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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

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Ask the Pastor

“In our Faith Practice Reading I noticed the word ‘Selah’ at the end of some sentences. What does that mean?”

The short answer is that no one really knows.

Selah is what’s called a *transliteration*. In our English Bibles, the vast majority of the original Hebrew and Greek is translated into English. That is, for each word or phrase in the original language there is an equivalent (or approximate) word or phrase in English. However, there are a few words in the Bible that are not, or cannot, be translated. When this happens, what we read is not a *translation*, but a *transliteration*.

This is the case with *selah*. There is no known English equivalent, so the Hebrew word is simply sounded out to English so we can read and pronounce it. Another example of transliteration is *hallelujah*; a Hebrew word that literally means, Praise God (*hallelu*=to praise joyously, *yah* =God). Instead of being translated as “Joyously praise God,” this word has been left for us to sound out as it would be in the original Hebrew. This Hebrew word has become a powerful expression of praise in the English language.

Selah, however, has not worked its way into our vocabulary; probably because we don’t really know what it means. But as you can imagine, scholars have theories...

The most popular theory seems to be that since *Selah* is found exclusively in the poetic books of the Old Testaments (mostly in Psalms, but also Habakkuk), the word was a musical notation possibly meaning “silence” or “pause;” “end”, “piano”, or something like that.

Related to this idea, others think it’s similar to a musical interlude, “a pause in the voices singing, while the instruments perform alone.” *Selah* is translated as “intermission” in the Septuagint (LXX) which is the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament.

I’ll also include this bonus question I found online (christianity.com) just because I thought their answer was helpful... **“How should I read passages with the word *Selah* in them?”**

“Since we don’t exactly know what *Selah* means, you could skip over it, as the translators of the NIV do, without losing the meaning of the passage.

You could also follow the model laid out by translators of the Septuagint who translated it as an intermission. Use *Selah* to take a pause to think about what the Scripture says - to reflect on the meaning of the verse before continuing to read the rest of the passage. *Selah*.”

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.

**Summer Worship Hours begin June 5th.
Saturday 5:00PM and Sunday 9:00AM**

MEMORIAL GIFTS



In Memory of Mark Witt

Margie Ann Bringe
Janice Sheahan
Mary Schimming
Jo Elaine Schimming
Phil and Audrey Milbrodt
Arline Sabin
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson
Robert and Diane Kapp
Carole Beamer
Alice Siglar and Tom Siglar

In Memory of Grace Knepper

Lowell and Diane Hartman

In Memory of Wayne Fondessy

Dean Lowe

In Memory of Elaine Gardner

Phil and Audrey Milbrodt
Mary Harmeyer
Beth Johnson

In Memory of Edna Sandrock

Arline Sabin



The Evangelism committee is in the process of updating the church directory. Would you help by updating the information from your family?

Several ways to do this would be to go to the church website, email the church office or call the office. If no change in your info just let us know that. This will help the committee as those we do not hear from it will be necessary to call. We will again be available to

take pictures before and after services, probably June 26 and 27. See page 11 for a contact form.

A NOISEY OFFERING

June 5th and 6th.

All money will go towards
Vacation Bible School



GOLF OUTING

St. John's annual golf outing will be held Sunday, September 19th at Chippewa. Mark your calendars. More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee or Tom Cashen.

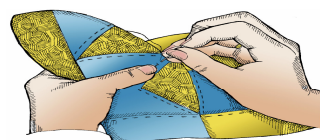


The Blanket Ladies....Still Hard at Work!!

Everyone is invited to join in and help tie! No experience needed.

Every Tuesday at 9am.

Everyone is welcome!



QUILTING GROUP

The Forerunner

is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Corner of Main and Toledo St.

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday Worship 9 AM

Deadline for the

May newsletter is

Monday, June 21st @ 9AM

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
pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org





Scholarships

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen to receive scholarships from St. John Lutheran Church to further their education.

Tank, Johnson, and Parks Memorial Scholarships
Owen Schloegl * Son of Marty and Amy Schloegl
Bowling Green State University

Tank, Johnson, and Parks Memorial Scholarships
Caleb Goldstein * Son of Jerry and Beckie Goldstein
Heidelberg University

Yunker Scholarship
Zack Buhrow * Son of Rick and Lori Buhrow
Genoa High School
Attending University of Toledo

Yunker Scholarship
Andy Kessler * Son of Lisa and Dan Kessler
Clay High School
Attending University of Toledo

Yunker Scholarship
Mallory Nelson * Daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Nelson
Clay High School
Miami University

Yunker Scholarship
AJ Rubeis * Son of Susan Mathews
Genoa High School
Attending University of Toledo



Autumn Jeffers will graduate from Genoa High School. Daughter of Brian Jeffers and Granddaughter of Karen and Danny Jeffers. Autumn will be attending Owens College in the medical field this fall .



Women of the ELCA 

Esther Circle will meet on
Tuesday June 8th at 2pm in the
Social Hall.

Rebekah Circle will meet on
Tuesday June 8th at 7pm in the
lounge.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL "KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE"

At Knights of North Castle VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they go on a quest in search of the King's Armor. They will become Knights and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

June 14th-18th, 2021.
9am- noon
Register on St. John's website!

We hope you'll join us on this great adventure!





CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

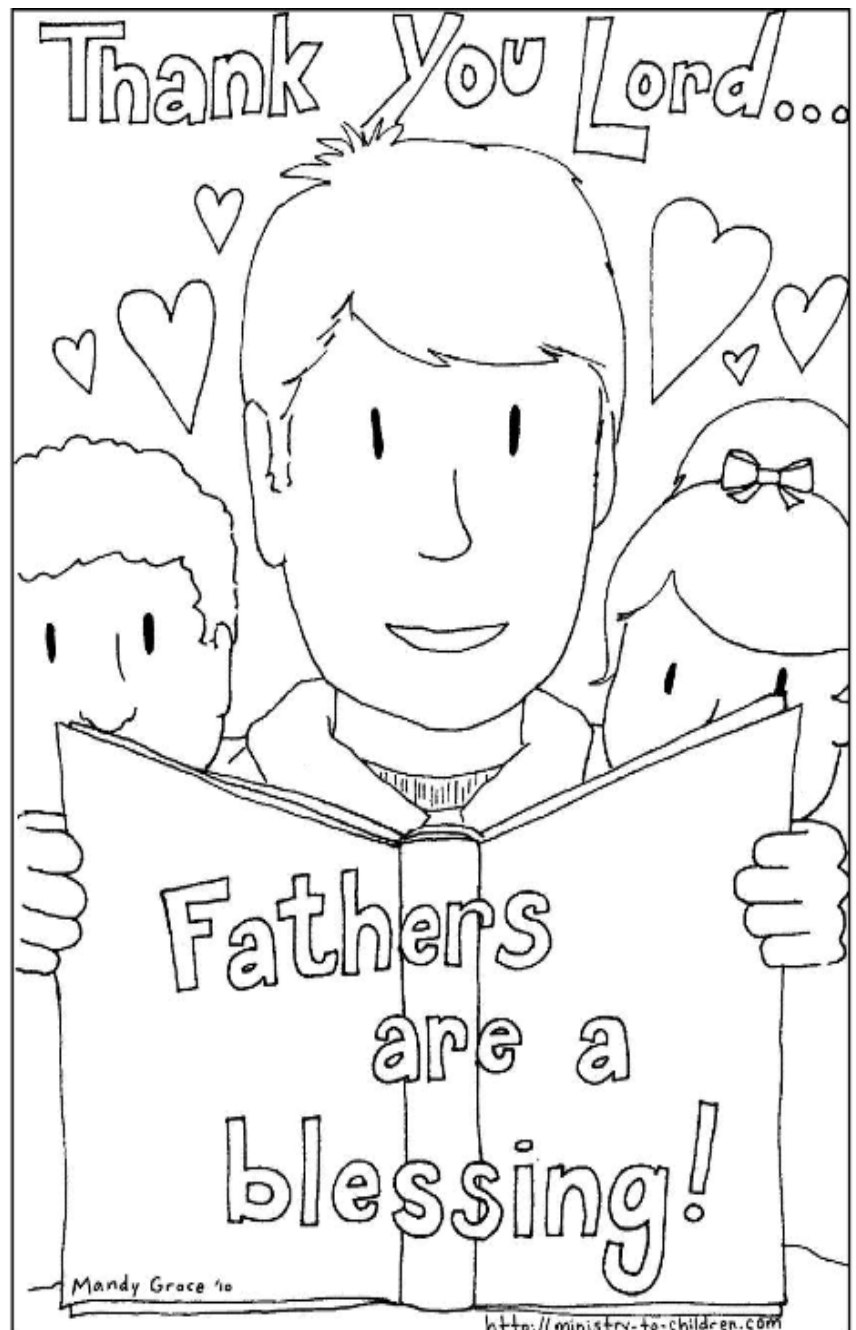
The Connection

St. John Kid's Page



**I CAN DO
ALL THINGS
THROUGH
HIM WHO
GIVES ME
STRENGTH.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:13



June Stewardship Page



The Stewardship of Fatherhood

Fathers,

You are the leaders of your home.

Leadership required setting a standard.

Living that standard– you mirroring the character of God and holding each other accountable to that standard with grace.

(Eph. 6:4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them, Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

It is OK to share that you struggle too. It's important. Your kids learn grace from your failures, when you repent and ask for forgiveness, and your family will learn grace from the way you restore them after their failures.

Paul Tripp: "We have fallen into the trap of believing that our calling is to enforce Law, when in fact, God has chosen for us to restore awe."

Steward your Leadership

Joshua 24:15- "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served which are beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Today you must decide.

Are you going to lead your family to serve the Lord?

Are you going to steward your fatherhood as a gift of God that He has given you?

You will never finish something you do not start.

Surrender, repent, and with the Holy Spirit start today.

But notice, even in Joshua's declaration- ***"as for me...and my house..."*** your decision to lead begins with you, your decision to surrender your life to Jesus.

Dear God,

Thank you for all the fathers and father figured in this world and for the many ways you use them to livingly guide others to You. We ask that you would bless them and give them great joy and peace. May they see You and know You in new ways. Show them how much you love them and care about them. Guide their steps, use their hands, and make them a blessing to others as you continue to fulfill your special purpose for their lives.

Stephen Ministries Moment

Popcorn

I grew up on a farm long before microwaves or microwave ovens were popular. If we wanted popcorn we would go out to the barn and bring in some ears of corn that were picked in the fall and stored in the barn away from mice and left to dry out. Then we shelled it and popped it.

Once when I was old enough to use the stove my Mom gave me permissions to make popcorn. I accidentally touched the burner and burned my fingers,. It really hurt my sensitive young fingers! Along with the pain was a fear. Is this pain ever going to go away? Will it stop hurting?

I learned that in time, blisters will break open, dry out and heal. Not nearly as fast as I would like it too but all in good time.

When I watch the news I hear about all the bad things today. The simple truth is there has always been challenges that we face. If you look at history you will see in the past, World Wars, poverty, earthquakes, fires, oh and I forgot the Civil War, Spanish flu in 1919 and so many other challenges. I remember going across the road from school in Millbury to get a polio shot.

If you never heard of polio as your grandparents what it is. I say "is" because it still exists in many parts of the world.

I hope you we all can learn to work through the bad times and celebrate the good. If you see a nice sunset remember it is there for you to enjoy. Think what it takes to produce a bowl of popcorn or whatever you enjoy. Share your happiness with others. Remember God's love is out there. Sometimes we just have to look harder.

Gene Bihn

"LET'S CHAT" with a Stephen Minister

"Pandemic fatigue." What is it? We hear these words on a daily basis now. Fatigue, yes, that means "tired" and yes, we are all tired of it. Tired of hearing about it, tired of the restrictions that go with it. It isn't only the restrictions we have to deal with, but the day-to-day mental and emotional exhaustion that comes with it and the challenges that we face.

Our days and nights have been filled with loneliness, worry, uselessness and a feeling of losing control of our normal activities. All of this can lead to some depression. We haven't been able to visit our families and friends, been available to be with them in times of sickness or even grieve with them when needed.

If you would like someone to talk to about any of these feelings, remember that your Stephen Ministers are available to visit with you over the phone, by texting, or e-mailing and in some situations, visiting in person. (Everything is on a confidential basis.)

Dear Lord,

In the midst of our pain you come to dwell with us. During this pandemic, we ask you to strengthen and comfort those who are lonely, grieving, anxious, or overburdened. Let our caring ministry walk alongside of anyone who is suffering. Help them to recognize and seek help from their brothers and sisters in Christ so they may face this time of trial together. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Note: You can call the church office @419-836-5514 and ask them to have a Stephen Minister return your call.

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; margin-top: 5px;"> ⑆ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ⑆ 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 ⑆ 0 0 0 ⑆ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> Routing Number Account Number Check Number </div> </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.*



May Highlights

St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio Council Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2021

Pastor's Report:

Attendance:

in Person average **80**
On-Line average 123.2

2020 average 179.1
YTD 2021 average 218

Numbers: 22 hospital/homeland visit/individual or family meetings

- 5 committee/group meetings
- 1 Community/youth/fellowship events
- 6 professional/clergy activities
- 3 classes/Bible studies

Summer Worship: Please remember that on Sunday, June 6th we begin our Summer Worship times: 9:00am on Sunday. (Saturday worship remains at 5:00pm).

Vacation: I will be out of town on June 5th and 6th. Pastor Bob Noble will be presiding at worship

Indiana: The Indiana congregations that are using our videos for worship asked me to come preach live. I agreed to lead them in worship on July 18. The two congregations are having a combined worship at Grace Lutheran Church (203 E Main Str. Syracuse, IN). There may even be a baptism. If anyone would like to make the trip (2:45 hours according to Google) I think there is going to be some kind of picnic/social time after worship. Pulpit supply at St. John TBD.

The offering sent from two Indiana congregations are designated for the Technology account.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee report:

Kristina Wildman and Kent Delventhal:

Income is down but based on 2020 data we are only down \$70.00. Expenses remain low. Letter to the congregation is being prepared with income and financial status of our church. The offering envelopes for next year have been purchased. The bill for the exterminator from last year will remain with expenses.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger – Pantry minutes: March served 42 patrons and 22 families. Donations were \$1075 plus \$300 in gift cards. Expenses were \$2051.72. April served 42 patrons and 23 families. Our church worked and we had plenty of helpers! Thank you!

We handed out roses for Mothers' Day. We talked about Fathers' Day. We are continuing to collect dog and cat food, litter and toys through the summer. We would like to thank all who have already given! It makes a difference!

Cheryl with contact the members that coordinate the food party and the Blessing Box concerning the food given to the church. Pastor O'Brien thanked all that help with these church outreach ministries.

Evangelism: Melissa Hays – The committee along with Pastor and Amelia are working hard on the Directory. Pastor has set up a form online for members. He has also posted on the Facebook and made an announcement at every service to remind the congregation to update their information. The committee mailed everyone a letter to update their information for the church. We are receiving the returned letters daily.

Parish Education: Carol Jensen – Vacation Bible School will begin on June 14 to 18. The committee is requesting recommendations on how to proceed with lifting COVID retractions. Recommendations will be discussed under new business.

Stewardship: - Tom Cashen, with Rob Gerkensmeyer assisting will coordinate the Golf Outing on September 18th. this year. Carole thanked Tom Cashen for always doing a wonderful job each year with his organizational skills. The committee has begun a long-term project, the coordination of a confirmation reunion, grouping five years together when the church is more open.



May Highlights con't.

Worship Life: Audrey Milbrodt – Drive through communion was Sunday May 16th, with Audrey assisting Pastor. The increase of in-person attendance and the decrease of those receiving will be evaluated monthly. Since the CDC and Ohio Governor presented new information regarding the current restrictions, the guidelines that St John are following were reviewed. It was decided social distancing, keeping the pews roped off and using hand sanitizer. The Council will make further recommendations in light of the lifted restrictions. Virtual Lectors will continue at this time and be reviewed at the August meeting. The musicians will continue as before, but will also be exploring the use of worship services.

Property: Gary Johnson – The vanity for the women's bathroom has been acquired. Ballasts and light have been replaced. The repairs to the hall by the elevator and the Library are on the list. The township filled the pot hole by the parking lot. Drones from the manufacturer of the roof product took pictures of the roof. Pastor will put them online.

OLD BUSINESS:
NEW BUSINESS: COVID UPDATE:
After much discussion.
The following items will be implemented the weekend of June 5th & 6th:

Pews will remain roped off.
Social Distancing will continue.
Communion will remain disposable cups
Hand sanitizer will be by all doors with all doors open
Ushers are needed to open doors and count
Sign in sheet will be removed
Masks are optional for vaccinated
Pew cushions will be put back
Offerings will not be passed
All bathrooms open

thank you

A gradual opening of the church will continue over the summer for these items with full opening sometime in August and September. VBS leaders will oversee all VBS for best practice procedures

Masks will be required for VBS indoors

Acolytes will be trained in the fall.

Lectors will be in person every other week as outreach to the Indiana churches

Hymnals will come back with the live music

At the request of families, the ropes can be removed for funerals and weddings

Confirmation will be August 29, 2021
Next Committee Meeting will be August 12 at 7:00 pm
Next Council Meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

BIG THANK YOU to the Food Pantry Helpers !!

You made our work at the pantry go so smoothly ;)

Thank you so much to the following people:

Carole Beamer
Linda Schlievert
Lindsey Krumnow
Michele Krumnow
Aiden Johnson
Joe Brossia
Mary Brossia
Riley Brossia
Sedona Brossia
Isaiah Brossia
Cheryl Berger

**ALL your hard working hands -
It was greatly appreciated !!**

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

- Please UPDATE my information
- CONFIRMING my current information is correct
- Please REMOVE me from your list
- Please ADD me to your list.

Family Name:

Family Members:

Mailing Address:

Phone #1:

Phone #1 Information:

(Family member, home, mobile, ex: Jane's mobile)

Phone #2:

Phone #2 Information:

(Family member, home, mobile, ex: Jane's mobile)

Email #1:

Email #1 Information:

(Family member, home, mobile, ex: Jane's home)

Email #2:

Email #2 Information:


(Family member, home, mobile, ex: Jane's work)

Please add my address to the email list:

- News and Announcements

Other information or corrections (ex. Update birthday or anniversary, add to email list, remove family member, add family member, please USPS mail me the newsletter, etc.):



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship NOISEY OFFERING
6 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:00 AM Traditional Worship NOISEY OFFERING	7	8 10:00 AM Blankets	9	10	11	12 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
13 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	14 Vacation Bible School	15 10:00 AM Blankets Vacation Bible School	16 Vacation Bible School	17 7:00 PM Council Meeting Vacation Bible School	18 Vacation Bible School	19 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
20 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	21 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline! 	22 10:00 AM Blankets	23	24	25	26 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
27 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	28	29 10:00 AM Blankets	30			

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
21140 W. Toledo Street
P. O. Box 235
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June 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

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

***Visit us on Facebook**