

Volume 0678 **Issue 303
July 2021

FORERUNNER

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St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

Ask the Pastor



"In our Faith Practice Reading I noticed the word 'LORD' (for example Psalm 11:1, "In the LORD I take refuge...") is capitalized. Why do they do that?"

The word "LORD" in all capital letters, is how the English Bible translators chose to deal with the Tetragrammaton (use that word in casual conversation if you need to impress and/or alienate your friends). This is simply the big fancy word for the four letter Hebrew word transliterated as YHWH, the personal name of the God of Israel. (In Hebrew it's something like, *yodh, he, waw, and he*. Vowels often weren't written in Biblical Hebrew, thus YHWH.)

The name comes from the story of Moses and the burning bush in Exodus chapter 3. God tells Moses to go lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Moses says, that's a great idea but who should I say sent me? If I just tell them 'the God of your ancestors has sent me' they're going to want to know your name. What do I tell them?

God replies, "I AM WHO I AM" or "I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE" (sometimes just simply "I AM"). YHWH is the ancient Hebrew form of the verb "HE WILL BE"

However, later Jews thought God's name was too holy to be spoken out loud and feared violating Exodus 20:7, "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name." So when they read scripture out loud, they would not say the word YHWH and instead say Adonai, which is the Hebrew word for lord.

And if that isn't confusing enough, in later Bible translations they wanted to be sure no one would accidentally say the name of God out loud, so they took the consonants from YHWH and inserted the vowels from the word Adonai (AOA) and made up a completely new word Yahowah. No one would ever actually say that word, it was just used as a visual reminder to NOT say the name of God.

Anyway, that practice of using LORD in place of the name of God caught on, and when Bibles were translated into English they often used LORD instead of trying to spell out YHWH or explain "I AM WHO I AM". So when you are reading the Bible and see the word "lord" it is a reference to a king, ruler, leader, etc. When you read the word "LORD" (in all caps) it is a stand in for the name of God.

Side note: All of this also helps us understand why the religious leaders were so upset at Jesus. God's name was too holy to be spoken, yet Jesus used God's name for himself when he said things like "I AM the bread of life." To the Jewish leaders, that would have been VERY bad.

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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.



In Memory of Elaine Gardner
Richard and Jane Phillips

In Memory of Mark Witt
Richard and Jane Phillips

In Memory of Stephen Harmeyer
Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of Lynda Younker
Margaret Berger
Dan and Pam Berger
Cheryl Berger
Kelly, Craig and Morgan Morse
Jeremiah Berger
Shelby Barney

**The church
office will be
closed on
Friday
July 2nd in
observance of
Independence
Day.**



Ushers Needed



If you would be willing to help and be added to the 'new' usher rotation, please contact the church office (419-836-5514).

Ushering is a great way to help with weekly worship. If you would like to volunteer but are unsure *how* to usher, we can provide instructions.

Faith Practice #3 Readings PSALMS



July 5 – Psalm 13
July 12 – Psalm 14
July 19 – Psalm 15
July 26 – Psalm 16

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.

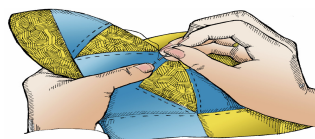


The Blanket Ladies....Still Hard at Work!!

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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www.stjohnwilliston.org

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
August newsletter is
Monday, July 19th @ 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."**

Church
Office
Hours



Amelia Burkey
Office

Administrator

8:30 am—2:30
pm

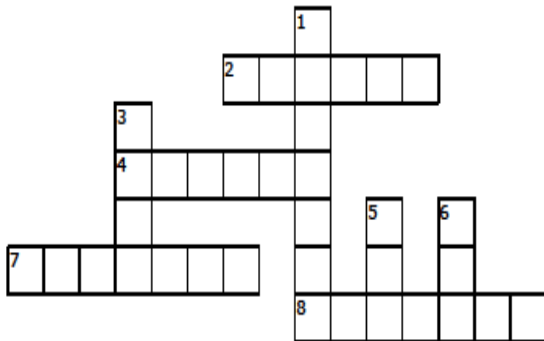
Mon. thru Fri.
(419) 836-5514

Email:

Office @stjohnwilliston.org

Freedom Isn't Free!

For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.
Hebrews 9:15



ACROSS

2. The one who paid the price for our sin
4. Payment for the release of someone
7. To accept something such as a gift
8. Without end; lasting forever

DOWN

1. To give your word or agree to do something
3. Without cost
5. To come to the end of life
6. To disobey God's law

PROMISE	ETERNAL	CHRIST	RANSOM
DIE	FREE	SIN	RECEIVE

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST The Connection

St. John Kid's Page

READ
your **BIBLE,**
PRAY
EVERY DAY
and YOU'LL
grow, GROW,
GROW!

Name: _____

MY SUMMER GOALS

This Summer,



I will stretch my mind by reading:

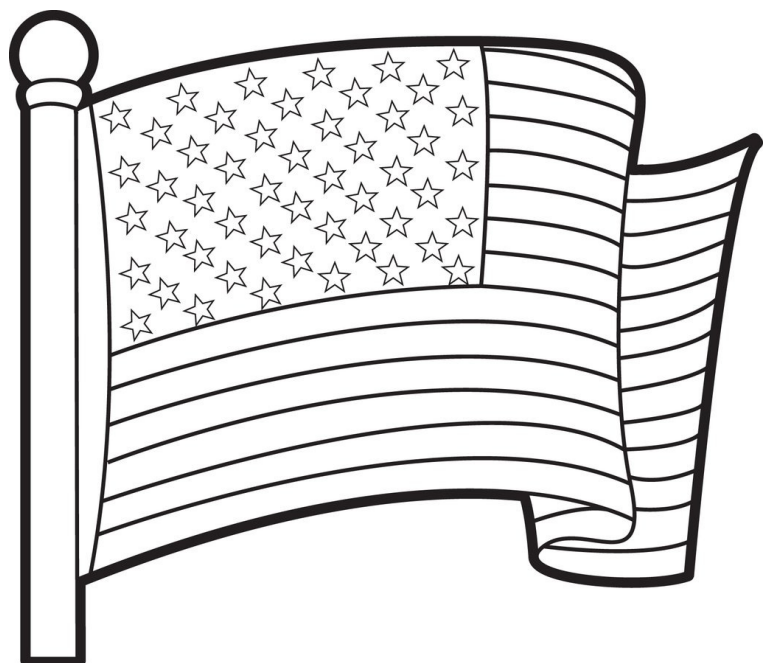
I will keep my body healthy by:

I will grow closer to God by:



I will help others by:

Something I want to learn more about is:



July Stewardship Page



Our Stewardship Prayer

"God the Father-

Thank you for all the gifts you have given me.

Help me to be more grateful and generous in building your kingdom on earth.

Jesus Our Savior-

I trust in You in all circumstances,
In every moment or every day,
Good or bad.

Holy Spirit-

Transform my life.

Guide my thoughts, words, and actions.

I pray for strength and courage in all that I
do be for the glory of Your name
and with every decision I make,
I move one step closer to You.
Amen."

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another
withholds what he should give,
and only suffers want.*

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched and one
who waters will himself be watered.*

Proverbs 11:24-25

Fifteen Random Stewardship Ideas for the Month of July

1. Think of a charity which is amply blessed at Christmas. Remember them with a gift mid-year.
2. Invite a single friend over for a meal.
3. Attend a Bible Study on a weekday this month.
4. Abstain from something you like– mean, a latte, a cold drink– on Fridays and save the money for charity.
5. Take your praters with you for an early morning walk.
6. Recycle more.
7. Each day, say a prayer for one of the world's trouble spots.
8. Turn off the TV, phone, and computer and spend an hour devoted to someone you love.
9. Surprise an old friend with a phone call.
10. Buy or pick a flower for someone without a "reason."
11. Take your family to a farmers' market.
12. Stop for a moment during your busy day and enjoy an ice cream cone or other favorite treat.
13. If you hear a great sermon, tell the Pastor.
14. Splurge on some produce and buy enough to share with someone in need.
15. On occasion, try turning your prayer before meals into a spontaneous prayer of thanks, using your own words.

“Let’s Chat” with a Stephen Minister

When the pandemic brought restrictions and changes to our lives, I found myself spending time looking out our window at the birds. They would freely fly in and out of our backyard, stopping by at the feeders we had set up. A friend from church invited me to join several local bird groups on Facebook, and my interest and time spent watching birds (and taking pictures of them – many pictures!) filled my isolated and lonely days. As the days and months went on, as the news was filled with daily statistics, as we learned that those statistics included loved ones from our family and friends, without recognizing it, I was grieving those many losses and changes. When would this end? When can we visit and be with our family again? Will there be a cure? Those are just the tip of the iceberg of worries that were building up in my mind. Then the birds reminded me of God’s love and care he has for all of us and all of creation! Matthew 6:26-27 says, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?” (New International Version) There are many other Bible references of God’s love and care for us – and the reassurance, that no matter what we are facing, no matter what the day brings, we are NEVER alone – God IS always there with us and ready to bring His peace to us.

If you would like someone to talk to, to walk along side with you, to share your feelings with someone in a confidential setting, please call the church office @ 419-836-5514 and ask to have a Stephen Minister return your call.

Dear Lord, In the midst of our pain you are there 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.



June Highlights

St John Lutheran Church, Williston,
Ohio

Council Meeting Minutes - June 17, 2021

Pastor's Report:

Attendance:

in Person average 64.6
On-Line average 165.6
2020 average 179.1
YTD 2021 average 167.7

Numbers: 13 hospital/homeland visit/individual or family meetings

- 4 committee/group meetings
- 1 Community/youth/fellowship events
- 8 professional/clergy activities
- 4 classes/Bible studies
- 1 funeral
- 1 baptism

Funeral: I presided at the funeral of Thome Caris, a member Calvary Lutheran Church in Northwood on May 13.

Baptism: I presided at the baptism of Cooper Gregory Orians, son of Rob and Kristen, on May 23.

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 St. Syracuse, IN) There may even be a baptism If anyone would like to make the trip (2:45 according to Google) I think there is going to be some kind of picnic/ social time after worship. Matt Milbrodt will be providing pulpit supply at S t John.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Committee report: Kristina Wildman and Kent Delventhal:

Income is down but based on 2020 data. Expenses remain down.

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger –

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 contacted the members that coordinated the food panty and Blessing Box. Donations are coordinated within the two groups.
Father's Day gift is being coordinated.



Evangelism: Melissa Hays – The committee along with Pastor and Amelia are working hard on the Directory. 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 is going well. We have 33 students and 17 helpers. As an offering, students are bringing money and/or food items for the Genoa Food pantry On Friday, lunch and a sundae bar will be provided. We would like to thank all those who have volunteered their time to help make this week a success. Also, a big thank you to Stefanie Neuman for all her work coordinating everything!

We are beginning our search for Sunday School teachers for the preschool through 2nd grade classes. We will also need a Sunday School superintendent.

Stewardship: Carole Beamer- Tom Cashen, with Ron Gerkensmeyer assisting will coordinate the Golf Outing on September 19th. 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.


OLD BUSINESS: April's minutes where approved
COVID was reviewed
Confirmation will be August 29th

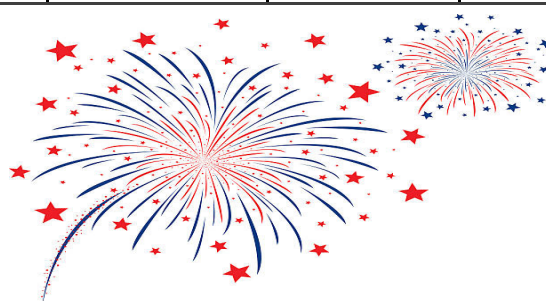
Next Committee Meeting will be August 12 at 7:00 pm

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted, Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Church Office Closed	3 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
4 9:00 AM Traditional Worship INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6 10:00 AM Blankets	7	8	9	10 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
11 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	12	13 10:00 AM Blankets	14	15	16	17 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
18 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	19 9:00 AM Forerunner deadline! 	20 10:00 AM Blankets	21	22	23	24 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship
25 9:00 AM Traditional Worship	26	27 10:00 AM Blankets	28	29	30	31 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship



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419-972-4003 (home)

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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 Traditional Worship 9:00 AM

***Visit us on Facebook**