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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.

Ask the Pastor

"Did God Cause the Coronavirus Pandemic? (Over the past several months there have been different people who have suggested or flat out stated this pandemic is punishment from God.).

The short answer is an emphatic NO! There are places in the Old Testament where suffering was interpreted as punishment from God, but Jesus made a point of clarifying this is not how God works. Jesus does not punish everyone for real or perceived global/societal sins.

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That is not the God Jesus embodies.

The long answer... in the Gospel of John (chapter 9) we read about when Jesus and his disciples met a man who had been born blind. Their question reflected the theology of the folks who think COVID is somehow God's punishment for who knows what... they ask, ""Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" I love the answer that Jesus gives! "It was neither" he says. Blindness and sin are completely unrelated. It's nobody's fault. God did not make this man blind as a punishment. Your entire line of questioning is wrong. So instead of trying to figure out a correlation that doesn't exist, Jesus says, let's see what good can come from this unfortunate situation.

That is perhaps the best, most faithful response to the "why" question... instead of trying to figure out a correlation that doesn't exist, let's see what good can come from this unfortunate situation.

Jesus went on to say, "I am the light of the world." Then he healed the blind man, who then shared the story of Jesus. Now, a miraculous healing may or may not be in the cards for each of us, but the presence of Christ is.

When we are suffering, when we face tragedy, when a virus wears us to our breaking point, we have to remember that Jesus is right along with us. If we're broken, we need to remember that Christ was broken for us. If we're despised, we need to remember that Christ was despised and rejected. If we cry out that we can't take it anymore, Jesus cries with us.

I fully believe that God feels the pain, agony, and anxiety of all of us whether we actually contract the virus or suffer through the consequences of a global pandemic. And Jesus stands with each and every one of us in our own personal and family tragedies. Jesus is with us in our suffering, and promises a better day to come.

I want to share a quote from Cliffe Knechtle (Help Me Believe: Direct Answers to Real Questions)... "Although I do not know why God allowed evil, I do know that he wants to destroy it. That is why there is hell.

Although I do not know why God allowed pain, I do know he wants to wipe every tear from our eyes and give us joy for eternity in his presence. That is why there is a heaven.

Although I do not know why God allowed suffering, I do know God is a suffering God who became human in Jesus, suffered and died on the Cross in order to forgive you and me."

God doesn't cause suffering. But in the midst of our doubt surrounding suffering, God doesn't forsake us, but instead can use those experiences to our benefit."

Even though we can explain suffering theologically and we can justify suffering through the lens of discipleship, and we can even explain suffering logically, we still don't have all the answers... except that Christ is with us. And through his presence, we can try to find good in any unfortunate situation. *Pastor Shawn*



St. John Family,

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all the well wishes, gifts and phone calls to wish me well on my next "journey" as the Pastor of Elliston Zion UMC. My tenure here at St. John has been a wonderful blessing and I truly felt like one of the family the moment I walked in the door four short years ago. I will hold a special place in my heart for my St. John Family and would like to thank Pastor Shawn and Staff Support for their guidance and support. Thank you to the church for your ongoing support of our LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion, your generous donations and assistance at the Blood Drives and all you have done to help me keep the church office running. You are all an inspiration!

> Blessings to all, LisaAnne Gregg

Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your most generous gift to Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Your gift supports the seminary's ongoing mission of forming leaders for Christ's church at work in the world. St. Paul regularly expressed thanks for those who supported his ministry. Like Paul, we are thankful for your and thankful to God for your gift in support of the mission of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University.

> Gratefully, Rev. Kathryn Kleinhans, Ph.D. Dean

Dear St. John,

2020 has been both an unusual and challenging year. We certainly didn't expect Bistro 163 would be shut down for 4 1/2 months, nor to provide 23400 free meals during that time.

You made it all possible! Collectively, donors more than covered the \$90,000 cost to provide those meals! We thank you for your generosity and your patronage. You make is possible for us to #Feed the Need in Ottawa County.

> Babs Klacik, General Manager Bistro 163

> > **NEWS**



Esther Circle will resume meetings Tuesday, October 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall Rebekah Circle will resume meetings Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 PM in the church basement The WELCA Board will meet on Monday, October 12th at 7 PM at the church.

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 (419-972-4003,

cell ph 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. Thank you!

The Forerunner

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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 School 8:30 AM Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the November newsletter is <u>Monday, Oct. 19th @ 9AM</u> 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."





In Memory of Jay Meyer **Doris Titgemeyer** Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer Richard and Susan Taylor Dennis and Rosemarie Dickinson Dean and Lil-Mar Stroh Mary Schimming Al and Traci Brown Ronald and Susan Kozina Mary Harmever Marianne & Carl Krog Anne & Brian Hinterleiter Lori & Keven Hartz Eric and Monica Krog Karen & Phil Burck David & Dawn Behm **Jennifer Behm** Arleen Williamson Amy Roberstson Stephanie & Russell Gibson

In Memory of Bernie Pohlad

Allen and Bev Harder Mary Schimming Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of Virgil Roecker

Allen and Bev Harder Calvin and Marvel Nelson Ben and Kimberly Sommers Lenore Harmeyer and family Doug Blausey and family Jerry Goldstein family Ron Powell family Dan Blausey and Gerry Valentine

In Memory of Helen Jean Rollins

Allen and Bev Harder Calvin and Marvel Nelson Elaine Gruetter Ben and Kimberly Sommers Roland and Marilyn Henderson Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of Irene Berger Roland and Marilyn Henderson

In Memory of Wilma Smithers Ben and Kimberly Sommers Lowell and Diane Hartman Al and Traci Brown Gertrude Eckerman Dean Lowe Jim and Dilly Schimming Linda Schlievert **Carole Beamer** Margaret Berger Edna Sandrock Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn drock Gary & Darlene Carstensen Darryl & Diane Traver **Bernie Blausey** Gary Johnson and Sons Brenda Lowe JoElaine Schimming Janice Sheahan **Roland & Janice Sandrock** Alice Witt Phyllis Haeft Carol Vargo Ron & Amy Sandrock Lee & Deborah Wehner Mike & Ann Mann Elaine Gardner & Allison Woods Dave & Kris Lee **Bob & Kathy Bench** Dennis & Rosemarie Dickinson John & Tammy Mazur Dan & Jenny Lowe John & Kathleen Fowler Ted & Sharon Bitter Brent & Rhonda Freeman Galen & Ginny Whiteman John & Janet Mann **Ron & Darlene Traver** Corey & Jennifer Waldron **Dennis** Traver Myrl & Sherri Bretz Ken & Judy Sander **Robert Freeman** Anita Manzeck **Jean Snyder** James & Jayne Traver Larry & Doris Lafferty Suzanne Beckman Dan & Annabelle Howe Tom & Sharon Knieriem Ken & Pat Ricker **Richard & Rita Henzler** Barbara Setchell **Phyllis Dehring** Dan & Karen Mathews

Wayne & Beckyann Johnson Leo Wasserman Ioan Staib **Rita Schober Richard and Jane Phillips** John and Helen Meyer Mary Schimming Kent Delventhal Cal & Marvel Nelson Mary Harmeyer William and Jennie Buckenberger Evalyn Witty Robert and June Mitchell William and Rose Kusian Ron and Diane Gerkensmeyer San- Karl and Roberta Orians David and Vicki Huber Gaeton and Beth Long Craig and Sharon Traver Betsy Rossler Sheldon, Marie and Lyle Overmeyer Ginny and Barb Schwiezer Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Nissen Mr. & Mrs. Jim Badowski Gene and Amy Bihn Lenore Harmever Doris Titgemeyer Roland and Marilyn Henderson Albert and Janet Adam The Carl Schober Family

In Memory of Gregg Yockey and Jacob Yockey Allen and Judy Yockey

In Memory of Norma Jean Gast Terry Gast

In Memory of Vicky Zambrano Margaret Berger Karl and Roberta Orians

In Memory of Jim Witty Evalyn Witty

In Memory of Pastor VanBrussel Lenore Harmeyer

In Memory of Richard Harmeyer Lenore Harmeyer and Family

In Memory of members of our church family Lenore Harmeyer

If a name as been inadvertently omitted from the list, please call the church office.





Wilma Carol (Bitter) Smithers, 78, of Millbury, Ohio, peacefully passed from her earthly life on Thursday, September 10th, 2020, after a two year battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family. Wilma was born on January 3rd, 1942, to George J. and Mabel A. (Beckman) Bitter.

Wilma was lucky enough to be a stay at home mother where she loved unconditionally, was a wonderful role model and best friend to her four children. She loved her St. John Church family where you'd find her singing in the choir, serving on the WELCA and church council, and teaching Bible and Sunday school.

On April 20th, 1963, she married her high school sweetheart, Clarence R. Smithers and he survives. Also surviving are children, Mark Smithers, Karen (Bruce) Cutcher, Jill (Alan) Kao and Eric (Sara) Smithers; grandchildren, Joshua (Ashley) Cutcher, Stephanie Smithers, Amanda

Cutcher, Samuel Smithers and Nicholas Smithers; great-grandchildren, Emma and Josie Cutcher; siblings, Elanie Arnold, Marilyn Beckman and Rachel Fox; and many nieces and nephews. Wilma is preceded in death by her parents and brother, John Bitter. Services for the family were held at St. John and Graveside services were held at Lake Township Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Wilma's memory may be made to Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Road, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551, Hope Lodge, 11432 Mayfield Drive, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106 or St. John Lutheran Church.



Vicky Lynn Zambrano, of Curtice, passed away, Friday, September 11, 2020 at her residence surrounded by her family, one day after celebrating her 73rd birthday. She was born on September 10, 1947 in Toledo, OH to Peter K. and Dorothy J. (Younker) Schmidt. On June 9, 1973 she married Severino Zambrano at St. John's Lutheran Church in Williston, OH. Vicky and Severino raised two children and celebrated nearly 35 years of marriage together. Vicky was a homemaker and enjoyed taking care of her family. In addition, she was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Williston, but most of all she loved her family and she especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Vicky is survived by her children: Amy (Brian) Leu of Curtice and Adam (Ginger) Zambrano of IL. Stepson, Enrico (Colleen) Zambrano of Reynoldsburg, OH, and sister, Jane (Mike) Lentz of Williston. Grandchildren: Victoria, Vanessa and Vivica Leu and Addison and Xander Zambrano.

Niece, Jillian (Chris) Brandt and nephew, Doug Schmidt. In addition to her husband, Severino, she was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Dennis Schmidt and niece, Danielle Schmidt.

Vicky will be laid to rest next to Severino, in a family committal service at Allen Township Cemetery, Williston, OH. Memorials may take the form of contributions to: St. John's Lutheran Church in Williston or Ohio Living Home Health & Hospice.



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.



Corinth was a large, bustling city (located in southern Greece). Because of its location, goods and people from around the world flowed in and out of its ports. It was a center for art, philosophy and religion. It contained a number of pagan temples including large ones to Apollo and Aphrodite. The city had a reputation for vide, immorality and debauchery. Paul spent 18 months establishing a church in Corinth during his second missionary journey (described in Acts 18).

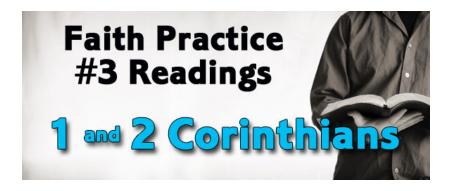
1 Corinthians (which may actually be the second letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians; the first was lost) was written around 54 AD. It was in response to reports Paul received concerning problems in the church, disputed matters, and competing factions. (The letter written *to* Paul has not survived.)

Overall, the letter calls this fractious congregation to unity, Paul reminds them their actions should be informed by love (chapters 8 and 13), and closes with an appeal to let this love be the governing power in the life of the community.

2 Corinthians is perhaps the most difficult to interpret of all Paul's letters. Scholars think it is a combination of several fragments of different letters. This makes it seem disjointed in places. It is certainly a mixed letter, containing different styles and various elements; appeals, exhortations, rebukes, threats, attacks, counterattacks, self-defense, self-praise, and irony.

We will continue with our 'one chapter per week' reading plan as follows: *for the week starting...*

September 7 – 1 Corinthians 1 September 14 – 1 Corinthians 2 September 21 – 1 Corinthians 3 September 28 – 1 Corinthians 4 October 5 – 1 Corinthians 5 October 12 – 1 Corinthians 6 October 19 – 1 Corinthians 7 October 26 – 1 Corinthians 7 November 2 – 1 Corinthians 9 November 9 – 1 Corinthians 10 November 16 – 1 Corinthians 11 November 23 – 1 Corinthians 12 November 30 – 1 Corinthians 13 December 7 – 1 Corinthians 14 December 21 – 1 Corinthians 16 January 4 – 2 Corinthians 1 January 11 – 2 Corinthians 2 January 18 – 2 Corinthians 3 January 25 – 2 Corinthians 4 February 1 – 2 Corinthians 5 February 8 – 2 Corinthians 6 February 15 – 2 Corinthians 7 February 22 – 2 Corinthians 7 March 1 – 2 Corinthians 9 March 8 – 2 Corinthians 10 March 15 – 2 Corinthians 11 March 22 – 2 Corinthians 12 March 29 – 2 Corinthians 13



Week of October 5

1 Corinthians 5

There are accusations of sexual immorality among the Corinthians – a man with his father's wife. Paul, who is present in spirit, has judged the person who has committed this sin – he must be given over to Satan, that his flesh may be destroyed, and his spirit saved. A little sin affects everyone – a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Let us purge this leaven, for Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Paul admonishes church members to keep themselves separate from immoral people.

1 Corinthians 6

Paul denounces the recourse to the pagan law courts in disputes among Christians. A wrong should be accepted rather than taken to court. Paul roundly rebukes the wrongdoer. 'All is lawful for me, but not all things are helpful.' Appetites for food and sex are not the same. Our bodies are part of the body of Christ, and so should never be joined to a prostitute. The body is a temple.

Week of October 19

1 Corinthians 7

Circumcision is irrelevant. It doesn't matter if you are a slave, because you are free to the Lord. Marriage is not a sin. Nonetheless, Paul warns about being too committed to a world that will pass away. The unmarried have the potential to please God with less worldly distraction. A widow is free to remarry, although remaining single is preferable.

Week of October 26

1 Corinthians 8

Idols are nothing. Christians are therefore free to eat meat offered to an idol at a pagan temple. However, their conscience is defiled if they eat and think their eating is a sin. What we eat or do not eat does not make us more spiritual. Those with a strong conscience must respect the views of those with a weak conscience.

Week of November 2

1 Corinthians 9

Paul has the right to be supported by those he ministers to: an ox treading the grain must not be muzzled (Deuteronomy 25:4). Thus supported, he can preach the gospel without charge. Paul is flexible in his ministry – all things to all people. Paul compares himself to an athlete who competes for an imperishable crown.



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! Until we can all join together comfortably in worship, we will be live streaming our worship services on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel on Saturdays at 5PM and will show it again 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 Shawn O'Brien and look for the St. John logo.

81010

@stjohnw

Email/Text Reminders

If you would like to be notified about events, activities, schedule changes, etc. through email or text, join St. John on Remind....

Text @stjohnw to the number 81010. (You'll receive a welcome text from Remind.)

(If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @stjohnw to (419) 679-4578.)

Visit rmd.ct/stjohnw to sign up for email notifications. If none of those work, send a message to the church office. We can sign you up.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® ERIE SHORES COUNCIL

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Please enter Seller ID number EKHRMD when placing your order.

LOOK for POPCORN DOOR HANGERS at the Church if you'd like to order TINS. Thank you!



Cristian Griffith is serving our country in the Navy. He will be celebrating his 21st on October 18, 2020 If anyone would like to send him a birthday card here is his address. EMO1 Cristian Griffith USS Bataan. 21879 Norfolk VA FPO 09554-1657



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

Due to the pandemic, the Blanket Ladies will not be displaying any blankets or hosting the yearly quilt raffle. Because of Covid 19, they have not been tying blankets weekly.

The ladies have been cutting and sewing at home.

But, they will meet again starting Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 9 AM in the church basement.

They have packed up boxes of blankets which were completed this year and they will be distributed to different charities in the area. This year, those charities include The Ottawa County Holiday Bureau, Beach House, The Salvation Army (for a group home for boys), Impact for Hope, Ruth Ann's House, Nightengale's Harvest and Luther-

an World Relief. Several were

given to sick members from our

congregation or friends of our congregation. In total, these wonderful workers made 203 adult size and 13 children size quilts!

They appreciate all the material and sheets that they receive.

They also had 13 fabric kits to send to Lutheran World Relief and a lot of fleece that was given to a Genoa boy with autism who enjoys making blankets for some pocket money.

Everyone is invited to join in and help tie!

There is no experience needed. You only need to know how to tie a knot! They meet every Tuesday from 9 until about noon. And since they have not met for several months, there is plenty of work to be done!



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



October Stewardship Page

STEWARDSHIP OF HEALTH of BODY and MIND

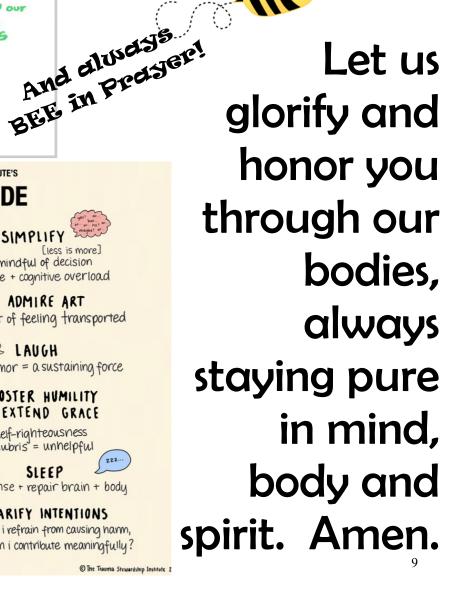
> God gave human beings superior minds -to be used to fullest capacity in discovering God's plan, in understanding self and others.

We were also given bodies in which to accomplish God's work -- bodies to be treated with respect (taken care of), not abused (harmed).



WE PRESENT IF BODIES and E RENEW OUR MINDS 35 OFFERINGS to GOD.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you who you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



THE TRAUMA STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE'S L GUIDE

PROTECT YOUR MORNINGS [or whenever you wake up] less cortisol, more intentionality

GO OUTSIDE

[or look outside] something larger than this {

> BE ACTIVE [avoid stagnation] in body, mind, spirit

CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS those that are edifying + healthy

NURTURE GRATITUDE what is one thing, right now, that is oping well?



SPEND TIME WITH ANIMALS ↓ stress hormones, ↑ comfort

SIMPLIFY [less is more] be mindful of decision fatique + cognitive overload

ADMIRE ART the gift of feeling transported

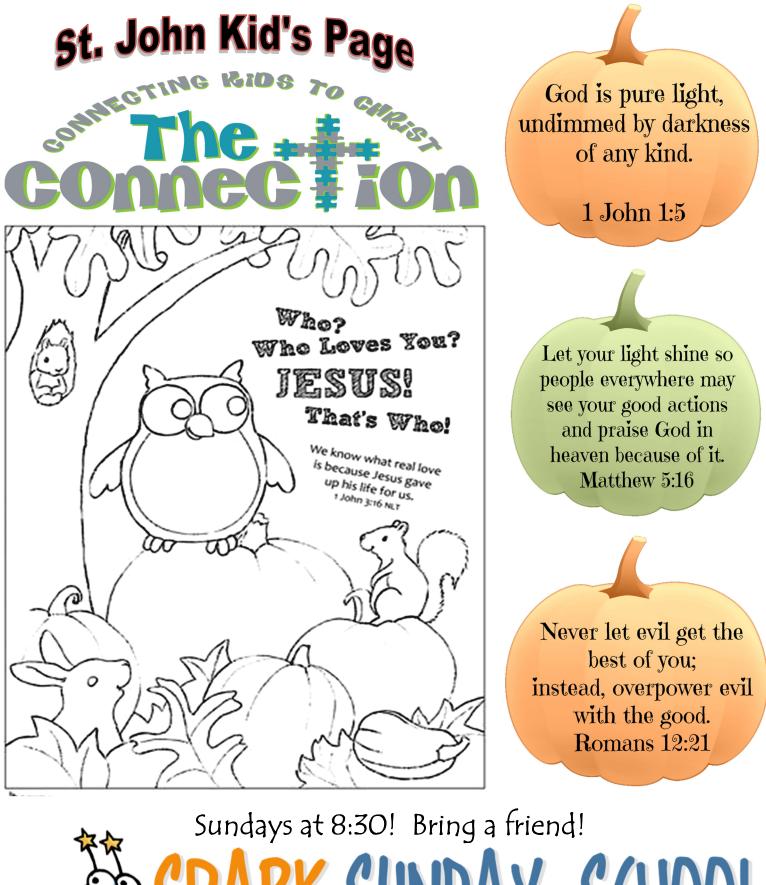
hanal LAUGH pure humor = a sustaining force

FOSTER HUMILITY & EXTEND GRACE

self-righteousness + hubris = unhelpful

222. SLEEP to cleanse + repair brain + body

CLARIFY INTENTIONS how can i refrain from causing hann, how can i contribute meaningfully?



Sundays at 8:30! Bring a friend! SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL GNITING FAITH THROUGH EXPLORATION



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran Disaster Response Assisting in U.S. Wildfire Relief

The Situation:

Fueled by a heat wave and unfavorable winds, wildfires have erupted across California, Oregon, Washington and other western states. At least 20 people have died, hundreds of thousands of people are under evacuation orders and more than 3.5 million acres have burned across the three states. Some evacuees face the difficult decision of whether to stay in a shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Response:

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with at least three Lutheran social services agencies and five synods to assess the situation and determine the best ways to respond. We expect immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.

What you can do:

Pray:

Please pray for the communities that lie in the paths of wildfires in the western United States. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

Give:

Your gifts will support wildfire survivors. Gifts to "<u>U.S. Wildfires</u>" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete. Or make a general <u>donation to Lutheran Disaster Response</u> so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Go to ELCA.org for more information or to donate.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response: Go to ELCA.org

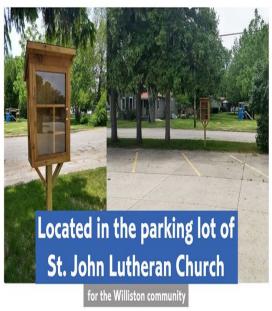
Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts.

Check the Lutheran Disaster Response blog.

Like Lutheran Disaster Response on Facebook and follow @ELCALDR on Twitter.

*You may make donations to Lutheran Disaster Relief through St. John. Simply make your check out to the church and write "Lutheran Disaster Relief" in the memo and on the envelope.

Sharing our Many Blessings!



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.

Worship Helpers...

We did not forget about you! We SO appreciate the help we receive every week from our wonderful worship helpers! Whether you read scripture, serve communion, run the computer and sound, usher or collect the offering...your actions are vital to our worship ministry!

Please watch your email and the upcoming Forerunners for an updated list of worship assignments. If there are any changes in the way assignments are handled, we will let you know as soon as possible.

We are in need of new worship assistants! If you would like to be added to the rotation, please call the office and we will gladly fill you in on the details!





Best Wishes, LisaAnne! The St. John Family extends our gratitude and support to LisaAnne Gregg who will be leaving her position as our Office Administrator to become the Pastor at Elliston Zion United Methodist in Graytown.

For the past several years, LisaAnne has been attending Lay Ministry and Local Pastor's Trainings and completed Pastor's Licensing School in July through the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has served as the Supply Pastor of Elliston Zion since July of 2019 and has now been appointed by the Bishop to serve the Lead Pastor's role. We wish LisaAnne well as she answers her call to serve the Lord and her congregation. Meet Our Office Administrator! Please extend a welcome to Amelia Burkey as she joins the staff at St. John as our new Office Administrator. She will replace LisaAnne who has been appointed as the Pastor at Elliston Zion UMC. Amelia is from Genoa is the owner/d



Amelia is from Genoa, is the owner/director of Positive Image Dance Studio and was the Administrative Assistant for Ohio Living Home Health & Hospice. Amelia is married to Eric and they have two children, Keegan and Kherington. Welcome, Amelia!

Church Council Highlights

Council HIGHLIGHTS September 17, 2020

Meeting Opened at 7:00pm by President Rick Buhrow Devotions were from The Daily Bread, based on Psalm 145, led by Pastor O'Brien

Secretary Minutes for June were approved with one change

Pastor's Report: Baptisms

Donny Knox Hyde, son of Pat and Rachel(Brown) Hyde was baptized on June 27.

Levi Timothy Tank, son of Justin and Kerri Tank was baptized on August 1.

Funerals

Pastor presided at the funerals of Fritz Lau on March 13, Virgil Roecker on June 24, at the graveside service for Jay Meyer on August 18, at the funeral of Bernard Pohlad on August 22 and at the funeral of Wilma Smithers on September 15

Office Administrator

Effective Friday, September 25th LisaAnne will be submitting her resignation as Office Administrator. Amelia Burkey will start as our new Office Administrator on September 28. LisaAnne has will work as much of that week Property: Reported that there are a few bricks and as needed to train Amelia and get her up to speed.

St Peter/St Luke

I will be serving as Vice Pastor at St. Peter and St. Luke. This means I will be available for emergency pastoral care, hospital care, hospital visits (when permitted), funerals, etc. for up to 10 hours per month through the end of the year.

Out of Town

I will be out of town the weekend of October /4 for a wedding. Pastor Bob Noble will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Evangelism: reported that the committee met and discussed the Tree Lighting.

Parish Education: reported that in August Parish Education sent letters to families letting them know our COVID response (masks social distancing and sanitizer). Sunday was the first day back and we think the letters helped have a very successful fist day back! We had more than expected. We made some fun give a way for the first day back (applesauce, bubbles, and jolly ranchers) with fun sayings to generate excitement. There will be no Trunk or Treat due to COVID.

Worship Life: Worship Life met on Tuesday, 9/8/2020 in Pastor's garage. Since there have been no changes in state mandates regarding Covid, worship will remain unchanged through October. Virtual readers, prerecorded music, and puppet ministry will remain as it has been In-person worship will continue with communion as it has been. There is one exception for October 3 and 4 (Pastor is gone). After much discussion by the Council as a whole, Church will be open the weekend of October 3 and 4. Sunday School will be held and services will be held in the church with Melissa Lammers as Leader for both services.

Worship Life will continue to meet monthly to evaluate. Discussion was started regarding Christmas services, including The Longest Night – Service of Hope. That discussion will be continued next month.

stone by the fence yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: reported that the Scouts are requesting to meet in the church with the weather changing. Both Scout groups will clean up before and after meetings. Council approved.

We were informed Cristian Griffin is currently serving in the United States Navy and will be turning 21 soon. Evangelism will be coordinating a letter sending to him. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Next Committee Meeting will be October 8 at 7:00 pm

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for October 15at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE	
10.0 C	New authorization	Change donation amount	Change donation date
Last Name	Change banking information	Discontinue electronic donation	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email Address		Phone #	
<u> </u>	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: Weekly – DAY Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th Monthly on the 1 st Monthly on the 15 th	 General/Operating Other (please specify below Add'l donation to offset fees Total	AMOUNTS: \$ \$ \$
f you would like to designate y	your giving to another fund not listed: ple	ase state your desire here. Thank You	.
Please debit my donation		Routing Number: Valid Routing # must start with (Account Number: ::123456789: 123 123456# 0001	
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Signature (as it appears on the card): _

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.

1

Date: _



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	28 Help a Neighbor Love your Neighbor Day!	29 10:00 AM Blankets	30	1	2	3 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
4 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	5	6 10:00 AM Blankets 7:00 PM Esther Circle 7:00 PM Rebekah Circle	7	8 7:00 PM Committee Night	9	10 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
11 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	12 7:00 PM WELCA Board Women of the	13 10:00 AM Blankets	14	15 7:00 PM Council Meeting Church	16	17 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
18 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	19 Forerunner deadline SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES	20 10:00 AM Blankets	21	22	23	24 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
25 8:30 AM Sunday School for all ages! 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Traditional Worship	26	27 10:00 AM Blankets	28	29	30	31 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship

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

Volume 0669 Issue 294 October 2020



In person and online!

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

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