Report: Dan Kessler, Kristina Wildman & Jennifer Nelson (report included in packet)

- Expenses: We are 98% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year to date budget.
- Income: We are 104% of our monthly budget and 92% of our year to date budget.
- Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$9,588 compared to our budget of negative \$8,053.
- Dan - Board ministries were over in Feb (one time purchase of supplies and wine). Operating expenses are under budget because utility bills were under budget estimates.
- Jennifer - Pastor is working with the Bishop in helping East Palestine and doing a special offering if people want to donate. This opportunity to give goes through Easter. Mark water on your offering envelopes and we will also take \$1,000 from the Good Samaritan fund to donate along with this.

Christian Community Life: Susie Mathews

- Food pantry: February meeting - Trinity United Methodist Thrift shop donated their 2022 proceeds of \$1,500.00 to the food pantry. In January they served 80 patrons. Total donation for January = \$4,567.97 & Total expense for January = \$3,698.21
- At the Shrove Pancake supper we served 70 people. From the Free Will donation, we were able to give The Blessing Box \$673.00 for supplies. Our committee along with the Evangelism committee finalized our menu for the Lenten lunch on March 29th. Next month we will be discussing Mother's Day and Confirmation.

Evangelism: Melissa Hays

- We discussed and finalized the menu for the Lenten lunch March 29th with Christian Community Life committee .
- We put together 1 easter basket and we are working on another for the easter egg hunt.

Continued Council Minutes

Parish Education: Dave and Deanna Neuman

- 2 weeks ago we showed The Chosen and 19 people attended. We are going to switch it to every other week.
- Tammy Mazur is coordinating Easter breakfast and donations will go to East Palestine Ohio.
- Easter egg hunt is coming up and volunteers will arrive at 9 am and kids will come to help stuff eggs.
- Sunday school average has been averaging 2 kids per week. We will be surveying parents about Sunday school options.
- Discussed reinstating a nursery attendant during church service. Stewardship: Pam LaRue
- Discussed description of the Stewardship Committee and ideas for the future.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

- We are working with the church office to get the piano tuned on a regular set schedule, a minimum of 2x a year. Also when the technician is here we would like the other pianos in the building to be checked.
- Would like the church sanctuary piano tuned as soon as possible. Touching base with Lisa Ann on Friday.
- We have confirmed that we have volunteers to hand out palms on Sunday, (Titgemeyers) and Tracy D. and Amy S. on Saturday.
- Tracy Brown has agreed to take care of Easter flower set up and display. Not delivering to home-bound at this time.
- Maundy Thursday, Deanna will set up for communion.
- We will be doing a re-enactment of the Last Supper with 12 men as disciples and Pastor Shawn as Jesus. At this time, we are still searching for a couple more men to act as a disciple. Each person will be given a reading.
- We are also looking for anyone who would like to sing in the choir for the Maundy Thursday service. The practices for this would be after church on Sunday. Service is at 7:00 on the 6th of April.
- Will begin working on a set of written instructions for the communion set up and cleanup. Would like to include pictures to assist anyone new to communion set up and clean up.

Property: Gary Johnson

- Replaced fluorescent tubes above the altar.
- Ran ethernet cable for fire alarm system. Protegis has installed new equipment, restoring monitoring.

Old Business:

- Two windows in the social hall need attention.
- Every year we need 2 people to go to food pantry board meetings, once a month to bring back info to the church council, the first Tuesday of every month (6:30-8:30). The meetings are held at the ARC (old junior high building in Genoa) at the food pantry. Our church is also responsible for getting people to work it twice a year. We need volunteers for April's food pantry April 15th.
- Talk about getting a digital thermostat for heat on the phone that we can adjust for savings.

New Business:

- We want to encourage families with young children to come to worship! All ages welcome!
- We are looking for feedback and ideas for continuing with Williston Encounter or changing up the way it has been done in the past.

• **Next Committee Mtg:** Thurs., April 13, 2023 at 7pm &

Next Council Mtg: Thurs., April 20, 2023 at 7pm

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



Council Highlights

What happened at the last meeting?



Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Gary Johnson, Kellie Ulrich, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, Dan Kessler, Deanna Neuman, Dave Neuman, Melissa Hays, and Pam LaRue

Devotions led by Pastor: Matthew 6:10 & Luke 11:2 & Prayer Shared by Kristina Wildman

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Next Council Mtg: Thurs., April 20, 2023 at 7pm

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

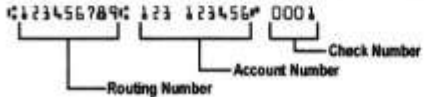
St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

www.stjohnwilliston.org

(419)836-5144

email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____			
Type of authorization: <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			
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: ____ 
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____		
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card		
	Card Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____
	Name on Card: _____		
	Billing Address (if different from above): _____		
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____		

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



Worship Assistants



Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

1- Ron Gerkenmeyer
8- Buhrow Family
15- Donnelly Family
22- Wayne Bauman
29- Jack Mathews

Lectors

1- Tracy Orians
8- Nancy Strohscher
15- Beverly Harder
22- Amy Schloegl
29- Aidan O'Brien

Acolytes

1- Lauren Hoeft
8- Jacob Higginbotham
15- Mila McQueary
22- Lindsey Krumnow
29- Emma Morgan

Communion

1- Nancy Strohscher
8- Amy Schloegl
15- Ron Gerkenmeyer
22- Alice Witt
29- JoElaine Schimming

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

2- Titgemeyer Family
9- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
16- Jill Kao
23- Titgemeyer Family
30- Diana Pfaff/Riley B

Lectors

2- Cebie Titgemeyer
9- Deanna Neuman
16- Diana Pfaff
23- Tim Tigtemeyer
30- Melissa Lammers

Acolytes

2- Logan Hays
9- Lily Sondergold
16- Emma Morgan
23- Caleb Hays
30- Logan Hays

Communion

2- Rosemarie Dickinson
9- Tim Titgemeyer
16- Margaret Berger
23- Dave/Deanna N
30- Kellie Ulrich

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

6- Ron Gerkenmeyer
13- Buhrow Family
20- Donnelly Family
27- Wayne Bauman

Lectors

6- Tracy Orians
13- Nancy Strohscher
20- Beverly Harder
27- Amy Schloegl

Acolytes

6- Jacob Higginbotham
13- Mila McQueary
20- Lindsey Krumnow
27- Emma Morgan

Communion

6- Al/Traci Brown
13- Amy Schloegl
20- Nancy Strohscher
27- Ron Gerkenmeyer

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

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

Lectors

7- Cebie Titgemeyer
14- Deanna Neuman
21- Diana Pfaff
28- Tim Tigtemeyer

Acolytes

7- Lily Sondergold
14- Caleb Hays
21- Logan Hays
28- Lauren Hoeft

Communion

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








More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!

Sunday, May 21st



April 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				30 7pm Maundy Thursday Practice	31	1 5:00 PM Contemporary Bake Sale
2  8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Bake Sale 10:45 Choir	3	4 9:00 AM Blankets 2 PM Esther Circle 7 PM Rebekah Circle 6:30 Dartball	5 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	6 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service 	7 7PM Good Friday Service 	8 11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
9 <i>He is Risen</i> NO Sunday School 8:30 AM Easter BF 9:45 AM Traditional	10	11 9:00 AM Blankets	12 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	13 7:00 PM Committee Meeting	14	15 10-Noon Genoa Food Pantry 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
16 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:45 AM Traditional 10:45AM Choir 11 AM The Chosen 1PM Love-Garden Banquet	17 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!	18 9:00 AM Blankets	19 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	20 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21	22  5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
23 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional 10:45AM Choir	24	25 9:00 AM Blankets	26 7 AM Breakfast Gathering	27	28 	29 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
30 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional 11 AM The Chosen						

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 0699 Issue 324

April 2023



Easter. It's not about the bunny.



April 2023



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: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:
office@stjohnwilliston.org

In person and online!

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday School for all ages 8:30 AM

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

*Visit us on Facebook