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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

UPDATE to last month's follow-up question, "Are you going to have a slide show or make a presentation about your trip to the Holy Land?"

Yes! It was an incredible experience, and I would love to tell people about my trip. Some of you saw some pictures on Facebook, but there are a few thousand more. Literally... 3,715 pictures to be exact... and Good Shepherd Travel recently sent me more!

On **March 25th**, following Saturday worship I will be sharing a very small percentage of my pictures and talking about our trip to the Holy Land. After worship (around 5:45ish) we will gather in the basement for food and fellowship. We have arranged for the Sidon Lebanese Grill to cater. (It's not exactly the same, but it's very similar to the food we ate in Israel.) The menu will include Shish Tawook, Shish Kafta, Yellow Rice, Garden Salad, Hommus, Garlic Sause, and Baklava. The meal is **\$15 per person** and must be ordered and paid for in advance. See me to reserve a meal. (The **deadline** to order a meal is **March 19.**) If you don't like Middle eastern food, you are welcome to bring your own dinner and enjoy fellowship over a shared meal.

After we are done eating, probably about 6:30ish, we will view pictures, Shane and I will talk about our trip, and I will answer any questions you have about traveling to the Holy Land.

Please feel free to attend any or all these events as your interest or schedule allows. I.e., you don't have to eat food to see pictures and vice versa. If you want to eat baklava and leave, that's okay. If you want to show up at 6:30 for the pictures, that's okay too. I'm excited to talk about the trip with anyone who will listen.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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.

40 days
OF Lent

Memorials and Gifts to St. John



In Memory of Tom Siglar
Alice Siglar

In Memory of Ray Fredericksen
Elaine Gruetter

In Memory of Milton Schimming
Mary Schimming

In Memory of Carolyn English
Marilyn Sandrock and
Carolyn Lasseter

In Memory of Gary Carstensen
Tom and Joan Truman
James Blum
Gene and Amy Bihn
Lowell and Diana Hartman
Marilyn Sandrock and
Carolyn Lasseter
Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer
Elaine Gruetter
JoElaine Schimming
Richard and Susan Taylor
Kent Delventhal
Diane Dickinson
Bob and Diane Kapp
Mary Harmeyer
Alice Witt
Dennis and Diane Carstensen
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Ron and Amy Sandrock
Linda Schlievert
Gary Johnson
Gertrude Eckerman
Carol Vargo
Margaret Berger
Jack and Jill Mathews
Jill Kao
Dean Lowe
Donna Mathews
Carole Beamer
Janet Buschmann
JR Vargo

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 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 so much for your recent contribution the Genoa Area Community Food Pantry. We are grateful for your generous donation the pantry. Thank you for your support of the Pantry which makes it possible for us to continue to serve the needy in the community.

Robin Miller Genoa Area Food Pantry

Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran Home of Mercy. Your gift not only helps our ministry to thrive but offers opportunities for individuals to flourish. Please accept our gratitude for your generosity and shared partnership in this mission. May God's love light your way and lead you into a new year that shines with His special joy.

Megan O'Brien
Director of Mission Advancement
Lutheran Home of Mercy

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by St. John Lutheran Church
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Home Telephone:
419-378-1112
pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Fall/Winter Worship
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday School 8:30 AM
Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the
April 2023 newsletter is
Monday, March 20th
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
Monday—Friday
9am—2pm



Blankets to Turkey

Again, the blanket ladies have answered a plea for help. They have sent **20 blankets** to Turkey to aid the earthquake victims. Doing this gives them a feeling of satisfaction and even joy. We pray these blankets will bring warmth and comfort to those effected by the disaster.



*If Ottawa County is under a **Level 3** Snow Emergency, we will not have worship or any other church related activities until the emergency has been cancelled.

*If Ottawa County is under a **Level 2 or Level 1** Snow Emergency, we will still hold worship and activities for those who can travel safely. Please consider your safety and the safety of others on the road when you decide to venture out into the Weather. We love you and your wellbeing is our number one concern. Please be careful out there this winter season!



National Quilting Day

is March 18th and Lutheran World Relief is asking us to celebrate this mission. In honor of that, the blanket ladies will be displaying several blankets the weekend of March 18 and 19. A poster has been placed in the educational hall showing where blankets, fabric kits and other items are sent. Our blankets and fabric kits go to the distribution center in Maryland. If you check out the poster you can see how many blankets and which countries they are sent to. We only do blankets and fabric kits, however if any one is interested, we can pass on the information for school kits, layettes, and hygiene kits.

The Blanket Ladies....Still Hard at Work!!

Everyone is invited to join in and help tie!

No experience needed.

Every Tuesday at 9am.

Everyone is welcome!

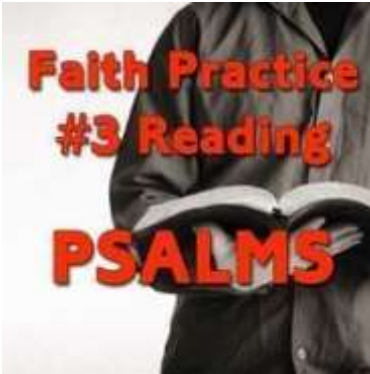


The St. John Mini Pantry /Blessing Box is Open!

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.

Thank you to those who continue to support the Blessing Box.

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 Feb 27- Psalm 99
Week of March 6- Psalm 100
Week of March 13- Psalm 101
Week of March 20- Psalm 102
Week of March 27- Psalm 103

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 - March

The Sermon on the Mount (According to Matthew)

- Mar. 1 On Prayer Matt. 6:5-6
- Mar. 2 The Lord’s Prayer Matt. 6:7-15; Mark 11:25; Luke 11:1-4
- Mar. 3 Concerning Fasting Matt. 6:16-18
- Mar. 4 Concerning Treasures Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:33-34
- Mar. 5 The Sound Eye Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 11:34-36
- Mar. 6 Serving Two Masters Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13
- Mar. 7 Do Not Worry Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-32
- Mar. 8 Judging Others Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:37-42
- Mar. 9 Profaning the Holy Matt. 7:6
- Mar. 10 Ask, Search, Knock Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13
- Mar. 11 The Golden Rule Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31
- Mar. 12 The Narrow Gate Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:22-30
- Mar. 13 A Tree and Its Fruit Matt. 7:15-20; Luke 6:43-45
- Mar. 14 Concerning Self-Deception Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 13:26-27
- Mar. 15 Hearers and Doers Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49
- Mar. 16 The Effect of the Sermon Matt. 7:28-29

The Sermon on the Plain (According to Luke)

- Mar. 17 The Setting Luke 6:17-19; Matt. 4:24-5:2
- Mar. 18 The Beatitudes Luke 6:20-23; Matt. 5:3-12
- Mar. 19 The Woes Luke 6:24-26
- Mar. 20 Love for Enemies Luke 6:27-36; Matt. 5:43-48
- Mar. 21 Judging Others Luke 6:37-42; Matt. 7:1-5
- Mar. 22 A Tree and Its Fruit Luke 6:43-45; Matt. 7:15-20
- Mar. 23 Hearers and Doers Luke 6:46-49; Matt. 7:24-27
- Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee (According to Matt.: Part Two)
- Mar. 24 Jesus Cleanses a Leper Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16
- Mar. 25 Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10
- Mar. 26 Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son Luke 7:11-17
- Mar. 27 The Healing of Peter’s Mother-in-law Matt. 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39
- Mar. 28 Healing in the Evening Matt. 8:16-17; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 4:40-41
- Mar. 29 On Following Jesus Matt. 8:18-22; Luke 9:57-62
- Mar. 30 Jesus Stills a Storm Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25
- Mar. 31 Jesus Heals a Demoniac Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39



**Our SOUPER BOWL of CARING Collection yielded a total of
\$172.98 for the Genoa Food Pantry!
Thank you for your generous support!**



Mini-Bake Sale (Cookies, Only)

WELCA will be sponsoring a Mini-Bake Sale (Cookies, Only) before and after both services on **Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2.**

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.

Circle and Board Meetings

MARCH 2023

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 7, 2:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Doris Titgemeyer
Hostesses: JoElaine Schimming

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Group discussion

ESTHER CIRCLE

Tuesday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall
Tuesday, April 4 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall
Tuesday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m. in Social Hall

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge
Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN

Please note that all the women of St. John are listed in a circle. You may get a call at some time to help with a project of the Women of St. John, such as baking a cake for a luncheon.

We warmly invite you to attend the circle of your choice. Circle presidents will let us know of any changes needed.

Monthly meetings will include a bible study.



*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!



Cookie Sheets

We have two missing cookie sheets from our day of baking. They have 63 years of love baked into them. There is an insulated cookie sheet left in the kitchen. I believe the two missing sheets may have been mistaken for one insulated sheet -- as they nest. Please check and return to the church kitchen. Many thanks!!!!!! Please call Diane Gerkenmeyer (419-836-7052) with any questions.

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

Easter Egg Hunt
April 8, 2023
11:00AM
More information to come!

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. Service points will be given for helping.

Serving Lenten Lunches.... following 11am Midweek Services

March 1- WELCA

March 8- Esther Circle

March 15- Rebekah Circle

March 22-Church Council

March 29-Christian Comm Life
& Evangelism Comm

*Everyone is welcome to join
us for food & fellowship!*



Wednesdays, March 1-29 at 11:00am

LENT

Midweek Worship

If you are not able to attend in the morning, worship at St. Peter, Blackberry is at 7pm and Calvary, Northwood is at 7:30pm.

Lenten Offerings/Donations will be going to Lutheran Home of Mercy and the Lutheran Disaster Relief (for earthquake victims)



You are invited to join us for
Holy Week Services at St. John

Maundy Thursday Service
April 6th at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service
April 7th at 7:00 PM

Easter Saturday Worship
April 8th at 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday Worship
April 9th at 9:45 AM





Viewing and Discussion Gathering

Sunday, March 5th following church, join us to watch Season 1, Episode 1 of *The Chosen*, a new streaming series about the life of Christ with a 98% Rotten Tomatoes score. We plan to meet the first Sunday of each month to continue the series.

We'll have fellowship, great discussion, and pizza!
Email dneuman@stjohnwilliston.org to RSVP

HOLY LAND SLIDE SHOW

On March 25th Pastor O'Brien will be sharing pictures and talking about his trip to the Holy Land. Following Saturday worship (around 5:45ish) we will gather for food and fellowship in the basement. We have arranged for Sidon Lebanese Grill to cater. (It's not exactly the same, but it's very similar to the food we ate in Israel.) The menu will include Shish Tawook, Shish Kafta, Yellow Rice, Garden Salad, Hommus, Garlic Sause, and Baklava. The meal is \$15 per person and must be ordered in advance. See Pastor O'Brien to reserve a meal. (The deadline to order a meal is March 19.) If you don't like Middle eastern food, you are welcome to bring your own dinner and enjoy fellowship following worship. After we are done eating, about 6:30ish, we will see pictures and hear from Pastor Shawn and Shane about their trip. Please feel free to attend any or all of this as your schedule allows. (I.e. you don't have to eat food to see pictures and vice versa.) If you have any questions, contact Pastor O'Brien.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Many of you who are members of Thrivent have directed "Choice Dollars" to St. John in the past. If you have not done so recently, please go online or call the Thrivent office to let them know you would like your Choice Dollars to be directed to St. John Williston, Ohio. Call: 1-800-847-4836 or go to their website: thrivent.com/thriventchoice and select "Direct Choice Dollars" (a user ID and password is needed to log in).



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 31st, 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.



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

Easter Lilies Order by March 22nd

Easter Flower Sale

Order your Easter flowers by Wednesday, March 22nd (No late orders please!)
Please fill out a form, attach your payment, and drop it in the offering plate or at the office.
Please mark "EASTER FLOWERS" on your envelope along with your name.

This year there will be four options:

White lilies in a 6" pot, containing 5-6 blooms for \$9.50
Blue hyacinths in a 6" pot, containing 5-6 blooms for \$9.50
Pink hyacinths in a 6" pot, containing 5-6 blooms for \$9.50
Pink Daffodils in 6" pot, for \$9.50

They will be available for pick up after our Sunday Easter service.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM **Due Wednesday, March 22th**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

White lilies: Qty. _____ x \$9.50 each= \$ _____

Blue hyacinths: Qty. _____ x \$9.50 each= \$ _____

Pink hyacinths: Qty. _____ x \$9.50 each= \$ _____

Daffodils: Qty. _____ x \$9.50 each= \$ _____

In loving memory of _____

In Honor of _____

****Please place this form and payment in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office. Please remember to write your name on the envelope. Thank you!**
(These flowers are coming from our local florist- Hirzel's Greenhouse)



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

In Matthew chapter 4, Jesus is on the way. From his temptation in the wilderness (4:1-11); from Nazareth to Capernaum (4:13-17); to his time along the Sea of Galilee (4:18), Jesus is on the move. But then Jesus stops, heads up a mountain, sits down, and shares the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-7:28).

For those of us who are participating in [2023 Year of Story Daily Bible Reading Guide](#), we will be spending the next five weeks reading through both the Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49). Jesus will be our guide and companion for this sacred journey.

This Wednesday, February 22, we begin the Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday. In the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, the presiding minister extends an *Invitation to Lent*. The conclusion of the Lenten Invitation includes these words, ***"I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament"***.

My prayer is that you will be strengthened by God's gifts of word and sacrament, as we daily ponder the teachings of Jesus and are regularly nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus during Lenten worship. May the crucified and risen Jesus will be your Lenten guide and companion on this sacred journey.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



thank you



Valentine Bake Sale a Huge Success

Many Thanks to All Bakers, Donors and to the Eager St. John Buyers

Our WELCA Bake Sale for 2023 was similar to our 2022 Bake Sale. Diane Gerkenmeyer once again applied for a grant from the Thrivent Acton Team. Most of our supplies for baking were purchased with these dollars. On Friday, February 10, thirteen ladies gathered in the church kitchen to bake. These ladies were using four ovens -- with lots of buzzers ringing!!!!!! From 9 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. we baked 27 dozen cookies and twelve pies. In addition to the baking, individual servings were boxed up of three large pans of lasagna and two pans of macaroni and cheese (which had been previously baked by a couple ladies on Thursday). This entire process created a lot of great socializing and developed 'camaraderie among the group'. After the work was complete an early lunch (pizza and salad....cookies) was served and enjoyed by all.

In addition to baking, others brought in many varieties of specialty breads (Hawaiian, zucchini, banana, blueberry, apricot, etc., etc. etc., etc.), bars, muffins and a variety of candies. We had a total of 47 loaves (various sizes) of bread. We had four eight-foot tables of delicious goodies for sale.

The true success of the bake sale was having so many helpful bakers, donors and purchasers. It was absolutely overwhelming to have so many generous members of St. John and to see the eagerness of the buyers. St. John is truly a wonderful and very giving congregational family. Many thanks to each and every one of you!!!!

By the close of the bake sale we SOLD OUT of EVERYTHING.

Our profits were shared with Earthquake Relief of Turkey through Lutheran Disaster Relief, Helping Hands of St. Louis and Salem Lutheran Church. Many thanks to all for your support and generosity!

Watch for information on our next Bake Sale which will be a "mini Bake Sale" on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2. We will feature cookies only. This Bake Sale will be a much smaller version, but will offer the opportunity for you to buy Easter Cookies.Diane Gerkenmeyer

P.S. The two cookies sheets from our baking day are still missing. If you happened to take these home with their 63 years of love baked into them, please return to the church. There is an insulated cookie sheet left in the kitchen. I believe the two missing sheets may have been mistaken for one insulated sheet. Please check and return to the church kitchen. Many thanks!!!!!!!

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



Jesus spent 40 days in the desert preparing for His work. During Lent we spend 40 days getting ready to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

Can you find your way into the desert to be with Jesus?



ROMANS 8:16

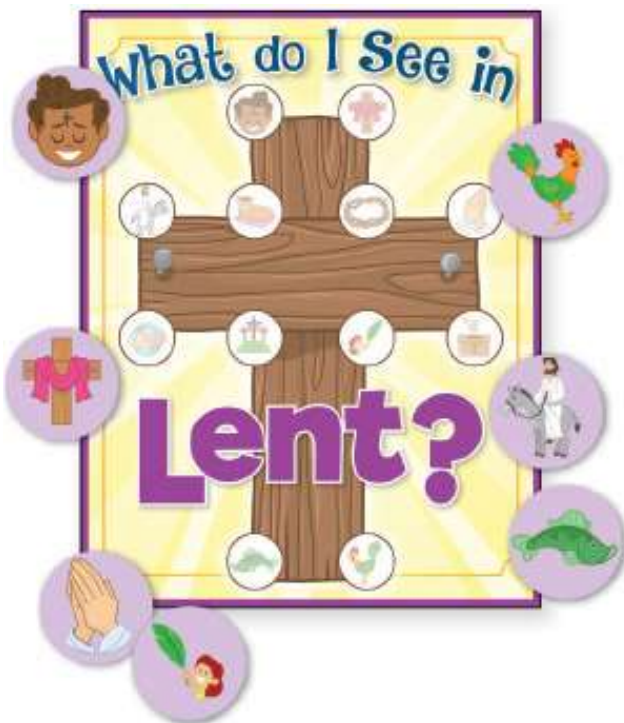


Lent Prayer with Gestures

- 6, 5, 4... 3, 2, 1 Count the weeks 'til Easter comes. (count on fingers)
- We fast, we give, we always pray. (cover mouth, spread out hands, fold hands)
- Lent means follow Jesus every day. (stand and march in place)
- We rise to life, we die to sin. (reach arms up, cross arms over chest)
- Carry your cross. Let us begin! (cross pointer fingers, reach arms up)

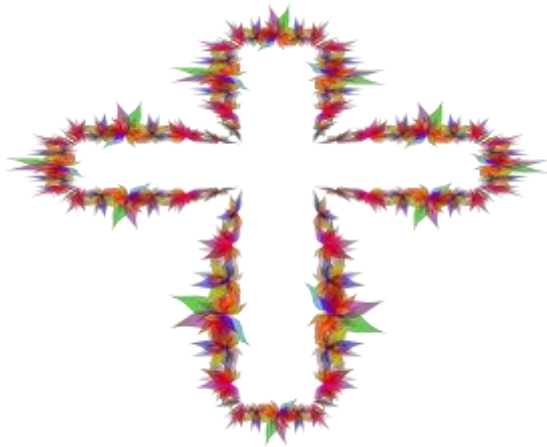


©Angela 2014



Human Life is the FIRST and GREATEST gift of all and carries great responsibilities with it.

March Stewardship



“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”



JUST THINK,

**You are not here by chance,
but by God’s choosing.**

**His hand formed you and
made you the person you are.
He compares you to no one else—
you are one of a kind.**

**You lack nothing that His grace
can’t give you.**

**He has allowed you to be here
at this time in history to
fulfill His special purpose for
this generation.**

MARCH STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is “the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.”

We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be.
Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of
Your abundance, the caretakers of
all you have entrusted to us.
Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously.
May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.
We pray this with grateful hearts
in Jesus’ name.

Amen.



St John Lutheran Church Council 2023

Church Officers

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Financial Secretary
Treasurer

Tim Titgemeyer
Dave Neuman
Tracy Orians
Kristina Wildman
Dan Kessler

Board Members

Finance
Christian Community Life

Jennifer Nelson
Donna Mathews
Susie Mathews
Cheryl Berger
Deb Wehner

Evangelism

Melissa Hayes
Barb Wolf
Margaret Berger
Beverly Harder

Parish Education

Deanna Neuman
Jenifer Delventhal
Stefanie Hill

Stewardship

Natalie Szymanski
Ron Gerkenismeyer
Tom Cashen

Property

Pam LaRue
Marty Schloegl
Gary Johnson
Wayne Bauman
John Mazur
Dave Huber



February Church Council Highlights



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

Devotions led by Pastor: Discussed the significance of the Lord's Prayer - "approaching the father in a relational way"

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In person average for January 2023 - 97.3 compared to January 2022 - 82.8. Online average for January 2023 - 83.2 compared to January 2022 - 93

Numbers: 8 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings - 4 committee/group meetings - 4 community/youth/fellowship events - 5 professional/clergy activities - 5 classes/Bible studies - 1 funeral

Funeral: I presided at the funeral of Gary Carstensen on January 28th.

Installation: Elected leaders were installed at both worship services the weekend of January 28/29.

Holy Land: I am scheduling a slideshow talk about my pilgrimage to the Holy Land for any who are interested on March 25th following worship. We will have Middle Eastern food first and view pictures after. I will have details about price and menu soon.

Ash Wednesday Worship: February 22nd at 11am and 7pm. We will celebrate Holy Communion and receive ashes at both times of worship.

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 11am. If you are not available in the morning, worship at St Peter, Blackberry is 7pm and Calvary, Northwood is 7:30pm.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: Expenses: We are 95% of the monthly budget and 95% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 81% of our monthly budget and 81% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$7,664 compared to our budget of negative \$4,672. Jennifer Nelson motioned to donate a special offering of \$1,000 to the Northwestern Ohio Synod - Imagining Renewal Microgrants from the Good Samaritan fund, to be given to Bishop Daniel Baudoin while visiting for worship on Feb 18/19, and Deanna Neuman seconded, the motion passed. Jennifer Nelson motioned to donate 50% of Lenten offerings to go to the Lutheran Disaster Relief - Middle East Crisis (earthquake) and 50% to the Luther Home of Mercy, and Kristina Wildman seconded, the motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Susie Mathews

No Food Pantry report. We made our final plans for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on February 21st.

Donations will be given to the Blessing Box. Next month we will be serving a Lenten lunch with the Evangelism Committee on the 29th.

Evangelism: Melissa Hays

Discussed the Easter egg basket for Easter egg hunt coming up in April. Discussed Lenten luncheon next month and the menu. Discussed having a new membership class this year for new members.

Parish Education: Dave & Deanna Neuman

Met with Christian Community Life about *The Chosen adult class*. Dave and Deanna Neuman volunteered to run meetings on the first Sunday of the month following church.

Lunch signup will begin after the first meeting - we'll order pizza for the first meeting. Get word out on FB, in forerunner, in the bulletin. Selected Council Representation - Deanna Neuman & Selected Chairperson - Stefanie Hill. Tammy will contact the forerunner for Easter Breakfast. Food is planned, one hour breakfast, just need Catechism kids for servers-- possibly HS kids for cooking. Easter Egg Hunt. Talk to the evangelism committee about providing a big basket. Deanna Neuman will provide 4 prize baskets. Need kids to stuff and hide eggs in the morning - Catechism kids / HS kids. Talk to O'Brien kids about Easter bunny costumes and pictures. Consider a rotation of nursery attendants -- consider paying a babysitter certified HS kid? January Sunday School attendance: 1/15 - 4, 1/22 - 6, and 1/29 - 2. Catechism attendance: 1/8 - 7, 1/15 - 8, 1/22 - 5, and 1/29 - 5. Update 2/12: Souper Bowl of Caring donations: \$172.98.

Stewardship: Ron Gerkensmeyer

Reviewing duties for the constitution.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Developed a phone list and emails for people who serve in case a substitute is needed. Invited musicians to mtg to talk about concerns (Becki talked about tuning the piano on a 3 month basis) has been having some glitches in the organ system but was going to work with a contact she had.

Property: Gary Johnson

Changed misc bulbs throughout the building. Put up a pancake supper banner. Talked with the tenant regarding dead arborvitae; he's offered to cut them down this spring. Pulled new ethernet cable for fire alarm panel. Waiting on Protegis to install new equipment.

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 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. Talk about getting a digital thermostat for heat on the phone that we can adjust for savings. .

New Business: Suggestion to get back to collecting visitor info

Next Committee Mtg: Thurs., March. 9, 2023 at 7pm & **Next Council Mtg:** Thurs., March. 16, 2023 at 7pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Gary Johnson and seconded by Deanna Neuman - meeting adjourned.

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 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 \$ _____	
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: _____ ⑆123456789⑆ 123 123456 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: _____					

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.



Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

4- Buhrow Family
11- Donnelly Family
18- Wayne Bauman
25- Jack Mathews

Lectors

4- Tracy Orians
11- Beverly Harder
18- Amy Schloegl
25- Aidan O'Brien

Acolytes

4- Emma Morgan
11- Jacob Higginbotham
18- Mila McQueary
25- Lindsey Krumnow

Communion

4- Ron Gerkenmeyer
11- Amy Schloegl
18- JoElaine Schimming
25- Al Brown

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5- Titgemeyer Family
12- Diana Pfaff/Riley B
19- Jill Kao
26- Titgemeyer Family

Lectors

5- Kellie Ulrich
12- Melissa Lammers
19- Roland Sandrock
26- Tim Titgemeyer

Acolytes

5- Logan Hays
12- Lily Sondergold
19- Caleb Hays
26- Lauren Hoeft

Communion

5- Roland Sandrock
12- Kellie Ulrich
19- Cebie Titgemeyer
26- Pam LaRue

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- Emma Morgan
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- Lauren Hoeft
23- Caleb Hays
30- Logan Hays

Communion

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








Thank you for serving the Lord! If you cannot make your assignment, please make arrangements for a replacement then let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you!





March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11 AM Midweek Lenten Service 12 PM Lent Lunch	2	3 	4 5 PM Contemporary Worship
5 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM Trad Worship 10:45 AM Choir Practice 11 AM The Chosen	6 10 AM Bible Study	7 9 AM Blankets 2 PM Esther Circle 7 PM Rebekah Circle 7:30 PM Dartball@St. Paul-Elmore	8 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11 AM Midweek Lenten Service 12 PM Lent Lunch	9 1-6 PM Blood Drive 7 PM Committee Night	10	11 5 PM Contemporary Worship 
12 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM Trad Worship 10:45 AM Choir Practice	13 10 AM Bible Study	14 9 AM Blankets	15 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11 AM Midweek Lenten Service 12 PM Lent Lunch	16 7 PM Council Meeting 	17 	18 5 PM Contemporary Worship National Quilt Day
19 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM Trad Worship 10:45 AM Choir Practice	20 9 AM Forerunner deadline! 10 AM Bible Study 	21 9 AM Blankets	22 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11 AM Midweek Lenten Service 12 PM Lent Lunch	23	24 Easter Flower Order Deadline!	25 5 PM Contemporary Worship 6 PM Holy Land Slide Show
26 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM Trad Worship 10:45 AM Choir Practice	27 10 AM Bible Study	28 9 AM Blankets	29 7 AM Breakfast Gathering 11 AM Midweek Lenten Service 12 PM Lent Lunch	30	31	1 5 PM Contemporary Worship WELCA Bake Sale

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

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March 2023



March 2023



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

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

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