



**Volume 0696
Issue 321
January 2023**

January

ASK THE PASTOR

“What are your New Year’s resolutions going to be?”

Did you know that the earliest recorded “New Year’s” celebration actually happened when there was no such thing as a calendar year? In early Babylon, the new year was celebrated in late March, the time between the sowing of seeds and the harvesting of crops. It was an eleven-day festival of food and wine, drama and dancing, culminating in a huge parade.

Through a series of Roman Emperors trying to make sense of the calendar (or make a name for themselves), “New Year” was eventually moved to January 1. After Rome converted to Christianity in the fourth century, the Church set out to abolish all pagan practices and condemned the celebration, forbidding Christians to participate. During the Middle Ages, the Church remained so strongly hostile to the old pagan New Year celebrations that in predominantly Catholic cities and countries the observance vanished altogether. When New Year was celebrated, it could fall practically anywhere... March 15th, December 15th, Christmas Day, or Easter Sunday. It is only within the past four or five hundred years that January 1st has enjoyed widespread acceptance.

I guess that was the long way of getting to the point... Four thousand years ago, the ancient Babylonians made resolutions as part of their New Year’s celebrations. While our modern promises might include exercising more, eating better, etc. The Babylonians had their own two favorites: to pay off outstanding debts and to return all borrowed farming tools and household utensils.

Whatever traditions you follow in your New Year’s celebration, and whatever promises or resolutions you may make, I would like you to consider adding one more... Resolve to spend a few more minutes each day reading the Bible. 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. If you want to get a head start, the first week looks like this...

PROLOGUE: Jan. 1 – Matthew 1:1; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18

PREPARATION: Jan. 2 – Birth of John the Baptist Foretold, Luke 1:5-25

Jan. 3 – The Annunciation, Luke 1:26-38

Jan. 4 – Mary visits Elizabeth, Luke 1:39-56

Jan. 5 – The Birth of John the Baptist, Luke 1:57-80

Jan. 6 – The Genealogy of Jesus, Matthew 1:2-17; Luke 3:23-38

Jan. 7 – The Birth of Jesus, Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

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

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

FORERUNNER NEWS
The deadline for the
February Forerunner is on
Monday, January 23rd at
9:00 AM.

Winter Weather Notice!



*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!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Budget Review Meeting
Sunday, January 15 at 11am

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 22 at 11am

Installation of Elected Officers &
Committee Members
January 28/29 during worship

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

[pastorobrien](mailto:pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org)

[@stjohnwilliston.org](mailto:stjohnwilliston.org)

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

Deadline for the
February 2023 newsletter is
Monday, January 23th
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
Lori Buhrow
Office
Administrators
9am—2pm



A New Year filled with Gratitude!



Thank You...

A big thank you to Ron Sheahan/Dimech Services for the generous donation and the excellent workmanship, cooperation, and quality of work exhibited during the upgrade of the sanctuary AC system

**With much appreciation,
The Property Board**

Thank You...

I want to thank Pastor O'Brien and our church family for the prayers, cards, phone calls and well wishes during my recent hospitalization and recovery at home.

**Thanks to all and God Bless,
Cal Nelson**

Our Community Friends,

Thanks so much for your donation of many food items for our food pantry. It is greatly appreciated.

**Many blessings!
Jerusalem Township Food Pantry**

Staff, Pastor, Members of St. John Lutheran Church,

We love you. You have a servant's heart. We are blessed by your generosity. Our cancer patients and their families are blessed by your thoughtfulness and caring hearts. Nightengale's Harvest thanks you so much for the food, the toiletries, the hats and scarves.

**God Bless!
The Nightengale's Harvest**

Christmas Thank you!

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank all who attended the 5th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. After a windy morning, the weather cooperated for a nice evening. Thanks to all who donated items for Nightengale's Harvest. We have a very generous congregation. Many thanks to all who helped in anyway from planning to cleaning up. Put December 2nd on your calendar for next year.

The Evangelism Committee

Thank You!

The 52nd Ecumenical Community Christmas was a great success! We had 76 ladies in attendance representing 12 churches. We WELCA would like to thank all who helped. It took a lot of hands to put on the program and dinner. We collected ten boxes of food items for the local Light Neighborhood Food Pantry and Nightengale's Harvest. Also special thanks to the men who helped serve and cleanup. Many hands make for light work

WELCA

Thank You....

Thanks to The Sommers Family, The O'Brien Family (especially to the cute ginger person), John Mazur, Carol Vargo, Ron Gerkenmeyer, Tracy Donnelly, Bob Bench, Pam and Lauren LaRue for being ringers for the Salvation Army Red Kettle. We don't know our total for the day yet, but will certainly announce it when we do. The money collected from the kettle stays in Ottawa County and helps make Christmas a little brighter for families in need.

Rosemarie Dickinson

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART



In Memory of Michelle Maix

Carol Purney

Jeff & Janet Clough

Susie Bires

Jeff Schimming

Pat Sievert

Merle & Shirley Berger

Gary Vargo

Helen Tenteris

Donna & Susie Mathews

Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer

JoElaine Schimming

Mo Majewski

Tara Taylor

Doris Titgemeyer

Phyllis Haeft

Larry & Doris Lafferty

Roland & Janis Sandrock

Dave & Lisa Smithmyer

Lowell & Diane Hartman

Carol Beamer

Alice Witt

Roger Clark

Sherri Fiechaber

Dean & Sandy Miller

Laraine & Gary Meinke

Wayne & Vicki Takach

In Memory of Lois Kinsel

Lowell and Diane Hartman

Gary and LisaAnne Gregg

In Memory of Miriam Camper

Arline Sabin

In Memory of

Ray Fredericksen

Arline Sabin



The 2023 Altar and Chancel Flower chart is posted on the door by the office.

Please sign up for the weekend you would like to order Altar or Chancel flowers. Fill out the blue slip and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office with your payment.

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

Please submit your order/blue 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.

We are using Hirzel Bros.

Florists again this year.

They do such a nice job and are very customer friendly. Please pass the word if you know



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) or the church office

(419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.

Circle Meetings

January 2023

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 3, 2:00 p.m.
in the Social Hall

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.
in the Church Lounge

Upcoming Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: February 7th, 2:00 p.m.
March 7th, 2:00 p.m.

REBEKAH CIRCLE: February 7th, 7:00 p.m.
March 7th, 7:00 p.m.

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.

Faith Practice #3 Readings PSALMS



Jan. 2 – Psalm 91
Jan. 9 – Psalm 92
Jan. 16 – Psalm 93
Jan. 23 – Psalm 94
Jan. 30 – Psalm 95
Feb. 6 – Psalm 96



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

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

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

Congratulations to the following scouts from Troop 0342 & 9342 on earning their Eagle Rank:

Zachary Wittman	November 30, 2021
Anna Sommers	August 5, 2022
Benjamin Sommers	August 5, 2022
Grant Smith	August 26, 2022
Nathan Wolff	November 9, 2022



News around St. John!



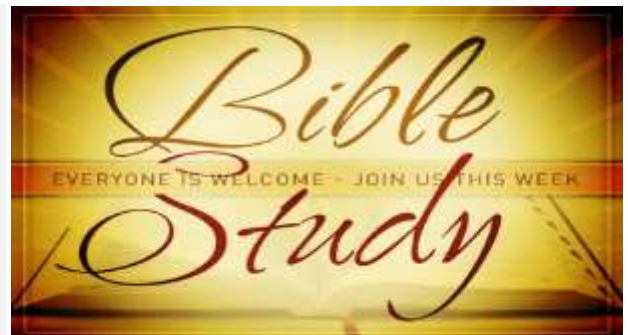
McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship
at the Northwood McDonald's on
Wednesdays. We will gather starting
at 7:00 AM and if you are available, I
would like to invite you to stop by
and have breakfast with your
St. John friends.

Did you know....

*There is an adult bible study class that meets
Mondays at 10:00 am?*

*This study is lead by Pastor O'Brien and concentrates
on the lectionary lessons for the upcoming week.
No experience needed and all are welcome!
Bring your bible!*



Join the St. John Dartball Team!

Get those pitching arms ready! Join us for fun on Tuesday nights
at 7:30 PM as the Western Ottawa County Dartball League
continues its season. All are welcome. No experience is needed.
All are welcome to come and cheer on our St. John Team, too!
See or call Jeff Schimming for more info. 419-356-3552

Upcoming games:

January 14th 7:30 at Home
January 21st 7:30 at Home
January 28th 7:30 at Home
February 4th 7:30 at Millbury St. Paul

The 2022 Annual Report and Budget for 2023 will be available for inspection on
Sunday, January 15th following worship.

The Finance Committee will be available to answer any Budget questions.

Committees and Boards are asked to turn in their report to the office by January 6th.

The St. John Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22nd following
worship. Please plan to attend this important meeting of our congregation.



Save the Date



Love Garden Banquet
Formerly Mother/Daughter Banquet
All Women, Family and Friends
Of St. John's are Invited
April 16, 2022
1:00pm-3:00pm
More Details to Follow



Three Ways to share what God has provided.

Time Talent Treasure

Webster's Dictionary defines a steward as: a person put in charge of the affairs of a large household or estate, whose duties include the supervision of household accounts. In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells the story of a master who entrusted his property to his servants while he was away. Which one of the servants will you be with the resources that God has entrusted you. If we truly believe that everything we have comes from God then it becomes a joy to give back to Him a small portion of what He has loaned to us. We ask every member to support the ministry of Faith with their time, talents, and treasure in the new year.



January Stewardship Prayer

Nothing is more important than cultivating a closer, deeper relationship with God. Make a new commitment to a time each day to listen to God's voice.

A New Year's Plan

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,

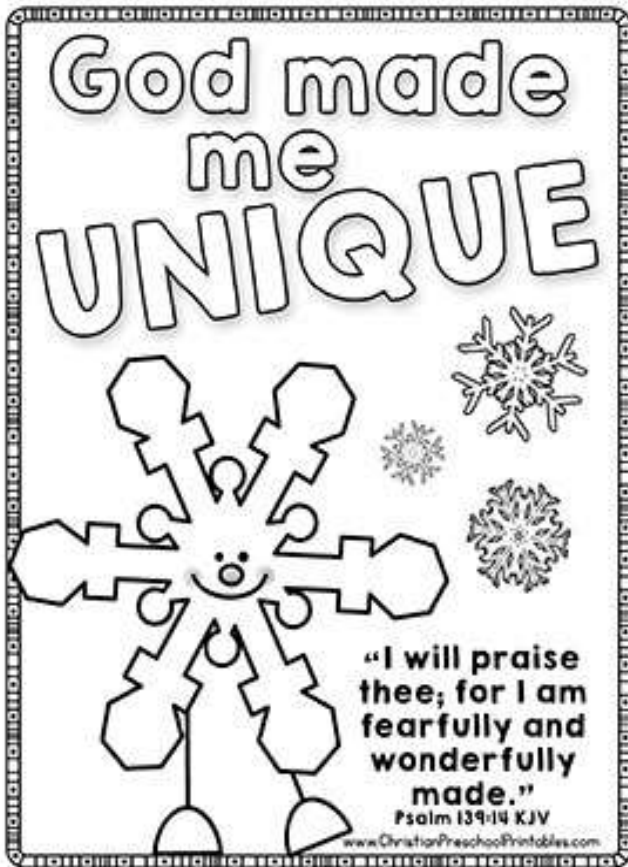
And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day

"Don't look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward [anchored by fear](#),


"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing—your all in all;

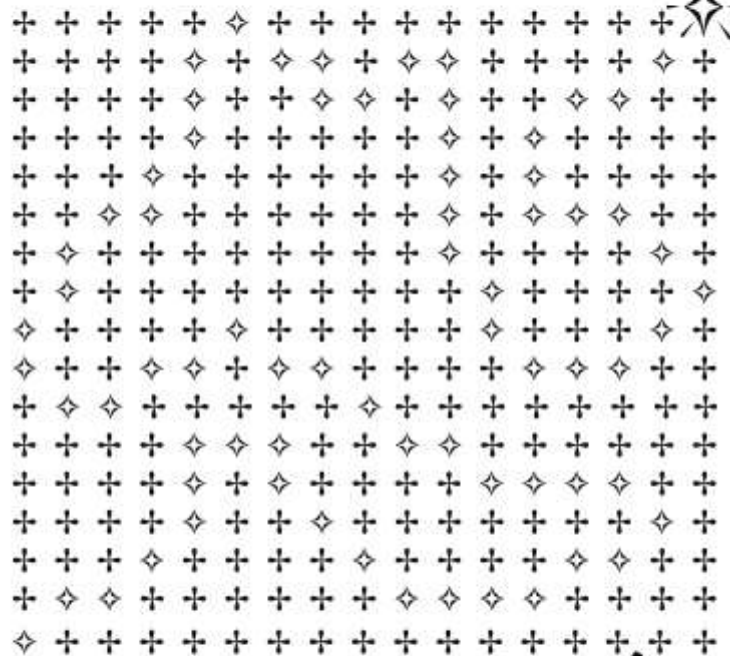
CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the  path that leads to baby Jesus.




START



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LDOG NCAKNRIENFSE RYHMR

?? Bible Quiz ??

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

Answer: gold, frankincense, myrrh



Poinsettia Dedications



In Honor Of

Our Grandchildren

By

Bob & Diane Kapp

In Loving Memory of

Dilly Schimming

Ray Lee, Sr.

Bruce Traver & Elaine Gardner

Megan Elizabeth Goldstein

Arica Grace Goldstein

Richard Harmeyer

Ray & Lois Wehner

Ollie & Mary Ann Gruben

Our Grandparents

Charles & Mary Mathews

Loved Ones

Richard & Rosalie Baumbach

John, Norma & Joe Rensch

Marjorie Blausey

Patricia Delventhal

John & Dorothy Huber

Harold & Ruth Miller

John, Norma & Joe Rensch

Robert Permar

By

Dave, Kris, Kurtis & Aubrey Lee

Dave, Kris, Kurtis & Aubrey Lee

Darryl & Diane Traver

Jerry & Beckie Goldstein & Family

Jerry & Beckie Goldstein & Family

Jerry & Beckie Goldstein & Family

Lee & Debbie Wehner

Lee & Debbie Wehner

Rick & Lori Buhrow & Family

Donna Mathews

Bernie Blausey

Jon & Valerie Baumbach

Jon & Valerie Baumbach

Bernie Blausey

Kent Delventhal & Evie Zimmerman

Dave & Vicki Huber

Dave & Vicki Huber

Jeri Permar

Jeri Permar

In Loving Memory of

Dilly Schimming

Our Grandparents

Dilly Schimming

Henry & Harriet Tegtmeier

Frank & Marilyn Truman

Loved Ones

Emory Lasseter

Ralph & Edna Sandrock

Rob & Clara Lasseter

Frederick & Karen Sandrock

Jennifer Johnson

Wade & Audrey Wolf

Earl, Arnold & Grace Johnson

Departed Family Members

Don Berger

Tim Berger

Kenneth Schimming

Helen Schlievert & Dan Beamer

Clarence & Helen Schlievert

Patricia Delventhal

Thomas Gillespie

Dan Beamer

Lawrence Gruetter

Those we have love & lost

Richard Harmeyer

Steven Harmeyer

Parents & Brothers

Arnold & Grace Johnson

By

Al & Traci Brown

Al & Traci Brown

Jim Schimming

Thomas & Joan Truman

Thomas & Joan Truman

Larry & Nancy Strohscher

Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock

Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock

Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock

Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock

Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandrock

Bob & Diane Kapp

Bob & Diane Kapp

Allen & Judy Yockey

Margaret Berger

Margaret Berger

JoElaine Schimming & Family

Paul Beamer

Linda Schlievert

Holly Delventhal, James Gillespie & Lily

Holly Delventhal, James Gillespie & Lily

Carole Beamer

Elaine Gruetter

Allen & Beverly Harder

Beth Johnson

Mary Harmeyer & Beth Johnson

Mary Harmeyer

Richard & Jane Phillips





Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day and shall be my people, and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for he has roused himself from his holy **dwelling**” (Zechariah 2:10-13).

Many of us have spent the last year reading through Poetry (Book of Psalms) and Prophecy (the Major Old Testament Prophets and the Book of Revelation). Many of these readings have been unsettling and challenging, but also inspiring and hopeful.

In Zechariah chapter two, the prophet shares an image of inspiration and hope. The Lord will come and dwell in our midst. God will be with us. And as we await God's coming, we are called to a simple task, “Be silent!” Well, maybe that's not quite such a simple task after all. Seeking silence in a noisy world can be a difficult endeavor. Silence takes intention, thoughtfulness, and practice.

A few simple practices in the pursuit of silence may include:

- Setting aside intentional times of quiet, in which you don't speak
- Commuting without the news, music, or a podcast
- Exercising (running) without ear buds or headphones
- Taking a social media Sabbath
- Scheduling a silent retreat at a retreat center.

During this reflective season of Advent, I have disengaged from social media, in order to more fully engage in personal devotion, prayer, and silence. My soul has felt the difference. I find that my mind is less cluttered, and my prayers are more focused.

I invite you to take a quiet moment this day to ponder what simple practice in the pursuit of silence may be good for your soul.

Bless you,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

My Current Learning

Book: You Are Witnesses of These Things: Sharing the Story of Jesus by Craig Alan Satterlee and Chelsey Satterlee

Audio Book: The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Podcasts: Akimbo: A Podcast from Seth Godin
Bible Project

Apps: Pray as You Go
Centering Prayer

CHURCH COUNCIL

November 2022 Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kim Sommers, Kellie Ulrich, Melissa Hayes, Kristina Wildman, Kent Delventhal, Gary Johnson, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, and Pam LaRue

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm 46

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In person average for Oct 22-110.4 compared to Oct 21-102.2 & Online average for Oct 22-84.6 compared to Oct 21-86

Numbers: 7 professional/clergy activities, 14 hospital/homebound/individual or family mtgs, 7 committee/group mtgs, 1 community/youth/fellowship event, and 5 classes/Bible studies. **Funerals:** Roger Jensen on Oct 6 and Michelle Maix on Oct 7.

Baptism: Cooper Timothy-Keith Hartman (son of Chad and Jessica Hartman) on Oct 2. **Patriarch:** Henry Krukemyer was named our 7th Patriarch (11/15).

Shopping with the Stars: Stars and shopping lists on the table in the narthex (also on the church website and FB). Gifts should be returned to the church by December 4. **Thanksgiving Eve Worship:** Hosted by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at 7:00p. **Faith Practice**

Highlights: 2023 will be a year of Prayer.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 94% of the monthly budget and 95% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 80% of our monthly budget and 94% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$3,949 compared to our budget of negative \$730. 12 sacks for a Sack = \$300 donation from the Good Samaritan Fund including a donation of \$775 for a total of \$1,075. Motion made and passed to donate our Thanksgiving offering to the Ottawa Co. Holiday Bureau by: Kent Delventhal & motion seconded by: Gary Johnson. Motion made and passed to donate our Christmas offering to Elliston Food Pantry, Nightingales Harvest, and Luther Home of Mercy (Garden of Compassion). Pending the Thanksgiving Offering doesn't reach \$1,000, additional money will be donated to the Ottawa Co. Holiday Bureau to reach that set amount. By: Jennifer Nelson and motion seconded by Tim Titgemeyer. Motion made and approved to approve the 2023 Budget of \$290,000 by: Jennifer Nelson & motion seconded by: Susie Mathews

Christian Community Life: Susie Mathews
Food Pantry-There was a donation of \$1,087.00 & 50

Evangelism: Melissa Hayes

December 3rd-Christmas Tree Lighting will be after worship with pizza, cookies, and salad! We will be baking cookies on December 2nd. We are asking for personal items including paper products and toiletries for Nightingales Harvest.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers

There will be no Sunday School on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Christmas program practice will be held on Sat. Dec 17 from 9-12. We have discussed plans for this year's Christmas program offering going towards a lending library book box. Offerings used to build the box and future Christmas program offerings would go towards the upkeep and stocking of the lending library.

Stewardship: Pam LaRue

We are ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on Dec 10th, (12p-8p at Millers) in 2 hour shifts, if you only want 1 hour please indicate that after your name, the sign up sheet is on the closet door by the flower sheets, a chair is provided.

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Nov 27th-Beginning of Advent. We would like to invite any people who would like to play a musical instrument at Christmas services. Bell choir is starting practice on Sundays and we are in need of two more bell ringers. Jan 5th-Epiphany Service. Feb 22-Beginning of Lent (Ash Wed) Communion-We are in need of servers to pour wine. We will still offer the pre-packaged cups as an option. Still looking for ushers. A Christmas activity flier has been posted.

Property: Gary Johnson

AC replacement (sanctuary) complete. Bid requests for fencing surrounding outside units sent. Vanity in lower women's bathroom installed. Painting is next. Service call made for parsonage boiler and PM checks of all boilers were performed 17 Nov 2022. Clock at the end of hall replaced. Batteries in AED replaced. AED self test passed. Replaced fan belt in SE radiator in sanctuary. Replaced blower fan motor for west staircase heater. Upgraded scout room lights to LEDs. Drooping gutter (south side) has been repaired.

Old Business: Conversations about offering Chosen One series & Chris Everett. Dead evergreen tree removal. Refill first aid kits in the kitchen. Two windows in the social hall need attention. Discussed setting up paypal/venmo for donations. In need of 2 people to go to food pantry board meetings, once a month. Nominating committee needs one more nominee for stewardship & worship life.

New Business: Looking for servers for the Genoa Food Pantry on Dec 17th (9am-12pm). The Annual Mtg will be Jan 22, 2023 at 11am. Installation of officers is Jan 28/29, 2023. Motion made and passed for the constitutional

CHURCH COUNCIL

December 2022 Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Kim Sommers, Melissa Hayes, Kent Delventhal, Gary Johnson, and Donna Mathews.

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm 46

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In person average for Nov. 2022 -113.5 compared to Nov. 2021 -102.2 & Online average for Nov. 2022 -70.3 compared to Nov. 2021 -86

Numbers: 4 professional/clergy activities, 12 hospital/homebound/individual or family mtgs, 3 committee/group mtgs, 2 community/youth/fellowship event, and 7 classes/Bible studies. **Funeral:** Ray Fredericksen on November 9th. **Shopping with the Stars:** Thank you to everyone who donated. We had an incredible number of gifts and folks at Luther Home of Mercy were VERY grateful. **Vacation:** Pastor will go to the Holy Land, Jan 3-12. Pastor Bob Noble & Pastor Matt Musteric will be available for pastoral emergencies. Matt Milbrodt will be leading worship Jan 7th/8th, with no communion that weekend.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance

Committee Report: Expenses: We are 106% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year to date budget. Income: We are 100% of our monthly budget and 95% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$4,083 compared to our budget of negative \$79. Kristina - Revised budget at \$292,000 to cut back board & ministries, and cut out youth from the budget, (they have a large fund at the moment). Staff salaries have been increased. Video tech is for three people. Operating expenses, water is the same but increased gas and telephone has been decreased because of the new phone services electricity have been decreased as well and contracted services have been dropped, custodial supplies have dropped, other things have mostly stayed the same. The revised Final Budget for 2023 in the amount of \$292,000 was approved: Motion made by: Kristina Wildman & Motion seconded by: Tim Titgemeyer.

Christian Community Life: Donna Mathews

Oct. Food Pantry report - 64 people served, donations are down, received \$565.00 in donations. The Food Pantry 2023 schedule is out & St. John Lutheran (Williston) is scheduled for April 15th & Sept. 16th. Discussed menu for the Annual Meeting.

Evangelism: Melissa Hayes

Christmas Tree Lighting on the 3rd with about 40 people

Parish Education: Kim Sommers

Held Christmas program, "Christmas Unwrapped" Dec. 18 with Advent Tea. Souper Bowl of Caring will be on Feb. 11 & 12. We will have our soup kettles out during worship. Donations will go to Genoa Food Pantry.

Stewardship: No report

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich

Our communion set up person will be pre filling two full trays of cups. We will continue to have around 6 of the sealed cups/wafers for those who choose to continue with those. We have a list of those who will serve on Sat. & Sun. and these volunteers will be on a rotation. Anyone interested in being added to the rotation please let the church office know. Thanksgiving Eve service was held at Mt. Carmel with approx. 45 in attendance (7 were St. John members).

Property: Gary Johnson

Nativity has been put up. Fixed issue with no heat SE entrance. Fixed issue with heat new addition upstairs (pantry room and hallway). Looking into running issues with lawn tractor for Paul. New thermostat for the new AC system is in, arranging time for install. Looking into lighting issues for electronic sign on the west side.

Old Business: Conversations about offering the Chosen

One series and Chris Everett speaker event. Discussed dead evergreen tree by rental property and removal of that. Refill first aid kits in the kitchen. Two windows in the social hall need attention. Every year we need 2 people to go to food pantry mtgs, once a month to bring back info to church council. The meetings are held at the ARC (old junior high building in Genoa) at the food pantry.

New Business: Talk about getting a digital thermostat for

heat on the phone that we can adjust for savings. 2023 Nominees for Church Officers and Board Members were approved: Motion made by: Tim Titgemeyer & Motion seconded by: Gary Johnson. 110 Holiday Bureau Boxes serving 250 people have been prepared at the Church. A local Catholic church usually hosts this but because of a scheduling conflict we hosted this year. Genoa & Woodmore HS NHS students will be coming to help pass out the boxes via a drive through. Quilting Ladies helped fill the boxes. Boxes serve Allen/Clay and Harris Townships. Each family gets a ham/turkey, potatoes, oranges/apples and some get gift certificates, toys, and blankets. Thanks to all who are helping in this process! Putting together a formal thank you for Dimech Services and the Sheahan family for their generous donation in helping to install the AC unit. **Next Committee Mtg:** Thurs., Jan. 12, 2022 at 7pm **Next Council Mtg:** Thurs., Jan. 19, 2022 at 7pm

2023 Nominees for Church Officers and Board Members	
Church Officers	New Nominee
Vice-President	Dave Neuman
Secretary	2024
Financial Secretary	2024
Treasurer	Dan Kessler
Board Members	New Nominee
Finance	2024
Community Christian	Cheryl Berger Deb Wehner
Evangelism	Margaret Berger Beverly Harder
Parish Education	Stefanie Hill (Neuman) Natalie Szymanski
Stewardship	Pam LaRue Marty Schloegl
Property	John Mazur Dave Huber
Worship Life	Jill Kao Tracy Donnelly
Nominating Committee	Jack Mathews Heather Cashen JoElaine Schimming Carol Beamer
Luther Home of Mercy Representatives	Gene Bihn and Amy Bihn
Lutheran Homes Society Representatives	Karolyn Jansen and Owen Jansen
NW Ohio Synod Representatives	Gene Bihn and Janice Sheahan

Thank you to the members of St. John who have committed to sharing their talents and time as a member of our various ministry boards or as an officer of the Council! The New Nominees noted below will begin their service after the annual meeting on January 22. Be sure to thank these incoming folks as well as those who continue to serve and those who are completing their term of office.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee, Holy Delventhal, Cindy Hartman, Helen Meyer, Julie Stahl and Pastor Shawn for their hard work and persistence to complete our list of nominees!

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>	
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: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> ⑆ 1234567890 123 1234567 0001 └─ Routing Number └─ Account Number └─ Check Number </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

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Ushers

7 Donnelly Family
14 Wayne Bauman
21 Jack Mathews
28 Ron Gerkenmeyer

Lectors

7 Amy Schloegl
14 Beverly Harder
21 Nancy Strohscher
28 Tracy Orians

Acolytes

7 Emma Morgan
14 Jacob Higginbotham
21 Mila McQueary
28 Lindsay Krumnow

Communion

8 No Communion
14 Nancy Strohscher
21 Ron Gerkenmeyer
28 Carol Vargo/Alice Witt

SUNDAY
9:45am—Worship

Ushers

8 Jill Kao
15 Diana Pfaff
22 The Titgemeyer's
29 The Titgemeyer's

Lectors

8 Judy Yockey
15 Roland Sandrock
22 Fran Cranfield
29 Cebie Titgemeyer

Acolytes

8 Logan Hays
15 Lily Sondergeld
22 Lauren Hoeft
29 Caleb Hays

Communion

8 No Communion
15 Dave/Deanna Neuman
22 Cebie Titgemeyer
29 Margaret Berger



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Ushers

4 The Donnelly Family
11 Wayne Bauman
18 Jack Mathews
25 Ron Gerkenmeyer

Lectors

4 Beverly Harder
11 Amy Schloegel
18 Aidan O'Brien
25 Nancy Strohscher

Acolytes

4 Emma Morgan
11 Jacob Higginbotham
18 Mila McQueary
25 Lindsay Krumnow

Communion

4 JoElaine Schimming
11 Al Brown
18 Nancy Strohscher
25 Amy Schloegel

SUNDAY
9:45am—Worship

Ushers

5 Jill Kao
12 The Titgemeyers
19 Jill Kao
26 Diana Pfaff

Lectors

5 Deanna Neuman
12 Tim Titgemeyer
19 Jill Kao
26 Diana Pfaff

Acolytes

5 Logan Hays
12 Lily Sondergeld
19 Lauren Hoeft
26 Caleb Hays




Communion

5 Pam LaRue
11 Diana Pfaff
19 Tim Titgemeyer
26 Dave/Deanna Neuman

*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.*



JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1 No Sunday School 9:45am Traditional Worship	2 No Bible Study	3 9am Quilts 2pm Esther Circle 7pm Rebekah Circle 7:30pm Dartball-Here	4 No Breakfast Gathering	5	6 	7 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
8 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	9 No Bible Study	10 9am Quilts 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Dartball @ Genoa St John	11 No Breakfast Gathering 7pm Scouts	12 7:00pm Committee Night	13	14 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
15 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11am Budget Meeting	16 No Bible Study 	17 9am Quilts 7pm Scouts 7:30pm Dartball @ Elliston UCC	18 7am Breakfast Gathering	719 7:00pm Council Meeting	20	21 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
22 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Traditional Worship 11am Annual Meeting	23 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline!	24 9am Quilts 7:30pm Dartball-Here	25 7am Breakfast Gathering	26	27	28 5:00pm Contemporary Worship Installation of Officers
29 8:30 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Traditional Worship Installation of Officers 10:45am Choir Practice	30	31 9am Quilts 7:30pm Dartball@OH St Paul UCC	1 7am Breakfast Gathering	2	3	4 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

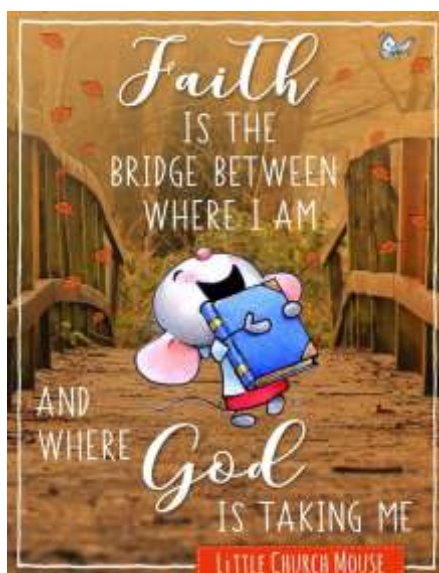
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Volume 0696 Issue 321

January 2023



January 2023



Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Cell 419-378-1112

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours

LisaAnne Gregg

Lori Buhrow,

Office Administrators

Monday –Friday

9:00am-2:00pm

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

***Visit us on Facebook**

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