



Volume 0674 ** Issue 299**
March 2021

Inside this issue:

St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

Memorials and Gifts	2
Easter Egg Drive	3
Prayer Chain/ Alter Flowers	4
Faith Readings	5
Kids Connection	6
Stewardship	7
ELCA	8
Council Members	9
February Highlights	10
Feb. Highlights cont.	11
Faith and Finances	12
Online Giving Form	13
Celebrate January	14
March Calendar	15

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

"When and why did they make the change from *hell* to *dead* in the creed? (When I was a kid we always said "descended into hell".)

"When?" is pretty easy to answer. The Service Book and Hymnal (1958) uses the word "hell". The Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) uses the word "hell" with an option to use the word "dead". The Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal we are using now (2006) uses the word "dead" with an option to use the word "hell".

"Why" is a little more complicated... When I was a little kid, I thought it was because you weren't supposed to say bad words in church. It turns out there is more to it than that. The Latin word *inferos* (translated as "hell") should be understood as "the abode of the dead". It is the place people go when they die; the realm where the righteous who had died were waiting for the Messiah to open the gates of heaven. *Inferos* does not indicate the place of eternal damnation we use the word "hell" to describe today. That place was called *Gehenna* in the Greek. (But even that is not the same. The early disciples' idea of *Gehenna* would be very different from our idea of *Hell*.)

In the Apostles' Creed, when we say "descendit ad inferos" we are confessing that Jesus went to the abode of the dead (that is to say he was really dead; not just playin' opossum). We are not saying that Jesus went to the place of eternal damnation with the guy who has the villain moustache, red leotard, and a pitchfork. *Technically* both words are correct; "hell" is the literal translation of the Latin word, but "dead" carries a more accurate meaning of the word in the context of the Apostles' Creed.

Why was it changed? I assume that somewhere along the line, the people who put together the hymnal decided to go with the different translation because the meaning of the word "hell" in our modern vocabulary had changed and "dead" better described the spirit of the Creed.

I suppose we could eliminate the confusion and just say the Apostles' Creed in Latin, but that would probably create a whole new set of questions.



In Memory of Ethlemae Schimmel

Elaine Gruetter Mary Harmeyer **Mary Schimming** Larry and Nancy Strohscher

In Memory of Gertrude Henningsen

JoElaine Schimming Jeff Schimming Elaine Gruetter Susan Hamen Carolyn (Goetz) Rohloff Phyllis Bensch Carolyn Rohloff Edna Rideout and family Beth Johnson Lowell and Diane Hartman Mary Harmeyer **Betty Roecker** Henry and Carrol Krukemyer Connie and Bill Burden Todd and Amy Krukemyer & family Phyllis Haeft Diane Dickinson Amy and Paul Drake Dunn Chevy Buick in Oregon, Ohio **Mary Schimming**

In Memory of Gerald Helle

Carol Vargo Mary Harmeyer Phyllis Haeft Elroy Helle

In Memory of Robert Kapp

Mary Harmeyer Lowell and Diane Hartman Jim and Mona Vogelbacher

In Memory of Clyde Sandrock

Mary Schimming

In Memory of Milton Schimming Mary Schimming

In Memory of Mr. Mazur Jim and Mona Vogelbacher



In Memory of Edna Sandrock

Danny and Karen Jeffers and families Diane Dickinson Carole Beamer Margaret Berger Linda Schlievert Doris Titgemeyer Timothy and Cebie Titgemeyer Evelyn Zimmerman Kent Delventhal Carolvn Korek David and Deanne Neuman Diana Pfaff Gary and Darlene Carstensen Alice Witt Carol Vargo Robert and Diane Kapp Noel and Marte Heisler Larry and Nancy Strohscher Phyllis Haeft Jack and Jill Matthews Donna Matthews **Mary Schimming** Gene and Amy Bihn Richard and Jane Phillips JoElaine Schimming Ben, Kimberly, Anna and Benjamin Sommers Daryl and Diane Traver Cheryl Berger Gertrude Eckermann Deb Wehner Jim and Dolores Schimming Danny and Karen Jeffers Jim and Mona Vogelbacher Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson S.E. Harvan Genoa Senior Center Lynn and Marla Koob

> Lowell and Diane Hartman Carol Tank and family

The Forerunner

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

Telephone: 419-836-5514 e-mail: office@stjohnwilliston.org www.stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O'Brien **Home Telephone:** 419-972-4003

Email: pastorobrien @stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Hours Saturday at 5:00 PM **Sunday School 8:30 AM** Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the April newsletter is Monday, March 23rd @

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."



Amelia Burkey Office Administrator 8:30 am—2:30

Mon. thru Fri. (419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org

Parish Education is sponsoring an Easter Egg Drive Thru on Saturday, April 3rd from 9:30 – 12:00 in the church parking lot. Come for fun and lots of treats! If anyone would like to donate candy for this event, please drop it off outside the church office. We will need wrapped candy that will fit in plastic eggs.



The Parish Education Committee is looking for catechism and high school students to help fill bags for the Easter Egg Drive Thru. We will meet at the church on Saturday, March 27th at 10:00. This is a great opportunity to earn service points.

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!



Missing Church?
Not ready yet?
That's ok!
We have the answer!
We are gathering
together in person for worship but you
can also worship with St. John ONLINE!

We are gathering in the sanctuary for worship and live streaming our worship services on our

Facebook page and on our YouTube channel on Saturdays at **5PM** and Sunday mornings at **9:45 AM**•

Not online? That's ok. Let the office know and we will send you an Audio CD of the latest worship service.

Our Facebook link is https://www.facebook.com/stjohnwilliston/

For continued services, you may also search YouTube for St John and look for the logo.





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. We are also accepting donations of travel size personal items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, travel size tissues and shampoo.

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



The St John Phone Prayer Chain has been updated, effective February 1. If you need a prayer started for yourself, a family member or friend, please call the church office (419-836-5514) or Pastor O'Brien (419-972-4003 or 419-378-1112) to start the prayer chain.

You may also call Margaret Berger (419-836-7384 or 419-340-2150) or Darlene Carstensen (419-836-7022) to start the prayer chain.

We have both a phone list and an e-mail list which combined have about 35 members. You may have your name added to either one of these lists at any time by either calling ore-mailing Margaret at d mberger@frontier.com.

Prayer is powerful and when many join together it will bring much comfort to those who have requested it. "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive it."

Matthew 21:22

The 2021 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted outside the church office. Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order Altar or Chancel flowers. Fill out the order slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the

office with your payment. Or feel free to call the office and Amelia can add your name to the desired dates.

Altar flowers are \$25.00 Chancel flowers are \$20.00

Please submit your order slip as soon as possible before the order date as orders are placed several days in advance.

Flowers will not be ordered without a blue slip.

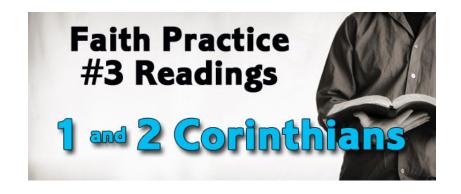


"Drive-Thru Communion" is scheduled for Sunday, March 7th following worship. If you would like to receive the sacrament, worship with us at home on Facebook or YouTube and then come to the church. Pastor will be outside in the parking lot starting about 10:30-ish (when worship is over).

We will use the self-contained communion elements with the juice and wafer in a sealed package. We will also have a gluten-free option available.

We know these can be times of anxiety and uncertainty, loneliness and pain. Your St. John Stephen Ministers are here to help.

Need to talk?
Call Pastor O'Brien or the church office at
419-836-5514 and we will put you in contact with
one of your St. John Stephen Ministers.



Week of March 1

2 Corinthians 9

Paul knows the Corinthians' willingness to give. Paul is sending Titus and the others to pick up the collection – it is a matter of generosity rather than a begrudging obligation. He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly. God loves a cheerful giver. God will generously increase the fruits of your righteousness.

Week of March 8

2 Corinthians 10

Paul faces the accusation that he is tough in his letters, but weak and unimpressive in person. If they wish, he can be equally tough in person. Paul's critics measure themselves by themselves. Paul will not boast beyond measure – he who glories, let him glory in the Lord (Jeremiah 9:24).

Week of March 15

2 Corinthians 11

Paul fears that, just as the serpent deceived Eve, so the Corinthians will be corrupted by those who preach a Christ different from Paul's. Paul is not inferior to the most eminent apostles. False apostles are like Satan, seeking to transform himself into an angel of light.

Week of March 22

2 Corinthians 12

Paul mentions visions and revelations he received from the Lord. He speaks of his suffering in connection with these extraordinary revelations: in order that he does not become too exalted, a messenger of Satan is sent to be a thorn in his flesh. Paul exults in sufferings and reproaches, and vindicates his apostleship. Paul promises to come and visit the Corinthians.

Week of March 29

2 Corinthians 13

Paul promises to come with severity, if necessary. Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

What's next?

This is the end of 2 Corinthians. What book of the Bible would you like to read next? I have had requests for Psalms and Isaiah. Would you be interested in reading through one of these or do you have another suggestion? I love the Psalms, but it is a BIG book. I hesitate to choose that one because a chapter a week will take us three years. Do you have thoughts or suggestions?



Puzze!

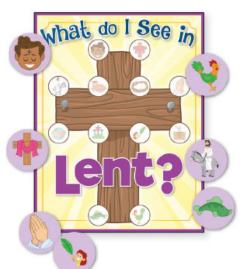
Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt confess cross crown crucifixion death denial donkey forsaken Gethsemane Golgotha hosanna kiss lots palms penance Pilate prayer repent silver sins suffer thorns vigil

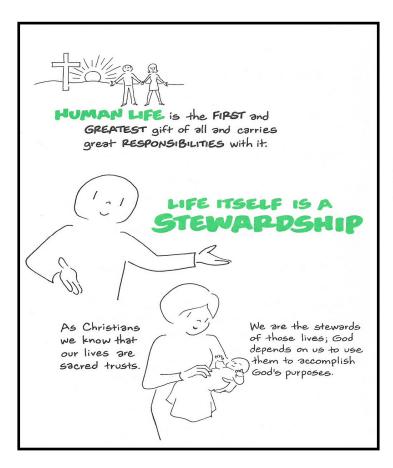
E N A M E S H T E G R L W Y C L E U X B M T H B U C W B N R I K Y P A T E T I Y X Y A V J G A L B R E Y A R P B N G N L I S N L A I N E D X E W M P R V R D H B N R D F P S O G O L G O T H A B S C D L N R O C O N F E S S I K O T H T C P E K W U O U N D M N S H N P W E D R H F S K U N F O E T K Y C S G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



ROMANS 8:16











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 elseyou are one of a kind.
You lack nothing that His grace
can't give you.
He has allowed you to be here

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.

share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love

May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name.

Amen.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your [creator] in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your [creator] who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:1-4).

Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:1-6 and 16-21 is the starting point on the journey through Lent. In this excerpt from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus admonishes his audience about public, showy displays of spirituality. Rather than take pleasure or pride in giving alms, we are to hide the deed even from ourselves. Rather than pray in public, we are to retire to private rooms. Rather than display the effects of our fasting, Jesus tells us, "Put oil on your head and wash your face" (6:17). In fact, each of Jesus' directives seems to contradict the very notion of what we have come to call "being a public church." The sermon of Jesus appears to favor private spirituality over public displays of faith. He seems to suggest that faith is best lived out in the quiet and private spaces of our hearts rather than in public.

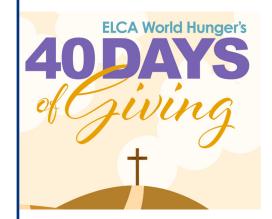
However, reading the sermon in this way misses the fact that the Gospel of Matthew is a call to be this very public church, which will "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We might believe that the message of Lent is to practice private piety, yet Jesus focuses here not on the mere practices of faith but on the community of faith. In other words, Jesus is talking not about the what but about the who — who we are and who God is.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Think, share or journal about a time when you acted and it created a positive change. What did you do? What happened? What did it feel like?
- 2. Where have you seen God turning prayers into action?
- 3. Think about the prayers you share during worship. Bring one prayer to mind. How might your community turn this prayer into action? What small or large steps could you take?
- 4. Where is there a need for action to end hunger in your community? What will it take to move this action forward?

PRAYER

God of promise, God of hope, God of fullness, God of peace, guide us, your people, to be your hands and feet, to work together as you build on our rocky soil a new, just world where all are fed.



St John Lutheran Church Council 2021

President Vice-President Secretary Financial Secretary Treasure

Finance
Christian Community
Evangelism
Parish Education

Stewardship Property Worship Life Diana Pfaff Tim Titgemeyer Marcia Morgan Kristina Wildman Kent Delventhal

Fred Lammers
Cheryl Berger
Melissa Hayes
Carol Jensen
Kim Sommers
Carole Beamer
Gary Johnson
Traci Brown





I had an enjoyable and rewarding experience in my years serving on the food pantry board. Thank you to all of the volunteers over the years helping with the food pantry. I am extremely appreciative and humbled by your donation to the pantry in honor of my years of service. Thank you all so much.

Also I want to thank you for the gift card it was extremely appreciated as well.

Cindy Hartman



Growing as Jesus' Disciples with Seven Faith Practices

We 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





February Highlights

Council Meeting Minutes in Person/Zoom- February 18, 2021

Pastor's Report:

Attendance: in Person average

Nov 35.0

YTD 2020 average 157.7

On-Line average

171.2

YTD average 208.2

Numbers:

14hospital/homeland visit/individual or family meetings

4 committee/group meetings

3 Community/youth/fellowship events

8 professional/clergy activities

1 funeral

Funerals: I presided at the funeral of Janet Hartman(St. Peter, Blackberry) on January 30, 2021

Easter Worship: We are putting together our Easter worship service and are searching for some of St. John's hidden musical talent. If you know of someone who would like to share their gift of music, submit a recording or come to the church to be recorded – similar to how we did for Christmas Eve-please have them contact me.

New Facebook Group: Discussion at Committee Night las week led to the creation of a new Facebook group to help facilitate online connections. Whether you are someone who worships with us in the sanctuary, during the live broadcast on Facebook or watches the videos later on YouTube, the hope is that this can be an online community where members and friends of St. John Lutheran Church can meet for support, encouragement, and fellowship as we strive to live a life of discipleship in a quickly changing world. This group is a work in progress and we are sort of figuring it out as we go, but if you would like to join in you will find us at this link http://www.facebook.com/groups/3270411673060044

Financial Secretary's Report: <u>Kristina Wildman</u> – Income slightly down but will be made up in May with five Sunday's. Budget is still good.

Treasurer's report: Kent Delventhal – Expenses are remaining low due to COVID and are 89% under budget.

Finance Committee Report: Fred Lammers – Presented the Income over Expense Overage 2019-2020 distribution Finance recommendation report. Motion was made by Traci Brown to accept the distribution. Cheryl Berger seconded it. Motion passed. Kristina Wildman noted that the Genoa Food Pantry received the proceeds from the 2020-2021 Souper Bowl collection

The Finance Committee recommended that the Lenten offers be designated for the Lutheran Home of Mercy and the Bistro 163. Fred Lammers made the motion, Tim Titegemeyer Seconded, motion passed.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger –We thanked the 2 new members, Alice & Carol for coming to our committee. We talked about what our committee does. We discussed the possibility of doing something or not for Mother's or Father's Day. It was decided NOT to have anything to handout.

CCL would like to help Evangelism with the task of updating the directory. They will give us some of the names to follow-up on.

We talked about taking in DONATIONS for the OTTAWA CO. HUMANE SOCIETY of Cat Food & Dog Food and other items they may need. Kris is getting more info from them before we can put the word out! Alice men_{10} tioned Genoa Jewelers would be happy to accept collections @ their business! MORE INFO TO COME;)

Evangelism: Melissa Hays – Will chair Evangelism. We welcome Margaret Berger and Beverly Harder back to the Evangelism committee. Our main focus for these upcoming months will be working on updating the church directory. Council discussed Up-dating email, what on-line present do members use, phone numbers, addresses, director pictures and welcoming back members.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers - We collected a total of \$348.66 from both of our Souper Bowl weekends, thank you to the congregation for your generosity. Your donations support the Genoa food pantry Parish Ed is planning an Easter Egg drive through, in the church parking lot, on April 3, 2021, from 9:30 to noon, or until we run out of goodie bags. Anyone willing to donate individually wrapped candy that can fit into plastic Easter eggs can drop the candy off outside the church office. We are looking for catechism and high school youth volunteers to fill the goodie bags on March 27, at 10:00 AM here at the church. We will be practicing social distancing.

Stewardship: Ron Gerkensmeyer – Tom Cashen has agreed to coordinate the Golf Outing again this year. Thank you, Tom! Ron Gerkensmeyer will assist.

Worship Life: Traci Brown - There were 14 people who received drive-through communion Feb. 7th (It was originally scheduled for Jan. 31 but postponed due to snowy weather.) Next drive through communion is scheduled for March 7th, weather permitting.

Pastor reported that the recordings for the Ash Wednesday service and St. John's Lenten service were completed and Andy was finalizing the services. These services, as well as all the mid-week Lenten services, will be available weekly on YouTube after 11am each Wednesday and then will be on Facebook at 7 pm. beginning Feb. 17th – Ash Wednesday. The other churches that will be sharing a service were asked to have their recorded service submitted 10 days before their scheduled day to give Andy time to check it before posting. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were finalized. Easter service format will be similar to Christmas service but with a few changes. All music – sung or instrumental will be recorded along with all the readings. An invitation will once again be sent out to our St. John family to join in and share their gifts of music, including playing bells which Beckie will coordinate. These will all be recorded on designated recording days which Andy will coordinate with those who want to participate. There will be in-person worship (as is done weekly) but there will be a sign-up process set up (by Lisa, Pastor, and Amelia) for those who wish to be present on Easter Saturday or Sunday, to establish the number of people in order to maintain a safe environment for all. Due to the continued Pandemic restrictions, the weekly Saturday/Sunday services will continue as they have been with musicians alternating as they have been and recorded music and scripture readings. The in-person worship will continue (with those in attendance following social distancing, wearing masks, and using hand sanitizer) and Andy will continue to record the service while on FB live, and then post it on YouTube, when it is ready, after the service ends.

The Confirmation service was briefly discussed and more details will be worked out in the coming months. Pastor shared that the Synod was beginning to look at "Returning to Congregational Life" and more on that topic will be reviewed in the coming months as well.

The next Worship Life meeting will be Tuesday March 9^{th} The April meeting was changed to April 13^{th} . Both at 7 pm in the Social Hall. May meeting remained unchanged, May 11^{th} at this time.

Property: Gary Johnson – Gary Johnson will chair. Property will check for any light out.

OLD BUSINESS: Condition and appearance of church. Things have been put away. Traci Brown and Kim Sommers will manage the hymn boards.

NEW BUSINESS: Cheryl Berger received pantry news after the committee night meeting. St John will serve on April 17 and September 18. Please contact Cheryl if you can help! Last month 63 people were served and 32 families. Expenses where \$3368.67 and donations received where \$10,270.00.

Next Committee Meeting will be March 11 at 7:00 pm Next Council Meeting is scheduled for March 18 at 7:00 pm.

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: New authorization Change donation amount Change donation date Discontinue electronic donation									
Las	t Name	45., 45.40 (10.00	First Name							
Add	dress									
City	1		State Zip							
Em	Email Address Phone #									
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: Weekly - DAY Semi-Monthly - 1st and 15th Monthly on the 1st Monthly on the 15th		 Weekly – DAY Semi-Monthly – 1st and 15th Monthly on the 1st 	FUNDS: General/Operating Other (please specify below Add'l donation to offset fees Total \$							
If ye	If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.									
CHECKING / SAVINGS		m my (check one): ct your financial institution for Routing #) ch a voided check below)	Routing Number: Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: Check Number Routing Number							
	I authorize the above organiz reasonable notification to terr		ount. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide Date:							
	Card Brand (check one):	☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard	☐ American Express ☐ Discover Card							
RD	Card Number:	Story to the story of the story	Expiration Date:							
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Name on Card:									
	Billing Address (if different from above):									
CREDIT	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above.									
	Signature (as it appears on the card): Date:									



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	8	9 10:00 AM Blankets	10	7:00 PM Committee Night	12	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	15	16 10:00 AM Blankets	17	7:00 PM Council Meeting Church	19	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!	23 10:00 AM Blankets	24	25	26	5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	29	30	31			13

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 21140 W. Toledo Street P. O. Box 235 Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

Volume 0674 Issue 299 March 2021



March 2021



Pastor Shawn O'Brien 419-972-4003 (home)

E-mail address: pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours Amelia Burkey, Office Administrator Monday –Friday 8:30 am —2:30 pm Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address: office@stjohnwilliston.org

*Visit us on Facebook

In person and online!

Worship Hours at St. John Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM Sunday School (in person) 8:30 AM Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM