

FORERUNNER

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May 2019

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★
LOVE ONE ANOTHER
LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34

NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

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Ask the Pastor

Someone asked me about the saying "Love the sinner and hate the sin"; is that in the Bible, how do we do that, are we supposed to do that? While I was working on a response I came across an article from Living Lutheran (from June 2015) about adages, proverbs, sayings that help us simplify the complexity of life. I posted the answer to that question already (September 2016) But I would like to share the article's responses to some other popular adages. The author's name is posted at the end.

"There but for God's grace go I"

Really? Do I actually have more grace than the next person?

I've mostly heard this phrase used to refer to someone in a situation that is "less" — less money, less health, less status, less dignity and so on. Having spent many years doing mission trips where I worked with people living in poverty and varying degrees of wellness, and becoming more aware of my state of health and poverty and "whiteness," I wrestle over and over again with questions of "Who is really well?" "Who is actually living in a state of poverty?" "What gives me the right to think that I either receive or deserve more grace than anyone else?"

Does this phrase elicit pity for someone else? Or, almost worse, gratitude for my elevated place of grace for no real reason other than where I was born and the family and people surrounding me in my lifetime? Either way it sounds like making God into a God who grants grace to some and not to others.

One of the important statements that has guided my life over the last few years comes from an aboriginal woman from the 1900s who said, "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if your liberation is bound up with mine, then let's work together."

It's our common need to be well, our common purpose to help each other, and our common state of grace that is the basis for the transformative work we do together. One-sided charity just won't cut it. Simply writing a check won't change us. Living in a privileged way won't call us into the "we" that God intends.

For the past 10 years our congregation has been trying to "change our face," embracing the diversity of race, culture, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, age and individual spiritual reality. While it's a slow process based on creating a relationship fully broken and fully whole, we now live in a constant state of asking our mission question: "Does love live here?" And if it does, can we eliminate the need to determine who is deserving of or who receives God's grace in an all-embracing welcome?

— Christine A. Berthelsen

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.

Thank You

Thank You!

Thank you to all of you who remembered me with prayers, card and flowers during my recent surgery. I want to especially thank Pastor O'Brien for his prayers and thank the Quilters for the beautiful quilt. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Jo Elaine Schimming

St. John

Thank you for much for your recent contributions to the Genoa Food Pantry. We are always so grateful for your gifts!

**Genoa Area
Community Food Pantry**

Thank You So Much!

We want to thank everyone who helped prepare the Paprikash Dinner, especially Aidan O'Brien, Evan Kessler and Payton Donnelly for making the noodles. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents for the silent craft auction. Also, thank you to all the youth and parents for setting up, making desserts and cleaning up after dinner. A special thank you for Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer, Dilly Schimming, Marilyn Sandroek, Carolyn Lasseter, Pastor O'Brien, Pam LaRue and Tracy Donnelly. It was a big success!

**Thank You!
Carol Vargo and Alice Witt**

Thank you,

Mailing the newsletter could not be possible without this faithful group of folders, stampers, sealers and packers! Thank you to the group who mailed the last Forerunner.

Linda Schlievert, Madelayne Saionzkowski, Allen Harder, Terry Gast, Carolyn Lasseter & Marilyn Sandroek

Thank you for all of your
EGGS-tra help!!!



Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast and to everyone that donated candy for the egg hunt. A special thanks to Molly Smith for donating already filled eggs.

Thank you to the following for helping at the Easter Egg Hunt:

Kodie Smith, Rily Brossia, Seidona Brossia, Aidan O'Brien, Shane O'Brien, Jake Titgemeyer, Cole Kwiatkowski, Hudson Kwiatkowski, Anna Sommers, Ben Sommers, Anna Mazur, Ciara Goldstein, Caleb Goldstein, Michaela Goldstein, Carol Jensen, Jerry Goldstein, Melissa Lammers, Mary Brossia, Joe Brossia, Crystal Kwiatkowski

Thank you to the following for helping with the Easter Breakfast:

Mike Lowe, Brian Lowe, Johnny Lowe, John Mazur, Anna Mazur, Jake Titgemeyer, David Nissen, Abbie Nissen

**Tammy Mazur
Parish Ed.**

Thank You,

We would like to thank everyone at St. John who sent cards, donated food and helped make our mother's funeral so nice. We would especially like to thank Pastor O'Brien for his kind words and prayers, the Dorcas Circle for setting up the luncheon, Beckie for playing the organ and Ron for his tech help. We greatly appreciate you love, friendship and support of our Mom and all of us.

Sincerely,
The Family of Grace Johnson

The Forerunner
is published monthly
by St. John Lutheran Church
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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:

419-972-4003

Email:

pastorobrien

@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship at St. John

Saturday at 5:00 PM

Sunday School 8:30 AM

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the

June 2019 newsletter is

Monday, May 20, 2019 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."



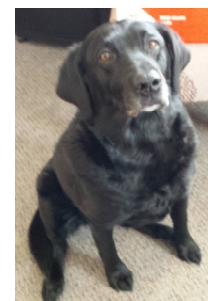
**LisaAnne Gregg
Office Administrator**

9am—3pm

Mon. thru Fri.

(419) 836-5514

office@stjohnwilliston.org



**Bella
Fredericksen**

**The Greeter of
St. John**



Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of Lori Wilka

Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Mary Schimming
Mary Harmeyer

In Memory of Jon Johnson

Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer
Mary Schimming
Kent Delventhal
Lowell & Diane Hartman
Karl & Roberta Orians
Carolyn Lasseter, Marilyn Sandrock
& Edna Sandrock

In Memory of Grace Johnson

Edna Sandrock
Marilyn Sandrock & Carolyn Lasseter
Rodney & Ellen Wilhelm
Gary & LisaAnne Gregg
Elaine Gruetter
Richard & Carol Bowser
Diana Pfaff
Virgil & Betty Roecker
Richard & Joyce Tallman
Gene & Amy Bihn
Al & Traci Brown
Mike & Anita O'Connor
Clarence & Wilma Smithers
Richard & Lenore Harmeyer
Jerry & Beckie Goldstein
Gertrude Eckerman
Allen & Beverly Harder
Jim & Mona Vogelbacher
Marlene Deuschle
Veda Jacobs
Jerry & Faye Sikora
Phyllis Haeft
Helen Jean Rollins
Carol Vargo
Alice Witt
Mike & Sarah Behnke
Tim & Bonnie Gerkenmeyer
Margaret Berger
Jeff Hartle & Carolyn Vogtsberger
Roland & Janice Sandrock
Karl & Robert Orians
Douglas & Barbara Mossing
Bernie Blausey
John, Tammy & Anna Mazur
Gary & Darlene Carstensen
Robert & Diane Kapp
Fred & Melissa Lammers
Vincent & Georgena Harsanje

JoElaine Schimming
Jeff Schimming
Bradley & Melissa Pope
Terry & Susan Lowe
Doris Titgemeyer
Mr/Mrs. Mark Lasko
Tom & Joan Truman
Gary & Karen Kellermeier
Brent, Erica, Grace and Gavin Celso
Jon & Jan James
Gertrude Henningsen
Henry & Carol Krukemyer
Sharon McGuire
Arline Sabin
Happy Hobby Garden Club
Lowell & Diane Hartman
Paul & Evelyn Heineman
Carole Beamer
Tim & Cebie Titgemeyer
Dennis & Rosemarie Dickinson
Frank & Barb Meyers
Linda Schlievert
Darryl & Diane Traver
Phyllis Parks
Phil & Audrey Milbrodt
Merle & Shirley Berger
Lee & Debbie Wehner
Mary Schimming
Mike & Ann Mann
Diane Dickinson
Dennis & Linda Vogtsberger
Allen & Judy Yockey
Cal & Marvel Nelson
Mary Harmeyer
Jim & Dilly Schimming

In Memory of Avis Johnson

Carole Beamer
Lowell & Diane Hartman
Mary Harmeyer
Mary Schimming
Linda Schlievert
Elaine Gruetter

In Memory of Carol Hemseth

Edna Sandrock
Marilyn Sandrock & Carolyn Lasseter

In Memory of Gloria Schlievert

Rodney and Ellen Wilhelm

If we inadvertently missed your name, please let the office know.

Circle and Board Meetings

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday May, 7 6 PM

The Esther Circle will meet to clean kitchen cabinets in the basement and the social hall. A Bible Study and Social time will follow. Please join us for some hard work and fun!

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Carol Ambrose

DORCAS CIRCLE: Thursday, May 2, 1:30 p.m.
Bible Study: Group study

WELCA Board Meeting
Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

PRAYERCHAIN

*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!

*Sincerest
Condolences
from St. John*



Grace Johnson 1923-2019

Grace R. Johnson, 95, of Williston, passed away early Sunday morning, April 7, 2019 at the Genoa Retirement Village. She was born August 10, 1923, in Sandusky, Ohio, to Irving and Louise (Kruse) Taulker.

Grace was married to Vincent Bowser on April 26, 1946, in Woodville, Ohio, and he preceded her in death August 6, 1964. She then married Arnold Johnson in Woodville on February 21 1969, and he preceded her in death April 3, 1996.

Grace was a homemaker and a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, where she was active in the Dorcas Circle and the Blanket Ladies. She was also a member of the Ottawa County Farm Bureau and the Farmer's Union as well as the Happy Hobby Garden Club. Outside of the church Grace's hobbies included gardening, sewing, traveling and playing cards.

Grace is survived by her daughters, Ann Nuhfer of Woodville, Jane (Richard) Phillips of Curtice, Judith (Kim) Cruthers of Genoa, son, Alan (Renee) Bowser of Perrysburg and son-in-law, Kent Delventhal of Genoa.

She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.





At their affirmation of baptism, confirmands are asked to make this promise for themselves: “...to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” The process of preparing people to affirm these promises can take many forms, including classes and increased involvement in congregational life. The process of confirmation takes many forms and varies from congregation to congregation, but the end goal is the same: to prepare people to boldly and confidently make those promises, affirm their baptisms and continue to live out their faith in the church.

At St. John, we confirm the following young people have completed their classroom work, obtained service points, completed sermon notes and a successful exit interview and are recommended for Confirmation.

As a congregation, we hold these young persons in prayer and trust that God will continue to lead and guide them in all the aspects of their lives now and in the future.

Congratulations to our 2019 Confirmands:

Tucker Michael Fredericksen

Riley Charles Brossia

Anna Marie Sommers

Aidan Patrick O’Brien

Payton Lynn Donnelly

Sophia Marie Cashen

Evan Daniel Kessler



"TO MARS AND BEYOND" VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

JUNE 3-7, 2019

9 AM TO NDDN!

Hey Parents!

At **To Mars and Beyond VBS**, your kids will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they explore where God's power can take them.

They will become Voyagers and discover how to serve God and God's mission for their lives.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, Voyagers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Power Launcher (key learnings) to equip them for an active life with God. Your Voyagers will also discover our Vector Verse (Bible memory verse), Ephesians 3:20 - Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!

Students will expand on their discoveries by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station.

Along the way, the Voyagers will hear about our mission project and respond to a call for action! Blast Off on this Epic Adventure with Us!

Sign up today! Fill out the following form or visit www.stjohnwilliston.org and sign up online.

We hope to see you there!!



St. John- Williston
To Mars and Beyond! Vacation Bible School
June 3-7, 2019
Registration Form

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Child's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Home congregation (if any): _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies the VBS staff should be aware of:

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____



Williston Encounter
begins June 5th

Every Wednesday at Noon!

Come for lunch, stay for fun!

All ages welcome!

June 5— Law Enforcement K-9 Demos
VSB Week!

June 11— Friends of Maumee Bay State Park

June 19— Carnival!

June 26— Imagination Station

July 3— Wiffleball!

July 10— Jake the Snake and his Reptile Friends

July 17— Cooking with Jill

July 24— Painting with Mary

Faith Practice

Number Four

Our Seven Faith Practices

I will 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

SERVING at and beyond St. John

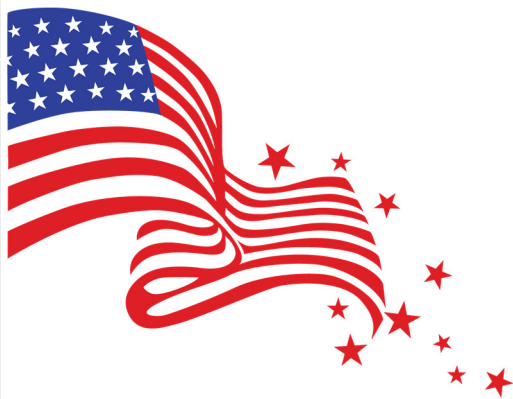
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your extremely generous donation of toilet paper and other hygiene items to the **Marketplace for All People!** We always struggle to meet our community's true need for hygiene items which we believe are a matter of human dignity. Could you imagine only having one roll of toilet paper for your entire family for one week? Could you imagine struggling to stay clean without soap, toothpaste or even feminine care products? Sadly, this is the reality of many of our Marketplace visitors—a reality we are working hard to change. Your donations will make a huge difference in our community in the weeks to come! Each week, in addition to hygiene items, we offer clothing, household items and food—all free of cost—to individuals and families in the area. Each of these items is a tangible representation of the love and grace of Jesus Christ! We serve 80-100 households every week and your support makes this mission possible.

Pastor Mary Sullivan
Executive Director



**Thank You,
St. John!**



We Need your Help!

All of the flags (55) that the Mann and Beamer families have faithfully put up in Williston on St. Rt. 579 for the past 8 years are getting in pretty bad shape. They have been maintained and repaired along with the hardware for the past 8 years as best as possible. However, they are now worn and need to be replaced. The Boy Scouts plan to hold a flag burning ceremony later this year to retire the old flags.

We are now at the point that the funds have run out and need to be replenished. The cost of a new flag is \$20.00. If you would like to donate, please drop off your donation to Mann Technologies. A separate account has been set up for this project. Checks may be made out to Michael Mann with a notation of "Williston Flags".

We hope to start replacing some of the flags by Memorial Day and then continue throughout the summer months until all 55 are taken care of. The flags are displayed on: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day/Patriot's Day and Veterans Day (weather permitting). Also if anyone is interested in helping us put the flags up and take them down, please let us know. We welcome any help in this project.

Any questions, please contact Mike at 419.654.4206. Thanks!



The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure Rides into Williston!

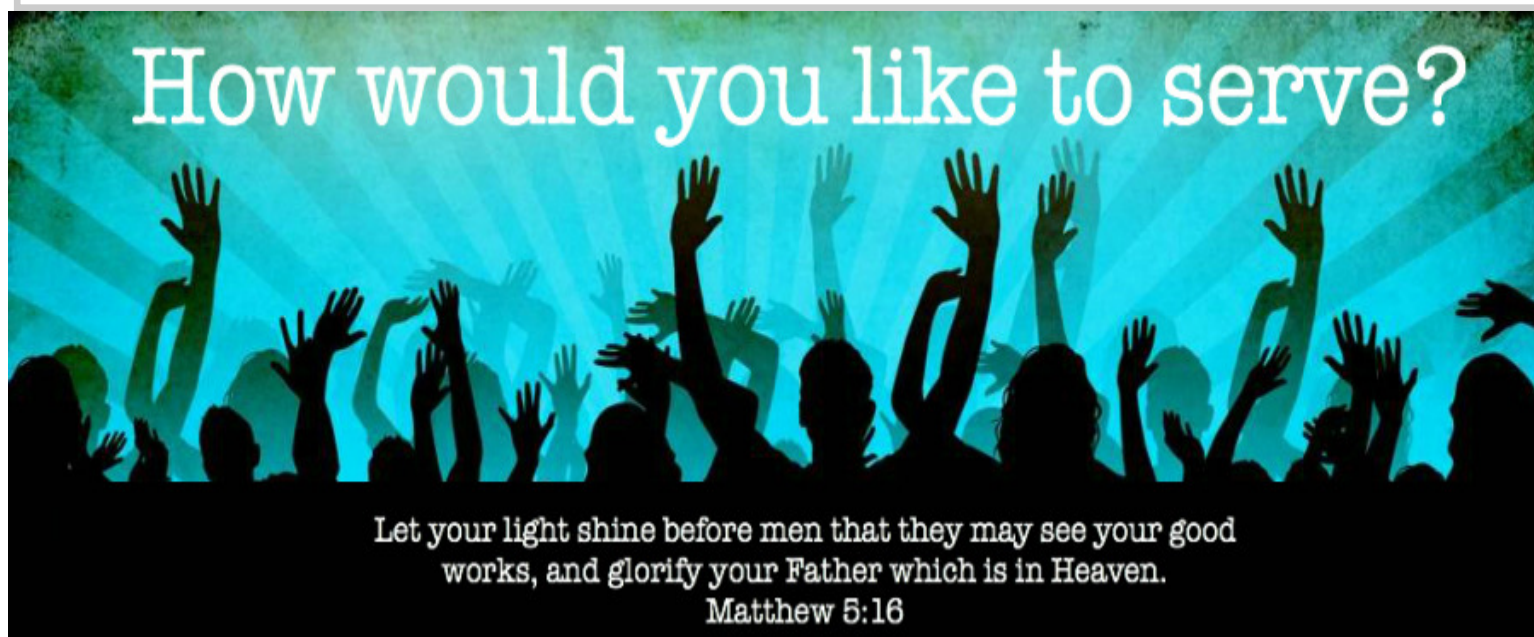
The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure Director contacted St. John to ask about the possibility of the church hosting a snack stop for the GOBA cyclists on **June 21st**. They are riding from Bowling Green to Fremont, to Port Clinton and then to Oregon during the week on June 16th. On June 21, a part of the group will be riding our way and need to stop for drinks and snacks. They will be relaxing

in the parking lot before riding out again.

We will need help on that day getting snacks and beverages ready to sell to the bikers. It has been decided that any profits will go toward the ELCA Youth Convention Trip Fund. This is a good chance for the youth to help, too!

Sign up sheets are in the narthex and by the elevator.

You will not be expected to work the whole time (unless you want), as we will have shifts from 9 AM to Noon and Noon to close, which will be about 2:30 PM. There will be some work and some fun! We have been told that the bikers enjoy talking to the local people. Any questions, please call Margaret Berger at 419-836-7384.



The Worship Life team is hoping to add more people to our list of those who assist with our worship. If you would like to serve in this way, please contact any member of the Worship Life Committee: Traci Brown, Joel Mann, Deanna Neuman, or Amy Schloegl.



Growing in Faith and Service

Mark your calendar and save your spare change for
Noisy Offering Weekend!
May 25/26.

Proceeds will benefit the
 2019 Vacation Bible School
"To Mars and Beyond!"

May Stewardship Prayer

*Lord, we thank you
 for the flowers that grow,
 for the birds and the bees,
 and the moons night time glow,
 for our Mother's love and devotion
 we will always hold dear,
 for the beauty of friends
 and the memories we share,
 for the precious gifts of your
 blessings on us you bestow
 especially your love
 that we certainly know. Amen.*

*Honor the Lord
 with your wealth,
 with the firstfruits
 of all your crops.*
 Proverbs 3:9



GIVE



SERVE



ATTEND

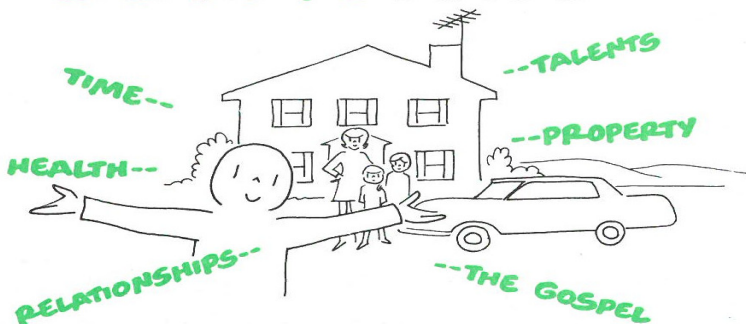


GROW

Stewardship

**RECOGNIZING GOD'S GIFTS &
 GIVING BACK IN GRATITUDE**

EVERYTHING we have

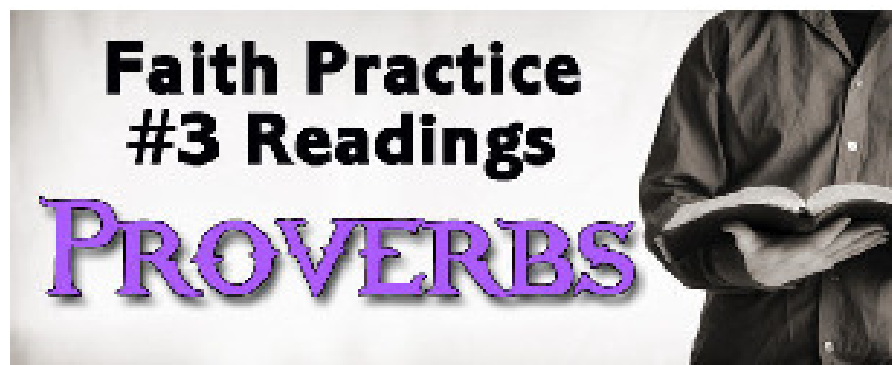


is given to us by **GOD**

Could you use one less worry?
 Online giving is now available at St. John.

Simply visit our web site at www.stjohnwilliston.org
 and click on the "online giving"
 link at the top of the page.

Not online? See LisaAnne in the office to set up an account
 or fill out an "Authorization Form" and return it to the office.



Proverbs comes from a section of the Old Testament called Wisdom Literature. It is a collection of sayings written to uncover something true about the nature of reality in a way that makes the reader or listener wiser. As we read through these sayings, we should be aware that in the Bible, wisdom is rarely presented as a single decision, belief, or rule, but rather as a “way” or “path”. Those pursuing wisdom must continually seek the path amid the twists and turns of life. We should also note that Wisdom is situational. It isn’t just about knowing what to say; it’s about knowing when to say it. That is why we will often find two Proverbs next to each other that seem contradictory. Wisdom is not just about knowing what is true; it’s about knowing when it’s true. As one commentator succinctly put it, “You reap what you sow – except when you don’t.”

This might be a difficult book of the Bible to come up with questions for, but it should be a good one for us to read. We will continue with our ‘one chapter per week’ reading plan as follows:

for the week starting...

April 29 – Proverbs 1

May 6 – Proverbs 2

May 13 – Proverbs 3

May 20 – Proverbs 4

May 27 – Proverbs 5

June 3 – Proverbs 6

June 10 – Proverbs 7

June 17 – Proverbs 8

June 24 – Proverbs 9

July 1 – Proverbs 10

July 8 – Proverbs 11

July 15 – Proverbs 12

July 22 – Proverbs 13

July 29 – Proverbs 14

August 5 – Proverbs 15

August 12 – Proverbs 16

August 19 – Proverbs 17

August 26 – Proverbs 18

September 2 – Proverbs 19

September 9 – Proverbs 20

September 16 – Proverbs 21

September 23 – Proverbs 22

September 30 – Proverbs 23

October 7 – Proverbs 24

October 14 – Proverbs 25

October 21 – Proverbs 26

October 28 – Proverbs 27

November 4 – Proverbs 28

November 11 – Proverbs 29

November 18 – Proverbs 30

November 25 – Proverbs 31

CONNECTING KIDS TO CHRIST

The Connection

St. John Kid's Page

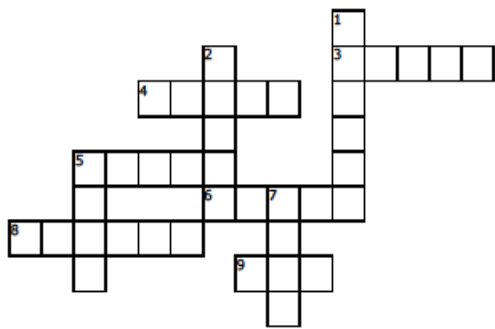


Join the flock at church
and invite a friend!

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:25

Based on John 20:19-31 (NIV)



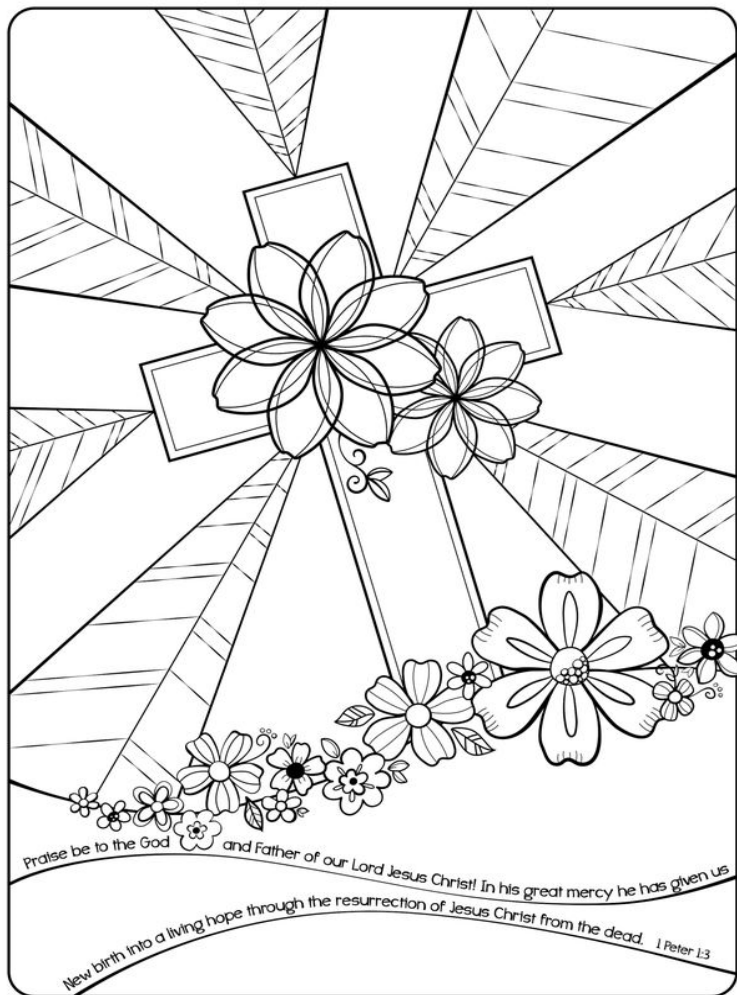
ACROSS

3. To be in a state of pleasure, satisfaction, joy or delight
4. Free from conflict; getting along with others; opposite of war
5. To be undecided or unbelieving that something is true
6. The body parts at the end of the arms
8. Not open
9. To break God's law

DOWN

1. The disciple who would not believe without seeing
2. To believe in something for which there is no proof
5. An entrance into a building or room
7. A thin piece of metal with one pointed end and one flat end which you hit with a hammer

PEACE	DOOR	HANDS	FAITH	HAPPY
NAIL	THOMAS	CLOSED	SIN	DOUBT



Coming Soon!

Vacation Bible School

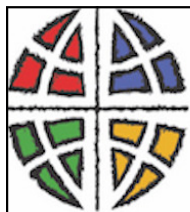
"To Mars and Beyond!"

June 3-7

9 AM to Noon

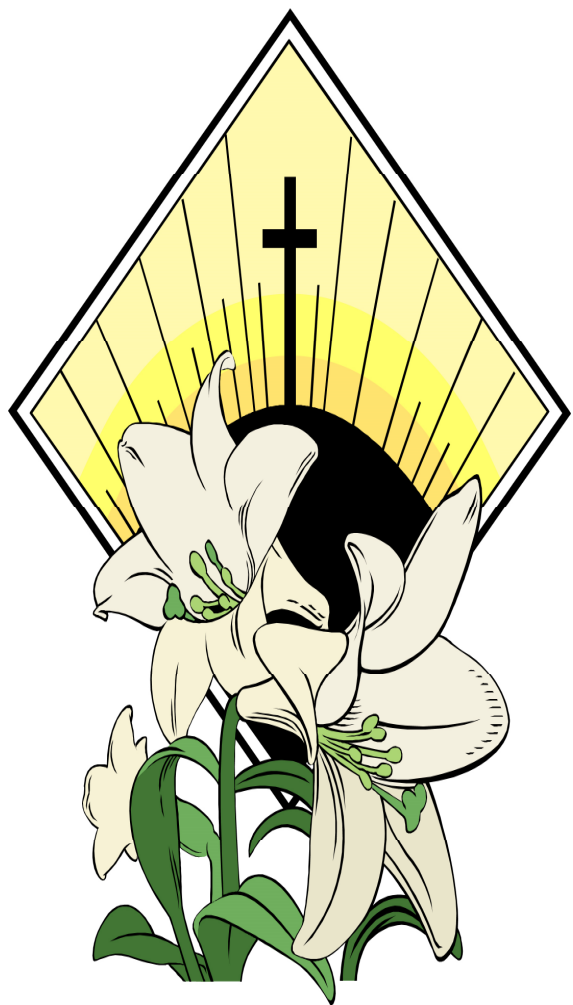
Sign Up today!

**Williston Encounter
begins June 5th
Every Weds. at Noon!
Food and Fun
for everyone!**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



An Easter message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Getting a phone call in the middle of the night is never a good thing. I remember the second time my father had open-heart surgery. It was a long procedure and a difficult one, and after it was done the doctor called us to his office and said, “There’s been some bleeding. We’ll let you know, but you should go home now and rest.”

And so going home that night, I listened for a phone call in the middle of the night and was awakened only to find out it was morning and it was birds singing, not the phone ringing. My father had made it through the night, and in fact he did recover from the surgery.

This is the joy we feel at Easter, but magnified. All of the hope that had been dashed on Good Friday, the terrible pressure of grief, the terrible pressure of knowing there was no future in the world, only on Sunday to be greeted not by the ringing of a telephone announcing death but the loud clear singing of alleluias.

This is the joy we have, and it’s a promise so strong that even when we do die, even when we do confront death, we have the hope and the assurance of eternal life.

Easter makes it possible for us, even at the grave, to sing alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia.

Happy Easter, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



To learn more about the Presiding Bishop, read about current events in the ELCA, discover the ELCA Blog, participate in conversation, use several ELCA resources or to learn more about our faith... visit www.elca.org.



Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



From the desk of..

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



Bishop Beaudoin wants to encourage and challenge you to join with the rest of the Northwestern Ohio Synod and read through the entire Bible in One Year. Back in 2004 and 2012, the parishes he was serving read through the Bible in One Year as a community spiritual practice. Scripture is meant to be read in community, so please don't do this alone.

2019 NWOS Daily Bible Readings for May

May 1: 1 Chronicles 3-5

May 2: 1 Chronicles 6

May 3: 1 Chronicles 7-8

May 4: 1 Chronicles 9-11

May 5: 1 Chronicles 12-14

May 6: 1 Chronicles 15-17

May 7: 1 Chronicles 18-21

May 8: 1 Chronicles 22-24

May 9: 1 Chronicles 25-27

May 10: 1 Chronicles 28-30

May 11: 2 Chronicles 1-5

May 12: 2 Chronicles 6-8

May 13: 2 Chronicles 9-12

May 14: 2 Chronicles 13-17

May 15: 2 Chronicles 18-20

May 16: 2 Chronicles 21-24

May 17: 2 Chronicles 25-27

May 18: 2 Chronicles 28-31

May 19: 2 Chronicles 32-34

May 20: 2 Chronicles 35-36

May 21: Ezra 1-3

May 22: Ezra 4-7

May 23: Ezra 8-10

May 24: Nehemiah 1-3

May 25: Nehemiah 4-6

May 26: Nehemiah 7

May 27: Nehemiah 8-9

May 28: Nehemiah 10-11

May 29: Nehemiah 12-13

May 30: Esther 1-5

May 31: Esther 6-10

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of my very favorite places to run is at Side Cut Park in Maumee. Much of the running trail meanders beside the Maumee River. This past winter, the Maumee River experienced a deep freeze, and then a quick thaw, followed by a rush of water and a driving wind. Great chunks of thick ice "sprung forth" and made their way out of the riverbanks and into the park. The river's energy was dissipated all over the landscape. River Road, playground equipment, the Tow Path Running Trail, and acres of trees were all significantly damaged. Months later there is still a lot of work to do at Side Cut Park. Though bit by bit, the Metro Park staff along with folks from the community are making a difference.

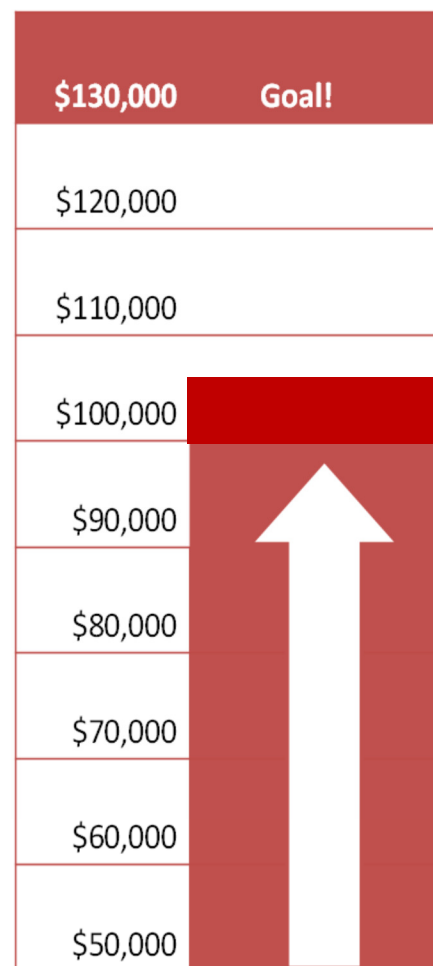
In the Old Testament reading from Isaiah 43:19, God promises the unexpected: a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah is using metaphorical language to encourage those who are living in exile that God is about to do a new thing and bring them home. The question for God's people is how will they respond to God's promise of a new thing? Will they continue to live as they had before the Exile, or will they respond to God's promise by becoming the people God longs for them to be?

As I think about God's promise of "a way in the wilderness" and "rivers in the desert", I cannot help but think of Jesus, and the promise of the Gospel, where once again, God does an unexpected and new thing.

And I'll admit there are days, when I fail to "perceive it". The river has jumped its bank and is taking me with it. But then there are other times, when I am quietly praying, or reading Scripture, or running through Side Cut Park, that I do perceive, and I do trust that God is always doing a new thing in me, in you, and in the world. My prayer today is that God would once again, help us all to see it



We are almost there!!!
If you would like to make a special
contribution to the Roof Project, just mark
“ROOF FUND” on the envelope
and place it in the offering.
Thank you for your generous support!!



Online Giving

Did you know
St. John offers online giving?

We process giving through
VANCO, a nationally
recognized leader in
church giving.

It's easy, it's secure and you can
get started today!

Not online? No problem! Just fill out
an authorization form or see LisaAnne
in the office.

SERVING HIM

DON'T JUST GO TO CHURCH;
BE THE CHURCH.

We need more worship assistants!

Would you like to help with
communion,
read scripture,
be an usher

or work in the "sound booth?"

Just let Pastor or the office know.

We would love to show you "the ropes."

No experience is needed!

Just call the office to sign up!

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 banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date			
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 Total	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: ____ ⑆ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ⑆ 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 5 6 ⑆ 0 0 0 1 Routing Number Account Number Check Number
	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.



Council Meeting Highlights- April 18, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Diana Pfaff
Secretary Minutes for February and the Annual Meeting approved as written

Pastor's Report:

11 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 5 committee/group meetings, 2 community/youth/fellowship events. 7 professional/clergy activities, 9 classes/Bible studies. 6 special Worship Services

Confirmation:

Having completed the required classroom work, service points, sermon notes, and a satisfactory "Exit interview: the following young men and women will affirm their baptism Saturday, May 18th"; Riley Brossia, Sophie Cashen, Payton Donnelly, Tucker Fredericksen, Evan Kessler, Aidan O'Brien and Anna Sommers. Motion was made by Pastor O'Brien to accept these students to be confirmed.

Williston Encounter -We are in the process of finalizing our schedule for Williston Encounter. After the schedule is complete, we will start publicity.

Year of Service April-Our April Event will be helping at Just Pancakes at Salem Lutheran Church on April 27th. We are to arrive at Salem between 7 and 7:30 on Saturday morning.

We have one or two months still open, so if you have ideas for ways and places we can serve "Beyond St. John", please let me know. We will also need volunteers to help schedule some of these activities. If there are areas of service you are passionate about, please consider coordinating a day of service.

Youth Paprikash Dinner raised \$2,000. Thank you to all that attended and to those that made this event a success.

Rocky Boy Mission Trip

Those interested in our Rocky Boy servant trip are to confirm their attendance and let me know their method of transportation by Easter Sunday: April 21st.

Financial Secretary Report: reported we are still not on budget but are doing good. The income is down year to date due to the weekend services cancelled during the level 3 weather emergency.

Treasurer's Report: reported that expenses are currently on or below budget. The Grace Johnson memorials will be designated to the roof fund. Memorial money will be transferred to the roof fund as well.

Finance Committee Report: Tim reported that \$56,500 has been paid to the roof company for replacing the roof. The \$48,229 listed as the balance does not reflect the memorials non recent donations. Giving statement will be sent on May1.

Christian Community Life: No current report: We are participating in Baumann Car Raffle and will receive tickets in April to help the Food Panty. We will be sending Easter Cards to our sunshine Friends and the residents of the Lutheran Home of Mercy.

Evangelism: reported that all members were present. We first met with Stewardship and Christian Community Life committees to discuss the Greater Ohio Bicycle Adventure (GOBA). We explained

to all members the needs and what is required of us. An article will be put in the May Forerunner and sign up sheet for help will be placed in the narthex and by the elevator. It is decided profits will go to the youth for their convention in 2021. We will meet together next month to finalize the plans. Our **Easter basket** was finished and given to Parish Ed. **Genoa Parade:** We decided not to participate in the Genoa Parade. If anyone would like to coordinate this event please contact Margaret, she has the information. We are working on Welcome Bags. Pads and pens are ordered. We will have a box of items for children to choose from. Seventeen lilies have been donated for the homebound. We divided up the names to deliver after Easter Sunday. The flag burning was explained to our group and we will be willing to participate.

Parish Education: reported that the **Easter Egg Hunt will be April 20th** at 11:00. Helpers should arrive at 9:30 to fill eggs and set up the basement for the Easter Breakfast. We will ask the congregation to donate candy. There will be face painting and a jelly bean guessing contest before the egg hunt begins. Tammy Mazur be in charge of the Easter Egg hunt and the Easter Breakfast. **The last day for Sunday School is May 19th.** VHS "To Mars and Beyond" will be June 3 to June 7. Stefanie has been making plans and recruiting workers. Noisy Offering Weekends will be April 27/28 and May 25/26 with the proceeds to help with the cost of VBS supplies and expenses.

Board of Stewardship Report: Tom Cashen will be coordinating the Golf Outing in September. The Greater Ohio Bicycle Adventure is requesting history on the church and the town of Williston. The committee will be collecting that information. Opioid Crisis event will be held in September. Group has approached Nate Erlenmeyer, Taylor Beck, Judge Winters and Mark Stall to participate. Thoughts currently are to have this be a two-part event with the first part being Education and the second part Prevention. Williston Flags are in need of replacement. This will require that 51 flags will need to be burned and replaced. The committee reached out to the Scouts concerning a flag burning ceremony. Mann Technology will be the location for individuals wanting to help with the replacement cost.

Worship Life: Seder Feast had 49 people signed up to attend. Thank you to all to helped and attended this meaningful event.

Property: reported the good news that the window painters have completed their work. The current start date for the roof is May 15 and the down payment has been made. The water heater in the parsonage has been replaced. The lawn mower was serviced and Richard mowed today. Margaret requested storage for the community Christmas lighting supplies and the supplies for the welcome Box supplies.

NEW BUSINESS: Flag Burning Ceremony: A Flag Burning Ceremony is being planned for July 13 after the Saturday Service. The Flags in Williston need replaced and will be included in the Ceremony. The Scout Leaders will be in charge of this very meaningful ceremony. After the ceremony there will be a meal in the church while the flags cool so that the ashes can be properly buried. Anyone that has a flag that needs destroyed please bring to the event or put in the box that will be provided at the church. Please attach a note to the flag explaining its history so it can be read at the ceremony. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Committee Night is scheduled for Thursday May 09, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Marcia Morgan, Council Secretary

St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of March 31, 2019

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	283,000	25,929	26,507	102%	66,732	63,872	96%	64,631	-1%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings * online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	8,875	8,875	100%		
Board/Ministries	14,400	1,283	394	31%	3,453	2,008	58%		
Staff Salaries	96,800	8,608	8,448	98%	24,345	23,677	97%		
Staff Benefits	58,170	4,881	4,485	96%	14,042	13,180	94%		
Operating Expenses	73,130	5,818	5,523	98%	21,785	20,368	93%		
Expense Totals	278,500	23,148	21,808	94%	72,500	68,086	94%		
Income less Expenses	4,500	2,781	4,699		(5,768)	(4,214)			

2019 Dedicated Fund Balances:

Building/Development	8,285
Activity Center Savings	277,331
Memorials	66,623
Music Fund	4,394
Endowment Fund	114,038
Roof Fund	48,229
Scholarship Tank	6,010
Scholarship Younker	4,000
Scholarship Johnson	34,722
Scholarship Parks	35,247
Youth	18,026
Other	22,208
Savings	16,843
Total	<u>665,856</u>



(Other includes Youth, Good Samaritan, Scholarship, etc.)

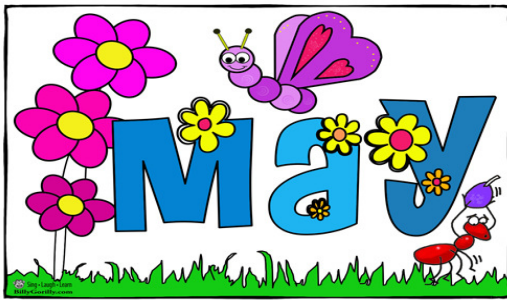
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 see LisaAnne
 in the office.

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance, Tim Tritgemeyer, Dave Neuman or Kent Delventhal.



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY 5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 4 Anna Sommers
- 11 Riley Brossia
- 18 Shane O'Brien
- 25 Aidan O'Brien

Lectors

- 4 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 11 Amy Schloegl
- 18 Confirmands
- 25 Nancy Strohscher

Ushers

- 4 Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
Jim and Dilly Schimming
- 11 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski,
Tom Truman, Gene Bihn
- 18 Ken and Pat Sievert, John and Helen Meyer
- 25 David Lee Family

Communion Servers

- 4 No communion
- 11 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Amy Schloegl
- 18 Confirmands
- 25 Nancy Strohscher, Diane Gerkenismeyer, Carol Vargo

Communion Set-up

- 4 No Communion
- 11 Brenda Keeley
- 18 Dilly Schimming
- 25 Joan Truman

Door Greeters

- 4 Jack Mathews
- 11 Arline Sabin
- 18 Dean Lowe
- 25 Kris Lee

Sound/Projector Techs

- 4 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 11 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 18 Ron Gerkenismeyer / Amy Bihn
- 25 Phil and JJ Milbrodt



SUNDAY 9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 5 Lindsey Cashen
- 12 Megan Hoeft
- 19 Ben Myers
- 26 Jake Titgemeyer

Lectors

- 5 Mike Mann
- 12 Diana Pfaff
- 19 Jill Kao
- 26 Melissa Lammers

Ushers

- 5 Bob Bench Family
- 12 Dave Neuman, Dan Nelson, Jeff Schimming
- 19 Dan & Andy Kessler, Jennifer Delventhal
- 26 Lammers Family

Communion Servers

- 5 No Communion
- 12 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Bob Kapp
- 19 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 26 Roland Sandroek, Ann Mann, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

- 5 No Communion
- 12 Diana Pfaff
- 19 Deanna Neuman
- 26 Melissa Lammers

Door Greeters

- 5 Debbie Wehner
- 12 Karen Jeffers
- 19 Linda Schlievert
- 26 Jennifer Delventhal

Sound/Projector Techs

- 5 Andy Kessler
- 12 Paul Beamer
- 19 Tim Titgemeyer
- 26 Andrew Titgemeyer

Children's Moments

- 5 Caria Goldstein
- 12 Stef Neuman
- 19 Bells
- 26 Puppets!

*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.*

More Worship Helpers Needed! Sign up in the office today!



Worship Assistants

SATURDAY
5:00pm—Worship

Acolytes

- 1 Seidona Brossia
- 8 Riley Brossia
- 15 Payton Donnelly
- 22 Anna Sommers
- 29 Aidan O'Brien

Lectors

- 1 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 8 Shirley Berger
- 15 Tracy Orians
- 22 Gene Bihn
- 29 Doris Titgemeyer

Ushers

- 1 Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer, Jim & Dilly Schimming
- 8 Allen Harder, Madelayne Saionzkowski, Carol Vargo, Alice Witt
- 15 John & Helen Meyer, Ken and Pat Sievert
- 22 Gene & Amy Bihn, Marty & Owen Schloegl
- 29 David Lee Family

Communion Servers

- 1 Al Brown, Ron & Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 8 Doris Titgemeyer, Gene Bihn, Margaret Berger
- 15 Carol Vargo, Nancy Strohscher, Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 22 Wayne Bauman, Ron Gerkenismeyer, Amy Schloegl
- 29 Gene Bihn, Diana Gerkenismeyer, Doris Titgemeyer

Communion Set-up

- 1 Diane Gerkenismeyer
- 8 Carol Vargo
- 15 Traci Brown
- 22 Ruth Petersen
- 29 Brenda Keeley

Door Greeters

- 1 Jo Elaine Schimming
- 8 Joni Hillman
- 15 Dean Lowe
- 22 Arline Sabin
- 29 Jack Mathews

Sound/Projector Techs

- 1 Traci Brown / Amy Bihn
- 8 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 15 Ron Gerkenismeyer/Amy Bihn
- 22 Phil and JJ Milbrodt
- 29 Traci Brown/ Ron Gerkenismeyer

SUNDAY
9:00 Worship

Acolytes

- 2 Evan Kessler
- 9 Sophia Cashen
- 16 Ben Meyers
- 23 Jake Titgemeyer
- 30 Tucker Fredericksen

Lectors

- 2 Sophia Cashen
- 9 Marcia Morgan
- 16 Cebie Titgemeyer
- 23 Diana Pfaff
- 30 Margaret Berger

Ushers

- 2 The Titgemeyer Family
- 9 Dave Neuman, Heather and Lindsey Cashen
- 16 Dan & Andy Kessler, Bob Kapp
- 23 Jeff Schimming, Dan Nelson, Jennifer Delventhal
- 30 The Lammers Family

Communion Servers

- 2 Carol Jensen, Jane Phillips, Carole Beamer
- 9 Heather Cashen, Mike and Ann Mann
- 16 Marcia Morgan, Mona Vogelbacher, Jean Fowler
- 23 Roland Sandrock, Karolyn Jansen, Bob Kapp
- 30 Karolyn Jansen, Tim Titgemeyer, Margaret Berger

Communion Set-up

- 2 Pam LaRue
- 9 Diana Pfaff
- 16 Melissa Lammers
- 23 Janice Sandrock
- 30 Deanna Neuman

Door Greeters

- 2 Melissa Lammers
- 9 Marcia Morgan
- 16 Linda Schlievert
- 23 Margaret Berger
- 30 Nancy Brittian

Sound/Projector Techs

- 2 Andy Kessler
- 9 Paul Beamer
- 16 Tim Titgemeyer
- 23 Andrew Titgemeyer
- 30 Joel Mann

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