



St. John Forerunner



July 2025
Volume 0726 Issue 350

Inside this issue:

Memorials-Baptism PROJECT PIKIPIKI	2
WELCA-Worship Opportunities Worship Online	3
Mud Hens Outing-Blessing Box Ottawa County Summer Lunches	4
Faith Practice #3 Readings	5
St. John Kid's Page	6
TRUE NORTH Vacation Bible School!	7
VBS Coloring Page	8
July Stewardship	9
St John Golf Outing	10
St. John Golf Outing Registration	11
NWOS Synod "Year of Listening"	12
Area Events-Baumann Raffle LHM Golf Outing	13
Council Highlights for June	14
Finance Ministry	15
Online Giving Registration Form	16
July Celebrations	17
July/August Worship Assistants	18
July Calendar	19

Ask the Pastor

What's a PK?

At Shane's graduation party, one of his teachers said, "I didn't know you were a PK." Shane just stared and blinked at him, clearly confused. He had no idea what "PK" even meant. For anyone else wondering, PK stands for "preacher's kid." It's a label that comes with a lot of assumptions – some good, some... not so much.

I've had a lot of conversations with folks over the years who say it's tough growing up as a PK. It can feel like living in a fish-bowl, where everyone knows your business and expectations are sky-high. For some kids, it becomes more about pressure, expectation, or even resentment – than it is about joy; more about duty than delight. I get that. I've seen it happen. But I'm incredibly thankful this hasn't been the case for my PKs.



Seventeen years ago, we rolled into St. John with one kid in preschool and another still in diapers. Now, Aidan is off working as a camp counselor at Hopwood Pines, and Shane just graduated high school and celebrated with a party full of his church friends. Shane's already planning to come home most weekends from college to worship and help run our livestream tech. That's not something you can force. That's something that grows when a kid genuinely loves the community they've been part of.

As Megan and I look back on this parenting journey so far, we feel so blessed to have two kids who not only love God – but also love the church. And a huge part of that is thanks to you – the people of St. John. You've been their second family. Church grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – you've shown up in all the best ways. You have been caring, supportive, and encouraging. Because of you, they never saw the church as a burden, they saw it as home. And for that, we're truly, deeply grateful.

-Pastor Shawn (and Megan) O'Brien

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.

Memorials & Gifts to St. John

In Memory of Travis James
Karen Jeffers, Brian Jeffers and
Family and Kim Merrow and
Family

In Memory of Alice Witt
Lucy, Cody, Sarah and Max
Witt

Baptisms IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

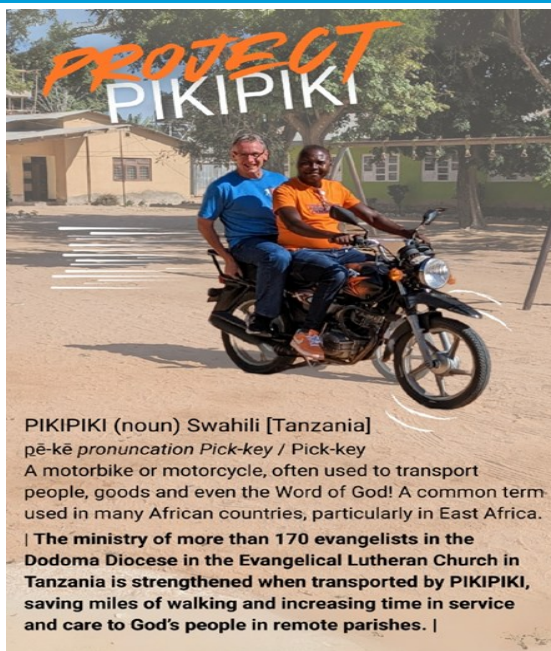
Join us in welcoming
Keeley Jo Myers
into the family of Christ through
the Sacrament of Baptism on
Sunday, June 22nd.
She is the daughter of
Kenton and Jolynn (Brossia)
Myers. Her sponsors are Courtney
Mowrey, Reese Brossia
and Jarod Brossia.
Welcome, Keeley!

Our Mission Focus Project Pikipiki

85% of evangelists in the Dodoma Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania serve remote communities, often walking 12-20 miles between parishes to preach, provide worship leadership and pastoral care to multiple communities of faith. This summer, the Global Mission Board of the Northwestern Ohio Synod will match gifts made towards the purchase of pikipikis dollar for dollar! \$1600 buys one motorcycle with regular maintenance and makes ministry more accessible for one evangelist in Tanzania.

This year our Vacation Bible School offering will be used to support Project Pikipiki. With the help of the congregation, we hope to raise enough money to provide a Pikipiki to support the ministry of our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.

If you would like to contribute to this project, you can mark your donation "Project Pikipiki" and place it in the offering plate. You may also contribute online using this link. Select the box that says "Project Pikipiki". <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YRCC/home> or go to our website www.stjohnwilliston.org and click on the "who we are/online giving" link.



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

Telephone: 419-836-5514
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 9:00AM
Every Sunday
Beginning Sept. 7th

Sunday Worship
9:00 AM June thru August
9:45 AM beginning Sept 7.

Deadline for the
August 2025 newsletter is
Monday, July 21st 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."



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

**No Circle Meetings in
July or August
Have a blessed Summer!**

*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 wonderful ministry! Thank you!*

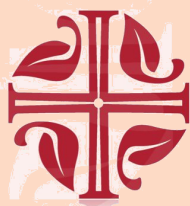


Our Seven Faith Practices

I will strive to...

1. **PRAY** daily.
2. **WORSHIP** weekly.
3. **READ** and study the Bible.
4. **SERVE** at and beyond St. John.
5. **INVITE** others into a loving relationship with Jesus.
6. **GIVE** of my time, talents, and resources
7. **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth in others.

Assisting Opportunities



IN

WORSHIP

We are in need of worship assistants!
Would you like to serve at St. John?

Lector
(read the scripture)

Communion Server
(assist Pastor serve and
set up communion)

Usher
(unlock doors, greet people,
pass out bulletins)

Training is available! Simply let Pastor O'Brien or the office know you would like to be added to our rotating lists.



Online Worship

**Worship with us anytime!
Home or away!**

Live Stream Changes

Now, instead of streaming on Facebook Live, we will be streaming exclusively on our St. John YouTube channel.

This offers lots of benefits, including the ability to attend our services without having to be signed in with an account, as well as the ability to watch our services on the big screen in your house once again! All Smart TVs have the ability to install the YouTube app, so you can attend worship on a much larger format.

If you do have a Google Account (which most people do), you can then Subscribe to our channel and turn on notifications whenever our services go live.

That way, you never miss a thing.

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnwilliston>
Questions? Just ask Andy after worship! Or you may email him at akessler@stjohnwilliston.org



Serving Together!



Join your St. John Family at the Mud Hens!

**Sunday,
August 3, 2025
Game @ 4:05 PM
@ 5th 3rd Field**

Watch our Toledo Mud Hens vs St. Paul Saints with your St. John family!
Game tickets with reserved section seats and dinner are \$21.00 per person and includes a dinner of Brats, Grilled chicken, salad, dessert and drinks.

Sign up sheet is posted next to the Pastor's office door with envelopes for payment. Just drop them in the offering plate.

Sign up BY JULY 3RD! There are plenty of seats left!



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

Needed: Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut Butter, Hamburger Helper, Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side dishes, Applesauce- cups, Cereal (small boxes) 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. Thank you for helping our neighbors!

50
years



ELCA
World Hunger

For years, St. John Williston has been dedicated to ELCA World Hunger. Want to give more? You can give anytime! Just make your check out to St. John and we will make sure your blessing is passed along! Or, you can give to ELCA World Hunger online on our website!!



EACH CHILD RECEIVES A GRAB-AND-GO BAG CONTAINING 7 BREAKFASTS, 7 LUNCHES, AND A GALLON OF MILK.

TUESDAYS

Oak Harbor High School
12 - 1
Materion Campground
2:15-3
St. John's Rocky Ridge
3:30-4:30
Oak Harbor High School
5-6

WEDNESDAYS

Grace Brethren Chapel -
Gibsonburg 12 - 1
Lemoyne Baptist Church -
Genoa 2-3:30

THURSDAYS

Port Clinton Police
Department 11-12
Marblehead Police
Department 12:45- 1:15
Grace Lutheran Church -
Castalia 3-4
Family Advocacy Center
- Port Clinton 5-6

REGISTRATION

Visit our website to register for meals pick-up.
www.ocfamilyadvocacy.org/summer-lunch
Or scan the QR code below

ELIGIBILITY

Any child ages 1 to 18, no residency restrictions

QUESTIONS

419-301-0225

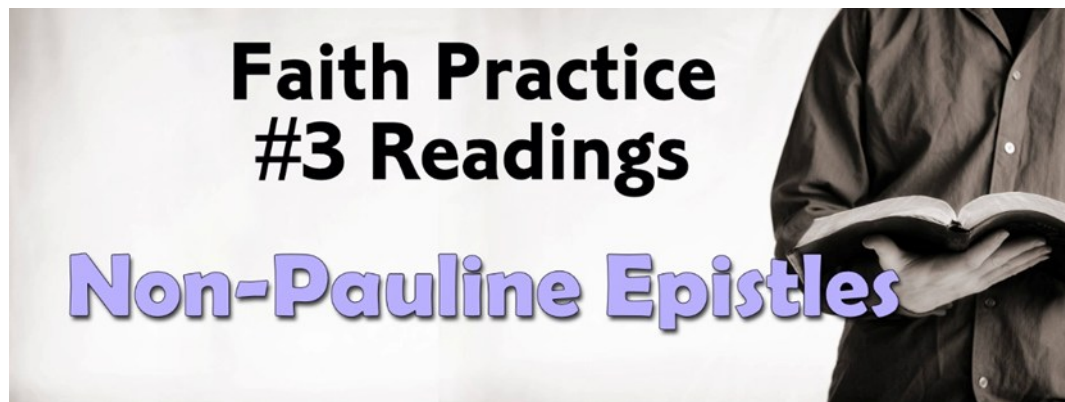


Family
Advocacy
Center

Help from the heart.

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER.





The non-Pauline epistles are the New Testament letters that were not written by the Apostle Paul. These letters are sometimes referred to as the "Catholic" or "Universal" Epistles, because they were not written to specific churches or individuals but rather to a wider audience. They include James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Hebrews. The book of Hebrews was our Faith Practice reading in 2024, so we will be focusing on the rest this time.

Here's a general overview:

James: Traditionally attributed to James, the brother of Jesus, though its authorship is debated. James argues that true faith is evidenced by good works, emphasizing that faith without action is dead or incomplete. The author calls believers to live out their faith authentically and practically, demonstrating their love for God and neighbor through obedience, wisdom, and compassionate action.

1 Peter and 2 Peter: Both letters, attributed to Peter the Apostle, encourage believers to persevere in their faith and live faithfully in the face of persecution and false teachings. 1 Peter emphasizes hope and holy living amidst suffering, 2 Peter focuses on combating error and preparing for Christ's return.

1 John, 2 John, and 3 John: All three are attributed to John the Apostle. They provide instruction and encouragement for believers to live in fellowship with God, adhere to sound doctrine, love one another, and support the spread of the gospel, while also warning against the dangers of false teachings and divisive behavior.

Jude: Attributed to Jude the brother of James. Jude writes to equip believers to recognize and resist false teachers, remain steadfast in their faith, and live out their calling as followers of Christ while awaiting his return.

These non-Pauline letters offer different perspectives on Christian life and theology compared to the Pauline epistles. They address various issues and concerns within the early church, providing valuable insights into the development of early Christian thought.

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

June 9 – James 1

June 16 – James 2

June 23 – James 3

June 30 – James 4

July 7 – James 5

July 14 – 1 Peter 1

July 21 – 1 Peter 2

July 28 – 1 Peter 3

August 4 – 1 Peter 4

August 11 – 1 Peter 5

August 18 – 2 Peter 1

August 25 – 2 Peter 2

September 1 – 2 Peter 3

September 8 – 1 John 1

September 15 – 1 John 2

September 22 – 1 John 3

September 29 – 1 John 4

October 6 – 1 John 5

October 13 – 2 John

October 20 – 3 John

October 27 – Jude



Serving in Summer!



“It is not more vacation we need,” said Eleanor Roosevelt. “It is more vocation” — in other words, something that God calls you to do. God uses his people to accomplish amazing things, even during the summer!

Call it a “vocation vacation.”

If you’re planning a trip, call ahead and offer to serve at a local homeless shelter or urban ministry. If you want to be outdoors, ask a Bible camp or recreation department if it needs volunteers. Other possibilities include assisting with programs that help elderly residents or people with special needs enjoy outdoor activities.

You’ll enjoy summertime fun (vacation) *and* the knowledge that God is working through you (vocation).



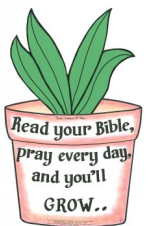
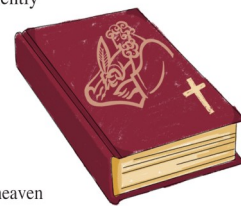
Coming Soon In the fall!

**Sunday School will
resume
EVERY SUNDAY
beginning September 7th
at 9 AM
with a new format!
Watch for details coming**

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

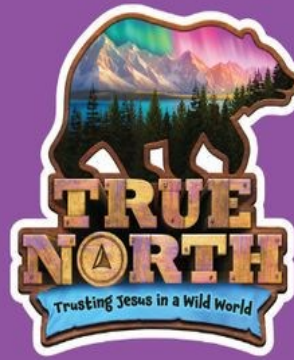
In a parable of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, someone named Lazarus features prominently while other characters go unnamed. Who is Lazarus in this story?

- A. a friend Jesus raised from the dead
- B. a rich man dressed in fine linen
- C. a poor beggar at the rich man’s gate
- D. the brother of the poor man
- E. an angel who carried the poor man to heaven



Answer: C (See Luke 16:19-31.)





BIBLE CONTENT

One memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day—making it easy to apply long after VBS is over.



Bible Point:
When we wonder, *we can trust Jesus.*

Bible Buddy:
Ponder the Sea Otter

Key Bible Verse:
"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise." (Matthew 7:24)

Bible Story:
John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)



Bible Point:
When we feel alone, *we can trust Jesus.*

Bible Buddy:
Clawdia the King Crab

Key Bible Verse:
"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Bible Story:
Jesus teaches about God's love for us. (Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14)



Bible Point:
When we feel powerless, *we can trust Jesus.*

Bible Buddy:
Kody the Bear

Key Bible Verse:
"Don't be afraid," he said, "Take courage. I am here!" (Matthew 14:27)

Bible Story:
A Roman officer trusts Jesus. (Matthew 8:5-13)



Bible Point:
When we need hope, *we can trust Jesus.*

Bible Buddy:
Earnest the Bald Eagle

Key Bible Verse:
"And his name will be the hope of all the world." (Matthew 12:21)

Bible Story:
Jesus dies and comes back to life. (Matthew 26:47-28:8)



Bible Point:
When we need help, *we can trust Jesus.*

Bible Buddy:
Bruce the Moose

Key Bible Verse:
"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Bible Story:
Jesus gives the Great Commission, and the Holy Spirit comes. (Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-12)



JESUS IS MY
TRUE NORTH!



Color and turn it into the church office!



july stewardship

July Stewardship Prayer Gracious and Generous God

Gracious and generous God, Creator and Giver of all that is good, we thank you for our many blessings. We acknowledge that all that we have is from you. We offer you thanks and praise for the beauty of the earth, our work, our family, our loved ones, and all the gifts we have been given. You are with us always. In each dark hour, you are here. In each bright hour, you are here. Blessed by your grace, may we show gratitude by sharing what we have been given.

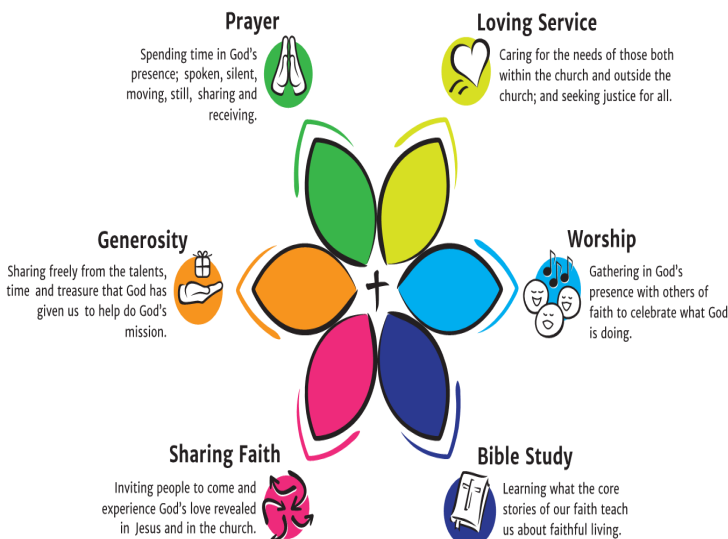
By serving our brothers and sisters, we serve you. We remain ever grateful for your constant love, the gift of your Son Jesus, and the presence of your Holy Spirit with us.

Protect and guide us on our journey, and guide those who are involved in our congregation, in our church leadership and in mission to the world.

We seek to be your faithful stewards.

Amen.

Discipleship Flower – Key Spiritual Practices



It's Up to Us!

In Europe, religious holidays are national holidays, and people get the day off. A few years ago, while living in Germany, I was on my way to an Ascension Day worship service when I noticed men pulling small wagons full of cold beer that they were drinking with friends. (Drinking in public is legal in Germany!) Curious, I asked what the occasion was. They replied, "It's Ascension Day, and so we are celebrating the fact that we are fathers." So, in addition to learning that Ascension Day is celebrated as Father's Day in Germany, the moment taught me something about the reality of how faith is lived.

Jesus' ascension ([Acts 1:1-11](#)) marks a turning point in Scripture. The resurrected Jesus, having assured his disciples, gives them final instructions to "be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth" ([8](#)). Despite the assurance that he will return, the disciples' anxiety about Jesus' departure leaves them staring at the sky ([6-7, 10](#)). To their surprise, two men dressed in white suddenly appear, snapping them out of their gaze and back to reality ([11](#)).

It's up to us to do Christ's work in the world, not because we don't believe salvation is God's work alone but because it is what faithful living is all about.

We find ourselves five months after a contentious election, and many of us still live in the fog of uncertainty and anxiety about daily life. So much seems unchanged: loved ones and communities are divided, people are trying to make ends meet, many live in increased fear of persecution and discrimination, and basic human decency is missing from society's narrative.

Regardless of whether we felt hope or despair in November, this is clear: like the disciples, we've missed something important about how faith is lived. Some have mistaken their trust and involvement in partisan politics as a replacement for righteous living. Others use their piety as an excuse to avoid participating in God's call to restorative action. Either way, our fixed gaze on such things keeps us from living out Jesus' call to witness to the ends of the earth.

The book of Acts tells us how the disciples, trusting in Jesus' promises, were compelled to a life of ministry in the world. The ascension story tells us it didn't start that way—the disciples needed a wake-up call. Perhaps we need the same—in other words, it's up to us. It's up to us to feed the hungry, to tend to the sick, to give voice to those who go unheard, to create places of safety for those who live in fear and of belonging for those who are shunned by society.

It's up to us to do Christ's work in the world, not because we don't believe salvation is God's work alone but because it is what faithful living is all about. We are in a time when people need a church, not a bunch of sky-gazers trapped in their own anxiety and misplaced trust in worldly institutions. It's up to us, and that daily call to live faithfully should excite all of us!



From LivingLutheran.org

Aaron Fuller

Aaron Fuller currently serves as pastor of Bratislava (Slovakia) International Church and chaplain (commander) in the U.S. Navy Reserve, representing the ELCA.



13th 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. 20, 2025

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
includes Meal

**PRIZES PRIZES
PRIZES**

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

FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/20/2025

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 _____

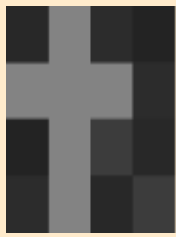
Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? _____ Yes _____ No

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Email address _____

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



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



Meet Ash, Olivet-Sylvania's Vine Worship Band Leader



Scan the QR code to Listen to Ash and the Vine Worship Band singing *Reckless Love*

What can this song teach us about listening?

"The reason it resonates with me personally is because of the judgement and pressure we so often put on ourselves. The concept of unconditional love is difficult to grasp, especially when we are not feeling like our best selves. When I sing this song, it elicits an emotional response every time because it's such a beautiful reminder that if we stop and listen regardless what we think of our selves and what we hear from the world, God knows who we are and loves us beyond any possible imagination. If we can pause and listen, that provides a space for God to remind us that He is there and loves our full being."

How could this song be incorporated into worship/life?

"This song is an awesome invitation to everyone, no matter where they are faith exploration. The lyrics are accessible to wherever you are on your journey. It's a rare worship song that bridges the gap of preference in worship style and theological depth to speak to shared experience. Singing this song collectively in worship is a great way to remind people that we have the freedom to be completely open in community, without worry about what others say about you when it comes to your relationship with God."



IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

A Summer Spiritual Practices Series

**In the Presence of God:
Summer Spiritual Practice Series
Community of Christ,
Whitehouse
Now through August 28th**

Community of Christ Lutheran Church invites you to a Summer Spiritual Practice Series, an intergenerational event where we will explore various prayer practices. Each week, a pastor/leader from NW Ohio will teach the history and steps of the spiritual practice. Then, participants will have time to do the spiritual practice as a group followed by reflection time.

Some spiritual practices in this series include:

- Labyrinth Prayer
- Visio Divina - Praying with the Eyes
- Centering Prayer
- Improv Theater as Spiritual Practice
- Prairie Meadow Walking Prayer
- Praying with Beads
- Lego Building as Spiritual Practice
- Hymn Sing

To learn more about each spiritual practice and to register for events, please visit the website below
<https://www.commofchrist.org/#>
and go to the **events and sign up link..**

July 2025

Psalm 145: 9
Reckless Love (Cory Asbury)

Week 1

"Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life in me"

How do you listen to the baptismal promises God made to you long before you took your first breath? How do these promises of God impact your daily life?

Week 2

*"Oh the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God,
Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine"*

When in life have you felt like the one sheep pursued by the shepherd? How might you reflect on and share such stories?

Week 3

"When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for me, You have been so, so good to me"

What is a time you felt angry towards God? How were you able to articulate your feelings and move through that season? Have an honest conversation with a loved-one this week.

Week 4

"There's no shadow You won't light up, mountain You won't climb up, coming after me"

How is God pursuing you and the good of your community? How can you reflect the light of Christ in community around you? Light a candle and reflect.

*Enjoy the song selection video.

*Reflect on the scripture that inspired the song.

*Explore weekly practices connected to the lyrics throughout your week.

*Share your experiences on social media using
#YearOfListening.

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.



WHAT'S GOOD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?

BAUMANN AUTO GROUP 23RD ANNUAL BIG CHARITY — RAFFLE —

100% OF VEHICLE DONATED BY THE BAUMANN AUTO GROUP
WINNER WINS THE CHOICE OF:



NEW CHEVROLET
TRAX*

NEW FORD
MAVERICK*

NEW JEEP
COMPASS*

OR CASH OPTION OF \$20,000
* MSRP UP TO \$27,000

100% OF THE PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:

First Step - Oregon Senior Center
Liberty Center of Fremont - NCAT of Tiffin - Ottawa County Transitional Housing
Parker's Purpose - CASA of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Co.
Back to the Wild - NAMI of Seneca, Sandusky & Wyandot Co.
Engaging Opportunities - Riders Unlimited - Joyful Connections
United Way of Sandusky County Cancer Care Fund - F.A.C.T. of Seneca County
Genoa Area Food Pantry - Oak House of Port Clinton - Arc of Ottawa Co.
Ovarian Cancer Care

\$5.00 PER TICKET

100% OF TICKET SALES GOES TO CHARITY
TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES IN THE PAST
22 YEARS IS \$1,301,909

Tickets available in the St. John Church Office during regular
business hours. (cash only please)



Solomon
LUTHERAN CHURCH

No. 0000

Dinner served at Trail Marker Park, Cherry Street

**One German-Style Sausage Dinner from
Tank's Meats with delicious side dishes!**

\$20 Proceeds benefit the Solomon
Lutheran Scholarship Fund

JULY 2 ONLY!



Woodville 4th of July
Celebration

Tickets available at the Solomon Lutheran Church
Office in Woodville

40TH ANNUAL

✦ LUTHER HOME OF MERCY ✦

GOLF OUTING

AUGUST 15, 2025

MAUMEE BAY STATE PARK

8 AM SHOTGUN START

GOLFERS & SPONSORS WELCOME

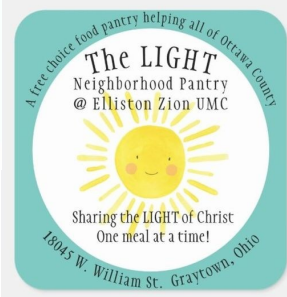


Luther Home of Mercy

A Ministry Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities

REGISTER NOW

www.lutherhome.org



**The LIGHT
Neighborhood
Pantry at Elliston Zion**
is open on the 2nd
Weds. of every month
from 5 to 7 PM. We
are a free choice food
pantry helping all of
Ottawa County.

And we offer a free
community meal during pantry hours.

We always welcome new volunteers!

Our helpers stock shelves, rotate stock, check
expiration dates, prepare and serve meals and
clean up. Community service credits can be
earned. For more information, call LisaAnne at
419-250-1188 (or see me in the office at St. John.)

Thank you for your continued support!

**Thank you to Carol, Joanne, Donna, Carolyn and
Marilyn for making our meal in June.**

**And, thanks to your support our new Mobile
Food Pantry trailer is on order and will be here
soon!** This will enable us to take our ministry on
the road to those without transportation in our
community. Thank you, St. John!

**Council Highlights— Meeting June 19, 2025**

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Lambert, Cheryl Berger, Dave Neuman, Deanna Neuman, John Mazur, Jennifer Nelson, Dan Kessler. Absent: Kellie Ulrich, Rick Buhrow, Robin Perkins
Meeting Opened: At 7:02 pm, by Dave Neuman
Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm 22

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as corrected from 5-14-2025 was made by Jennifer Nelson and 2nd by Cheryl Berger

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for May 2025-131.8 compared to May 2024-121.3. Online average for May 2025- 70.0 compared to May 2024-61.5. **Numbers: 16** hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 3 committee/group meetings. 7 community/youth/fellowship events. 7 professional/clergy activities.

Note on Item I-Facebook no longer keeps Live Videos, so the number for the first weekend in April is probably not accurate. Also, note we moved to live streaming on YouTube starting April 12/13 so there will be no more Facebook Live videos..

Affirmation of Baptism- On May 17, three young people affirmed their Baptism: Jacob Higginbotham, Lauren Hoeft, and Mila McQueary.

Camp- I will be out of the office June 29 (after worship) until July 6. I will be at Hopewood Pines (Luther Memorial Camp). Diana Lambert is leading worship on Sunday; Saturday leader is TBD.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: Income: We are at 88% of our monthly budget and 96% of our year-to-date budget.

Expenses: We are at 105% of the monthly budget and 98% of the year-to-date budget. The committee elected to use Solvzall rental company to assist with the rental of the Parsonage. The electrical updates are in progress at the Tank property.

Christian Community Life: Beef sticks were distributed for Father's Day and received a good response to liking them.

Evangelism: No Report

Parish Education: VBS went well- kids had a great time (one kiddo said he wanted to come back every week this summer for VBS). Between 14 and 25 kids attended each day. Between 12 and 20 volunteers each day. Decorations were left in the Sunday School office to be used for Sunday School for the 25-26 school year. Photos were sent to Pastor and LisaAnne. A HUGE thank you to Ashley and Hailey Hodulik for taking charge this year. And another huge thank you to all our volunteers.

Stewardship: No report

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich-report via email

We are still looking for someone to lead the service on July 5th.

Property: The pressure relief valve replaced at the Parsonage. The parking lot was restriped.

Old Business: None

New Business: Dave Neuman made a motion to approve Dan Kessler, Jennifer Nelson and John Mazur as the new signors on the Genoa Bank accounts for the 2025-2026 council year. Motion 2nd by Cheryl Berger. Motion passed.

We are looking for someone to be our Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator to set up blood drives 2 or 3 times a year. That person would advertise, set the calendar dates and recruit volunteers. The next blood drive is June 27th and then on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. We need volunteers for both drives. As of today, we have no volunteers to help on Friday, June 27th.

Would a committee like to take on this project?

Please contact LisaAnne to help.

Updates to the hay wagon were discussed and decided not needed as it only gets used twice a year.

Jennifer Nelson made a motion to adjourn.

Cheryl Berger-2nd. Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 7:47pm.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

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

www.stjohnwilliston.org

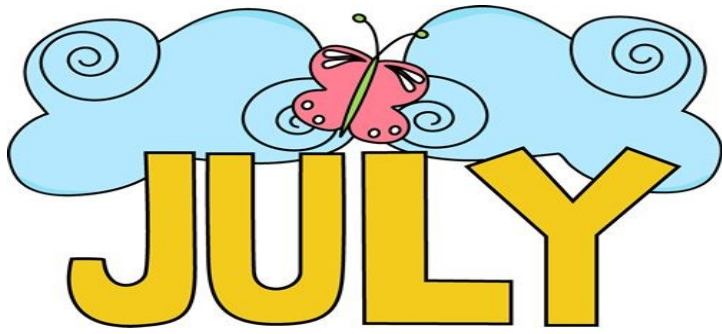
(419)836-5144

email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization: <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 <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</div>	
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: _____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> </div>	
	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

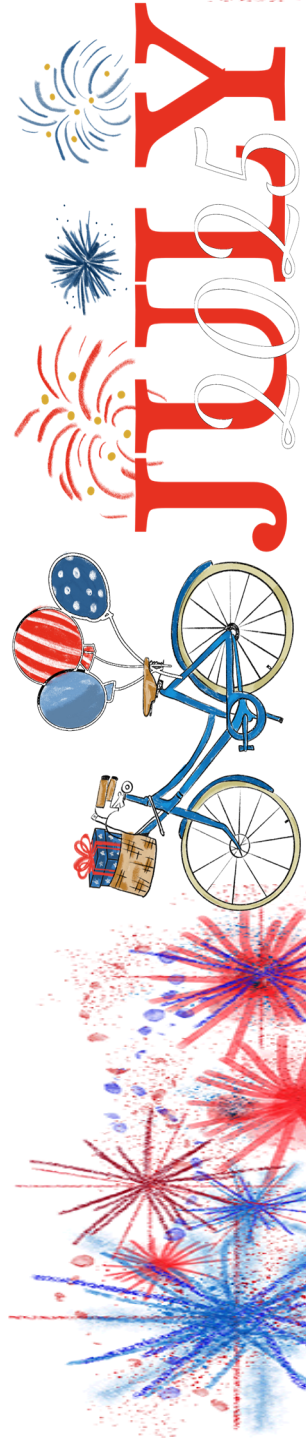
Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
Ushers	Ushers
5- Donnelly Family	6-Jim Vogelbacher
12-Buhrow Family	13-Titgemeyer Family
19-Jack Mathews	20-Diana Lambert
26- Ron Gerkenismeyer	27-Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
5- Beverly Harder	6- Diana Lambert
12- Nancy Strohscher	13-Deanna Neuman
19- Amy Schloegl	20- Kellie Ulrich
26- Jonah D.	27-Cebie Titgemeyer
Acolytes	Acolytes
5-Liam D.	6-Makenna C.
12-Nolan D.	13-Rylan S
19-Trenton	20-Rylie C.
26-Jonah D.	27-Makenna C.
Communion	Communion
5-No Communion	6-No Communion
12- Carol Vargo	13-Tim Titgemeyer
19- JoElaine Schimming	20-Dave Neuman
26-Al & Traci Brown	27-Margaret Berger


















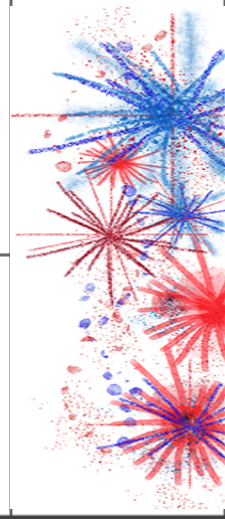
*Thank you for serving the Lord!
If you cannot make your assignment, please make
arrangements for a replacement then let the office
know as soon as possible. Thank you!*



Worship Assistants

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>West End Bunch 4-H 2 PM 9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p> <p> WORSHIP 9:00 AM</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>2</p> <p> 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Mod Hens Sign Up deadline</p>	<p>4</p> <p> Office closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p> <p> WORSHIP 5:00 PM</p>
<p>6</p> <p>9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p> <p> WORSHIP 9:00 AM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading-James 5</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 5:30pm -7:30pm WELCA Fellowship Dinner</p> <p></p>	<p>9</p> <p> 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p> <p> WORSHIP 5:00 PM</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p> <p> WORSHIP 9:00 AM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading-1 Peter 1 7:00pm -8:30pm Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>16</p> <p> 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p> <p> WORSHIP 5:00 PM</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p> <p> WORSHIP 9:00 AM</p>	<p>21</p> <p> Faith Practice Reading-1 Peter 2</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 7:00pm -8:00pm Scout Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>23</p> <p> 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p> <p> WORSHIP 5:00 PM</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00am -10:00am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p> <p> WORSHIP 9:00 AM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading-1 Peter 3 7:00pm -8:30pm Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>30</p> <p> 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>31</p>		

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

July 2025

Volume 726 Issue 350



Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

***Visit us on Facebook**

***Watch us on YouTube!**

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship at 9 AM through Summer