

St. John - Williston Forerunner

A Publication of St. John Lutheran Church- Williston, Ohio
September 2024 Volume 0716 Issue 341

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If you would like to submit a question for "Ask the Pastor", Biblical, theological, church related, anything you have been dying to ask a pastor, you can hand me a note, ask me after church, send an e-mail, or sneak into the church after dark and anonymously slide a sealed envelope under my office door. If I answer your question in print, I will not include your name unless you explicitly ask me to.

Ask the Pastor

Forgiveness

"If Jesus forgives us no matter what we do, aren't we free to just do whatever we want and let God figure it out in the end?"

Perhaps you've heard the joke, or seen the cartoon... It reads, "I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness." I love that quote, because like any good joke it contains an element of truth... God is not a cosmic vending machine that gives us whatever we want AND God will forgive you no matter what you do. So, to the question: If God is all about forgiveness, aren't we free to just do whatever we want? Why don't we steal more bikes?

My first thought is that doing whatever we want isn't really freedom... In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul writes, "For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

If we can come to church each week and leave knowing that God loves us despite our past, despite our failures, despite the relationships we have damaged, that's a very good start. A good start, because what we do with that is very important. This forgiveness we have in Christ – Paul calls it freedom – means we are set free from our past mistakes, we are not bound by our sins, God forgives us no matter what you do... we are free.

But we were not given this freedom to do whatever we want... We were not given this freedom as a holy fire insurance policy... Our freedom is not a ticket out of hell and permission to live a life of sin. That's not really freedom – that's just trading our bondage to a different master. No one benefits from that. Paul, in so many words says, Jesus didn't go to the cross to die for that kind of mentality.

God has, and will forgive you no matter what you do... We have been turned inside out. Emptied of the sin that was keeping us turned inward and given the heart of Jesus Christ. God fills us up with all his kindness and his love and his gentleness. It's all poured into US and we are made free... not to keep that all to ourselves... not to do whatever we want; self-indulgence, steal more bikes, etc. That would be missing the point, it would be only half the story. We are free to extend all that kindness, grace, and love... first, back to God and then of course to other people as well.



Memorials and Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Dee Wukotich
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

In Memory of Richard Buhrow
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

**In Honor of Vogelbacher's
50th Anniversary**
Bob and Diane Kapp
Margaret Berger

In Memory of Edna Rideout
Mary Harmeyer
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Bob and Deb Feehan
Mr. Richard Rideout
Margaret Berger
Janice Sheahan
JoElaine Schimming
Richard and Regina Meyers
Janet Cook
George and Deb Fitch
Donna Koester
Lee Yackee
Beverly Haar
Michael and Anita O'Connor
Darryl and Diane Traver
Todd and Lori Jo Traver
Karl and Roberta Orians
Joe and Anne Zielinski
Barbara and Jamen Hasenfratz
Sandra Blausey

William and Shelly Hinkle
Dave and Bev Hoffman
Jean Weng
David and Miriam Morrison
Lowell and Diane Hartman
Debbie and Robin Alday
Dennis and Cindy Hartman
Kathy and Steve Wegman
Kevin and Kathy Fox
Lee and Linda Wyse
David and Cathy Speer
Elaine Gruetter
Bob and Diane Kapp
John Jenkins
Al & Traci Brown
Gargas Farms
Annette and Mike Koester
James and Sandra Koester

In Memory of Henry Krukemyer
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Elaine Gruetter
Al & Traci Brown
Elizabeth Oberhaus and family

In Memory of Norma Jean Gast
Terry Gast

In Memory of John Hovis
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

The Forerunner
is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street
Williston, Ohio
Corner of Main and Toledo Street

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e-mail:
office@stjohnwilliston.org
stjohnwilliston.org

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

Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM

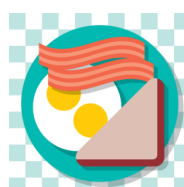
**Sunday School for the
whole family 8:30 AM**
**on the first Sunday of the
month Oct-May**

Sunday Worship
9:45 AM beginning Sept. 8

**Deadline for the
October 2024 newsletter is**
Monday, Sept 23rd at 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."**



JOIN US Join us for **BREAKFAST & FRIENDS!**
FOR Come have a cup of coffee with your St.
BREAKFAST! John Family and others at the
GENOA McDonald's!
Every Wednesday 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.



LisaAnne Gregg
Office Admin.
9am—3pm
M-T-W
Thurs. hours
may vary
Office closed
on Friday₂

New Patriarch and Matriarch named at St. John

Mr. Richard Crosskill was named the newest Patriarch of St. John during a special time of recognition during worship on Saturday August 17th. He was presented the Patriarch Bible by Pastor O'Brien and honored by the his family and the congregation with a reception following worship.

Mrs. RoseMary Fredericksen was named the newest Matriarch of St. John during a special time of recognition at our Saturday, August 31st worship service. She was presented with the Matriarch Bible by Pastor O'Brien and was honored by her family and the congregation with a reception following worship.

History of Matriarch/Patriarch Bible

In 2005 the WELCA of St John discussed having a Matriarch and Patriarch Bible. Plans were made to begin this program where the oldest living female and male member would be presented with the Bible. The Bible is "on loan" to them to read and learn from it daily. Following their passing, the family will then return the Bible at their funeral service. It is then passed on to the next oldest member. A list of those who have received the Bible is below.



In the education hallway we have a picture which includes all those who have had the honor of having the Bible.

Matriarchs

Ella Kopfman	10/15/2005
Fern Martin	4/22/2006
Helen Johnson	4/27/2008
Mildred Panning	9/27/2009
Hazel Marsh	4/7/2012
Dorothy Johnson	7/14/2014
Gertrude Henningson	10/5/2016
Edna Sandrock	2/13/2021
Carol Tank	3/1/2021
Edna Rideout	9/15/2022
RoseMary Fredericksen	8/31/2024

Patriarchs

Earl Johnson	10/16/2005
Charles Johnson	2/3/2013
Donald Ruthsatz	4/26/2015
Frederick Lau	8/6/2019
Leroy Fowler	3/22/2020
Ray Fredrickson	11/16/2021
Henry Krukemeyer	11/15/2022
Richard Crosskill	8/17/2024

WELCA Circle Meetings Return in September

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Social Hall
Bible Study: Diane Dickinson

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting in the Lounge

Please join us! You ARE welcome here!



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 phone 419-378-1112), Margaret Berger (419-340-2150) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain. Prayers are sent out by phone message and by email. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. *Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this ministry!* Thank you!



The "Blanket Ladies" gather every week to make quilts on **Tues. mornings at 9 am.** Bed sheets (ANY SIZE) are needed for backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office. **Come join us! You only need to know how to tie a knot and the coffee is always on!**

Blanket Ministry Weekends



The Blanket Ladies will again be displaying their many, many blankets starting the weekend of **September 28th and 29th** and again on **October 5th & 6th.** They will again be selling raffle tickets for \$1.00 each and some blankets will be included in a Silent Auction. Raffle tickets sales and the silent auction will continue for another two weeks for a total of four weeks. Blankets will be sold for a **donation of \$30.00.** Baby and small children size **are \$25.00.** The children's blankets will be displayed in the front rows of the church. Please remember to mark any donations turned into the offering plate or office as **"blankets".** You can also give your donation to the ladies selling raffle tickets, before and after services. The donations received from the raffle, silent auction and sale of blankets are the only funds we receive to purchase filler and backs for the blankets.

Every year, the Blanket Ministry of St. John donates these wonderful blankets to those in need, those who are grieving, to Nightengale's Harvest (a charity supporting cancer patients), to area shelters, to the ELCA World Relief Organization and other causes.

If you know of an organization or person who could use a blanket let one of the ladies or the office know.

We will distribute after October 8th, but always have some available all year long. We tie each Tuesday morning from 9:00am-11:30am. We invite you to join us or just stop to visit and see how it is done. Thank you all for the donations of sheets, fabric and thread needed to complete these projects! There is always need for more and there is a donation bin by the church office.



On Sunday, September 8th, at 8:30 a.m., there will be a meeting for confirmation students and parents at the church to provide you with a little more information about the confirmation program, let you know what to expect, as well as what will be expected in the coming year. It is important that at least one parent/guardian from each family attend this meeting with the students.

If you are unable to attend, please contact me to let me know if your child is going to participate in the program, and to receive the parent information. Also, when you see other parents of 6th, 7th and 8th graders, please mention this meeting. I think our mailing list is complete, but this is an important program, and I don't want to see anyone left behind. Pastor O'Brien



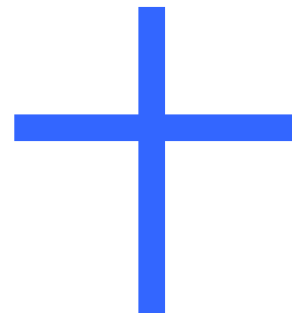
Join us on
Sun. October 6th at 8:30 AM
for our New Sunday School for
the WHOLE FAMILY!
Come and enjoy bible stories,
crafts, music and fun!

Fall Worship Hours return
Sunday, September 8th!

Saturday Worship 5 PM
Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Confirmation Class– every Sunday at 8:30 AM
beginning with Parents Meeting on Sept. 8th at 8:30 AM

Sunday School for the whole family
1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 AM
(beginning Oct. 6th)



12th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

Proceeds to benefit St. John Good Samaritan Fund

Good Samaritan Fund assists with emergency requests from individuals and families of the community.

All Golfers Welcome and Needed!

Foursome Team Scramble Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024

Chippewa Golf Club

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

8:00 am — Registration

9:00 am — Shot Gun Start

\$75 per player

18 holes with cart & meal

PRIZES PRIZES

PRIZES

We are also looking for HOLE SPONSORS!
If you or your business would like to sponsor a hole, simply donate \$50.00 and let us know what you would like on your display! Call Tom or the office. You may also email the office at office@stjohnwilliston.org

For information: Tom (419) 205-1942 or the church office (419) 836-5514

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



ANNUAL BENEVOLENCE GOLF OUTING SAT. SEPT 21, 2024

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No



Helping Our Neighbors



We will be collecting **PAJAMAS** for distribution with the Holiday Bureau. Starting in September 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 ! Any questions call Cheryl Berger @419-345-3941.

BAUMANN AUTO GROUP 22ND ANNUAL BIG CHARITY — RAFFLE —

100% OF VEHICLE DONATED BY THE BAUMANN AUTO GROUP

WINNER WINS THE CHOICE OF:



NEW CHEVROLET
TRAILBLAZER*



NEW FORD
MAVERICK*



NEW JEEP
COMPASS*

OR CASH OPTION OF \$20,000

* MSRP UP TO \$27,000

AREA CHARITIES, INCLUDING THE
GENOA FOOD PANTRY

TICKETS AVAILABLE BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP
AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.
(CASH PREFERRED/CHECKS TO
GENOA FOOD PANTRY)

\$5.00 PER TICKET

100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY
TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN THE PAST
21 YEARS IS \$1,246,222



A BIG THANK YOU!!
to those that were able to help
in July serving at the Genoa
Food Pantry! It made it go
very quickly and easily on
both the pre-packing
on Thursday and the serving
on Saturday. We appreciate all your help!.

♥ Christian Community Life

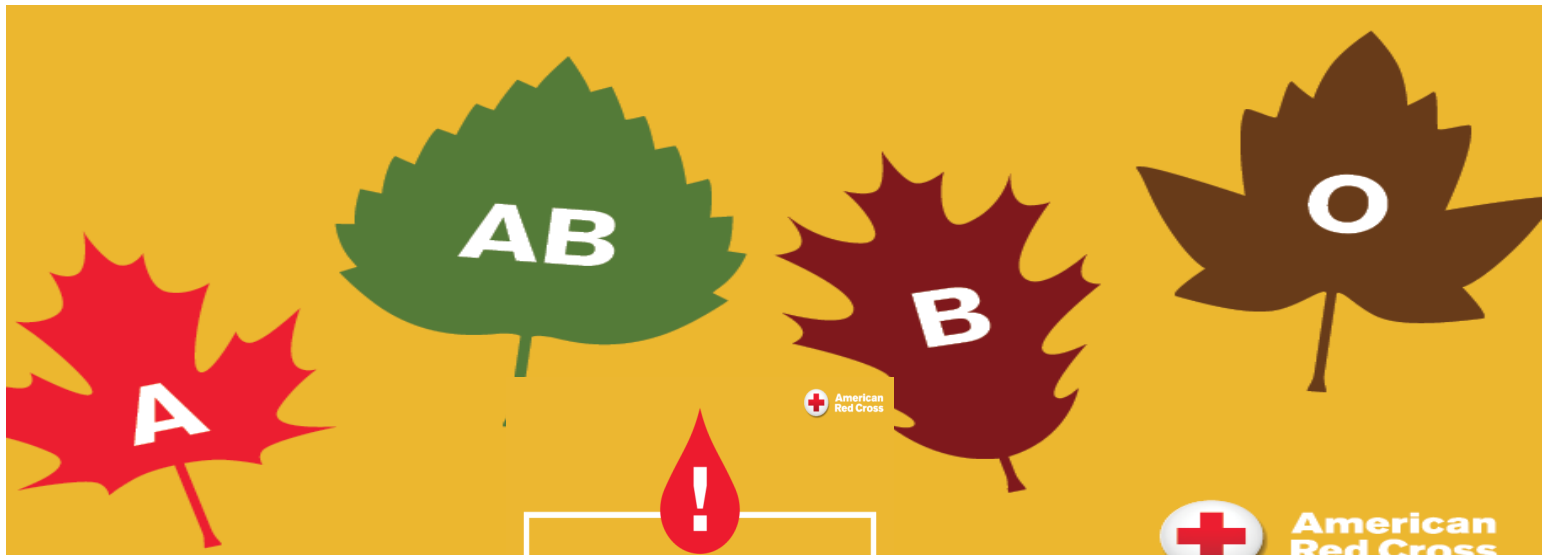


**Our Blessing Box
can always use your help in
helping our neighbors!**

Items Needed:

Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut
Butter, Hamburger Helper,
Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/
side dishes, Applesauce-
cups, Cereal (small boxes to
fit in the box) Fruit cups, soup,
small snacks, canned pastas,
canned fruits and veggies, pre-
packed shelf stable lunch packs. *(no glass, medicine
or expired food, please)* There is a donation box near
the church office. And for those who love to shop
online, Amazon ships to the church!

Win-Win!



**ALERT:
BLOOD
SHORTAGE**



**Don't Let the
Blood Supply Fall**



**Appointments encouraged!
Make your appointment today at**

www.redcrossblood.org

**We also need blood drive volunteers!
See/call LisaAnne in the office or sign
up on the office door. Thank You!!**

**American
Red Cross
Community
Blood Drive**

**Saturday,
September 28,
2024**

8 AM to 1 PM

**St. John
Lutheran Church
Williston, Ohio**

Faith Practice #3 Readings Job



The Book of Job, grouped with the “poetry and wisdom” books in the Old Testament, explores themes of suffering, faith, and the nature of God's justice. The story is set in the land of Uz and centers around Job, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil.

The narrative begins with a description of Job's prosperity and piety, yet the Adversary appears before God and argues that Job is faithful only because of his prosperity. God allows the Adversary to test Job by taking away his possessions, children, and health, but forbids him from taking Job's life. Despite his immense suffering, Job does not curse God but instead laments his misfortune.

His lament sets the stage for a series of dialogues between Job and his friends. They engage in a series of speeches, arguing that Job's suffering must be a punishment for some hidden sin. Job maintains his innocence and argues that his suffering is unjust.

At the end of the book God finally answers Job out of a whirlwind. Rather than providing a direct explanation for Job's suffering, God highlights the vastness and complexity of creation, emphasizing his own omnipotence and the limitations of human understanding. Through a series of rhetorical questions, God makes it clear that his ways and purposes are beyond human comprehension.

The Book of Job is a powerful exploration of the human condition, the mystery of suffering, and the nature of faith in the face of inexplicable adversity. It challenges simplistic notions of divine justice and encourages a humble acknowledgment of the limits of human understanding.

Our reading schedule is as follows: *for the week starting...*

July 15 – Job 1	October 21 – Job 16	February 10 – Job 28
July 22 – Job 2	October 28 – Job 17	February 17 – Job 29
July 29 – Job 3	November 4 – Job 18	February 24 – Job 30
August 5 – Job 4	November 11 – Job 19	March 3 – Job 31
August 12 – Job 5	November 18 – Job 20	March 10 – Job 32
August 19 – Job 6	November 25 – Job 21	March 17 – Job 33
August 26 – Job 7		March 24 – Job 34
August 30 – Job 8	ADVENT BREAK	March 31 – Job 35
September 2 – Job 9		April 7 – Job 36
September 9 – Job 10	December 30 – Job 22	April 14 – Job 37
September 16 – Job 11	January 6 – Job 23	April 21 – Job 38
September 23 – Job 12	January 13 – Job 24	April 28 – Job 39
September 30 – Job 13	January 20 – Job 25	May 5 – Job 40
October 7 – Job 14	January 27 – Job 26	May 12 – Job 41
October 14 – Job 15	February 3 – Job 27	May 19 – Job 42



Stewardship, Fellowship and Service

God's work. Our hands.



September 8, 2024

Join the St. John Family
in serving
our neighbors at
Luther Home of Mercy!

Lunch- 11:15 am at the church
Work- 12:00 pm @ Luther Home
Sign up by Pastor's office today!
Or call the
church office 419-836-5514



St. John will be
supporting
SACK FOR A SACK
again this year.

Every time the Genoa defense
sacks the opposing team's
quarterback, St. John will donate a
\$50 sack of groceries to the
Genoa Food Pantry.
If you would like to
contribute to "Sack for a Sack" and
the Genoa Food Pantry, mark your
donation "Sack for a Sack" and
place it in the offering plate.
You can also drop off a donation
at the church office.



The CHOSEN returns to St. John on
Sunday, Sept. 22nd following worship.
Join us for lunch and the continuation of this
wonderful series! We will meet every other week.



Online giving is now available at St. John.
Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwillistion.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.

(Helpful hint: to avoid additional fees and to make sure your whole donated reaches St. John...use your checking account with your routing & account number.

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

If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.

We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.

Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.



Sunday School for the whole family!
Begins Sunday, October 6th
at 8:30 AM
Join us and bring a friend!

MY ARMOR OF GOD PRAYER

Scripture Reference- Ephesians 6:10-18

Dear God, I come to You, in prayer,
 Asking for protection, as your Armor I wear.

May the **Helmet of Salvation** remind me I'm Yours,
 Saved by the Blood of Christ, I'm a child of God.

May the **Breastplate of Righteousness** remind me
 To walk in right standing, till eternity.

May the **Belt of Truth** direct my ways
 And remind me to study the Bible, night and day.

May the **Shield of Faith** always rise strong
 To help me decide between right and wrong.

May the **Sword of the Spirit** put God's Word in action,
 In my words, my thoughts, and every interaction.

May the **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace** always stay on
 To share Christ's Love to one and all.

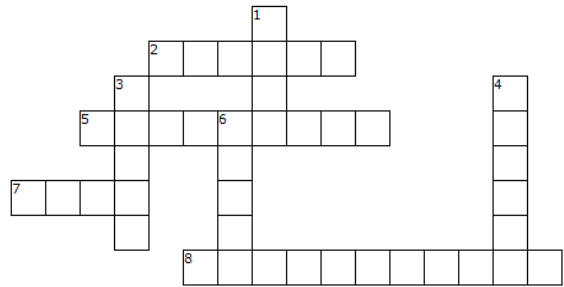
May Your Armor, oh God, keep me strong in prayer,
 Always safe and secure, in Your Loving Care.

Amen.

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17



ACROSS

2. A piece of metal carried to protect the front of the body
5. To deliver from the penalty of sin
7. A flexible band of leather or cloth, worn around the waist
8. A piece of armor that covers the breast

DOWN

1. The body parts at the end of the legs
3. Trust or confidence in God
4. A hard hat that covers and protects the head
6. A covering of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

FAITH
SHIELD

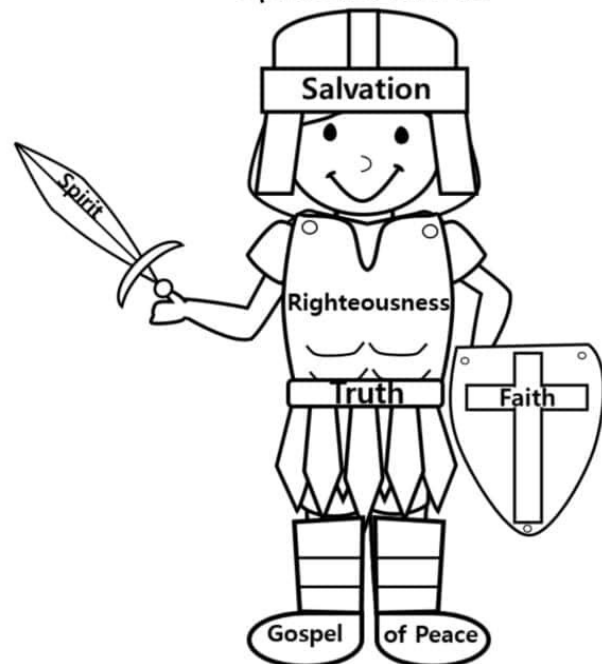
HELMET
BELT

BREASTPLATE
SALVATION

ARMOR
FEET

Armor of God

Ephesians 6:14-18



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Daniel G.
Beaudoin



SEPT 22, 2024



For more information about the Northwestern Ohio Synod, the NW Ohio Synod Assembly, Our Bishop and staff or other points of interest-

visit www.nwos-elca.org.

You may also sign up for email notifications from the Bishop, events in the Synod, updates on ministries and much more!

Toledo Crop Hunger Walk
Sunday, September 22
Registration: 1pm - Send-Off: 2pm

Toledo Campus Ministry
(University of Toledo)
2086 Brookdale Rd., Toledo

Gather to end hunger and poverty in Toledo and around the world one step at a time! Join the Crop Walk at the University of Toledo for an experiential event with educational activities along the route and a beautiful walk around the University of Toledo campus! Keep up to date by following them on Facebook and Instagram: @ToledoCROPHungerWalk

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.

September 2024

Year of Rest Calendar

Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Spiritual	Physical
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Take a media break & quiet yourself.	2 Close your eyes. Be mindful of what you notice.	3 Breathe deeply for 3 minutes.	4 Take 1 thing off your calendar.	5 Visit a park or beach.	6 Reflect on where you saw God today.	7 Sit in stillness. Review your week.
8 Go outside and enjoy God's creation.	9 Listen to music that makes you want to move.	10 Light a candle and give thanks for your baptism.	11 Affirm a gift you see in another.	12 Cook something you love to eat & share it.	13 Donate your time or money to something you believe in.	14 Do a physical activity that makes you winded. Give thanks for breath.
15 Clear your mind before sleep. (Make a list if you need to.) Rest.	16 Take a moment to be in a peaceful place.	17 Ask someone else how they are doing.	18 Take some time to be alone today. Enjoy the solitude.	19 Make something.	20 Watch the sunset. Give thanks for a new day.	21 Take a nap.
22 Meditate or sit in silence for 5 minutes.	23 Smell something delightful.	24 Call or write someone you connect with.	25 Ask someone for help today.	26 Sing or listen to a hymn that encourages you.	27 Advocate for someone's needs.	28 Take a stroll. Greet those you meet along the way.
29 Recount what you are thankful for this month.	30 Get your hands dirty doing something good.					

And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm.
- Matt 8:26

The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Job 33:4

If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
- Prov 3:24

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
- Ps 27:14

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.
- Ps 4:8

August Church Council

Highlights August 15, 2024

Devotions led by Pastor:

"Bread of the Day Devotions"- Luke Chapter 2

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for July 2024-185.8 compared to July 2023-193.2. Online average for July 2024-86.8 compared to May 2023-88.4.

Numbers: 12 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 2 committee/group meetings. 4 community/youth/fellowship events. 4 professional/clergy activities. 1 Youth Gathering, 2 Book Studies.

ELCA Youth Gathering-Thank you to the congregation for their support for the youth to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-21 July 16-22. Kennedy and Payton Donnelly made a presentation before worship on July 27 and 28.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday-St. John will be participating in "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, again this year on September 8th. We will be helping/serving at Luther Home of Mercy with a variety of projects, some inside and some outside. Lunch will be served at the church at 11:15a. Work at LHM begins at approximately 12:00pm.

Making Sense of the Bible Discussion- Our final meeting will be August 28th at 7:00. Feel free to join us even if you've only read part of the book.

Guest Preacher- I will be out of town August 24 for Nick LaRue and Jo Leienberger's wedding. Pastor Bob Noble (Calvary Northwood) will be leading worship.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Report: Income: We are 80% of our monthly budget and 95% of our YTD budget. Expenses: We are 99% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year-to-date budget. Committee will be sending out a letter to inform the congregation of the income needed to catch up to the budget amounts.

Christian Community Life: The church served at the Genoa Food Pantry in July and had plenty of help. Thank you to everyone for pre-packing on Thursday and working on Saturday, July 20th. The committee is asking for pajamas for the Holiday Bureau to distribute. There will be "Moons" for the sizes and gender needed for the PJ's. We will be collecting Sept, Oct and Nov. Watch for those "Moons" CCL will be serving the lunch for "God's Work, Our Hands" on Sept. 8th. Lunch will be at 11:45 with work starting at 12:30 pm. The "Sack for a Sack" is being continued this year. Please look for more info in the Forerunner. Food Pantry Update: served: 36 families (including 2 new), 91 patrons. The Simply Give program at Meijer's was a huge success with Meijer's donated \$10,000 on the Double Day. Thanks to all who support this event. Food Pantry- Total- \$23,570, Expenses- \$976.93, Donations- \$5097.20. We are making room for 2 more freezers. They will be tearing out cupboards and counter tops to make the room. Our church serves at the Genoa Food Pantry next on Sat. Dec. 21st.

Evangelism: Bev Harder will refill the pew envelopes next month. Robin Perkins will be putting a door prize basket together for the golf outing. We will make a door prize basket for the Trunk-or-Treat as in past years. Dec 7th Christmas Tree Lightning-lighting first, then supper. Margaret Berger will be applying for \$250.00 from Thrivent. We will be asking for personal and paper products for Nightengales Harvest.

Parish Education: Sunday School Office has been cleaned out. We saved several VBS starter kits we are hoping to donate. I have contacted the synod and they put it in their newsletter. Pastor Shawn put the info on the synod Facebook page. As of tonight, the VBS kits have all been donated.. We are going to try the same format for Sunday School as last year. Attendance started out strong and dwindled so we will see how it goes this year and may have to make changes for next year.

The Chosen discussion group will start up again in September (originally Sept 8, but that is God's Work Our Hands Sunday, so we will wait until the 22nd to start).

Worship Life: We have a new patriarch, Richard Crosskill and matriarch, Rosemary Fredrickson. Bibles will be presented to them. We discussed altar linen changing schedule which has been developed. The Worship Life Committee will be taking over this responsibility which Diane Gerkensmyer has done for many years. We have divided the altar linen changes among our 4 committee members. We will work on an instruction sheet that can be referred to for future members and will be meeting with Diane next month to get her guidance. Thank you to Diane for doing this for so many years. We discussed the Thanksgiving service and doing it again on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year the date will be November 24th, 5:00 service and 6:00 meal. Christmas Eve service will be on a Tuesday this year. Will be discussing times for services at our next meeting.

Property: Sold the used lawnmower. Ceiling is in the elevator. Social hall faucet has been repaired. Sprayed for weeds in the parking lot. Plans to re-stripe the parking lot.

Old Business: Checking into garbage pickup services available to the church for the best price. The church night at a Mud Hens game was a huge success with 80 people attending.

New Business: A day care here at the church will not work out with the organization when they did a walk-through. Nominating Committee will be starting to begin their work on recruiting new members for the committees. Cub Scouts have asked to use the church for a pancake breakfast fundraiser throughout the year. Thoughts for this project was discussed. Council will contact the Cub Scouts for more information.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dave Neuman..

Seconded by Cheryl Berger.. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Diana (Pfaff) Lambert,
Council Secretary



Worship Assistants














Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00/9:45
Ushers	Ushers
	1-Titgemeyer's
7-Buhrow Family	8- Diana Pfaff
14-Jack Mathews	15-Jill Kao
21- Ron Gerkenmeyer	22- Jim Vogelbacher
28-Donnelly Family	29-Titgemeyer's
Lectors	Lectors
	1- Jerry Goldstein
7- Nancy Strohscher	8-Diana Pfaff
14-Amy Schloegl	15-Kellie Ulrich
21- Beverly Harder	22-Melissa Lammers
28-Jonah Danhoff	29-Tim Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
	1-Lauren Hoeft
7-Jacob Higginbotham	8-Mila McQueary
14-Liam Delventhal	15-Lauren Hoeft
21-Nolan Delventhal	22-Mila McQueary
28-Jacob Higginbotham	29-Lauren Hoeft
Communion	Communion
	1-RoseMarie Dickinson
7- Nancy Strohscher	8-Margaret Berger
14-Carol Vargo	15-Dave Neuman
21-Ron Gerkenmeyer	22-Rol Sandrock
28- Al & Traci Brown	29-Cebie Titgemeyer



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
Ushers	Ushers
5- Buhrow Family	6-Jill Kao
12-Jack Mathews	13- Diana Lambert
19-Ron Gerkenmeyer	20-Jim Vogelbacher
26 - Donnelly Family	27- Titgemeyer's
Lectors	Lectors
5- Christine Danhoff	6- Deanna Neuman
12- Amy Schloegl	13-Diana Lambert
19-Nancy Strohscher	20-Melissa Lammers
26- Beverly Harder	27-Cebie Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
5-Jacob Higginbotham	6-Mila McQueary
12-Nolan Delventhal	13-Lauren Hoeft
19-Liam Delventhal	20-Mila McQueary
26-Jacob Higginbotham	27-Lauren Hoeft
Communion	Communion
5-Nancy Strohscher	6-Pam LaRue
12- Alice Witt	13-Margaret Berger
19-Ron Gerkenmeyer	20-Kellie Ulrich
26-Al & Traci Brown	27-Tim Titgemeyer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am -11:00am Choir practice	2  Faith Practice Reading-Job 9 Labor Day- Office Closed	3  Esther Circle 2 PM (SH) Rebekah Circle 7 PM (Lounge) 9:00am Blankets	4  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:30pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	5	6 Office closed	7 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
8  8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class-Parents Meeting 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am -11:00am Choir practice 11:15am -4:00pm God's Work Our Hands Sunday	9 Faith Practice Reading- Job 10	10 9:00am Blankets	11  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	12  Committee Night 7 PM	13 Office closed	14 2:00pm -4:00pm Scout Training Day (B) 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
15 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am -11:00am Choir practice	16 Faith Practice Reading- Job 11	17 9:00am Blankets	18  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	19  Council Meeting 7 PM	20 Office closed	21  St. John Golf Outing 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
22 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am -11:00am Choir practice 11:00am -1:00pm The Chosen Movie	23  Faith Practice Reading- Job 12 Forerunner deadline 9 AM	24 9:00am Blankets	25  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	26	27 Office closed	28  Community Blood Drive 8 AM-1PM 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
29 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am -11:00am Choir practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts (B)	30 Faith Practice Reading- Job 13	1 9:00am Blankets	2  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:00pm -7:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	3	4 Office closed	5 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Volume 716 Issue 341

September 2024



It's a great time to **FALL**
back into church!
Join us this weekend!
All are welcome at St. John!

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Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

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*Visit us on Facebook

Worship Hours at St. John

Fall Worship Hours return September 8th.

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

**Sunday School for all ages 1st Sunday 8:30 AM
beginning October 6th.**

Sunday Worship 9:45