

Inside this issue:

St John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio

Thank You/Summer Hours	3
Acolyte Schedule/VBS	4
Kids Connection	5
Stephen Ministries	6
June Stewardship	7
Council Highlights	8
April Finance	9
Celebrate June	10
June Calendar	11

Ask the Pastor

"I heard someone on television talk about the synoptic gospels. What is that? Are they a summary of the gospels we have in our Bible?"

"Synoptic Gospels" is another way to talk about the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. You may have noticed that these three Gospels have quite a bit of shared material. Their narratives are similar enough that scholars have grouped them together under the title of "Synoptic Gospels." In essence, the word synoptic conveys a harmonious or similar feel. (I included a graphic that displays some information about how much is shared and which Gospels share so you can see the idea in pie graph form. I thought was rather interesting and maybe be helpful with what's below.)

So, the next question might be "why do they have so much shared material?" The honest answer is, we don't know.

Some scholars suggest that the earliest Gospel, probably Mark, was available to the other Gospel writers, so the other two used this material and filled in their own story. But that doesn't explain the material that is unique to Matthew and Luke.

Other scholars have suggested that they all used material from a third source; a hypothetical document of oral tradition, sayings, etc. that could have given non-eyewitness gospel writers, such as Luke, some firsthand accounts of Jesus' ministry. Scholars refer to this as the "Q Source". But this remains a theory as we have no record of a Q Source.

Some of the early Church Fathers said Matthew came first, Mark is a summary of Matthew, and Luke copied Matthew. But that doesn't explain the material that is unique to Luke and Mark (which isn't much, but it does exist.) Plus, modern scholars think Mark was likely written first.

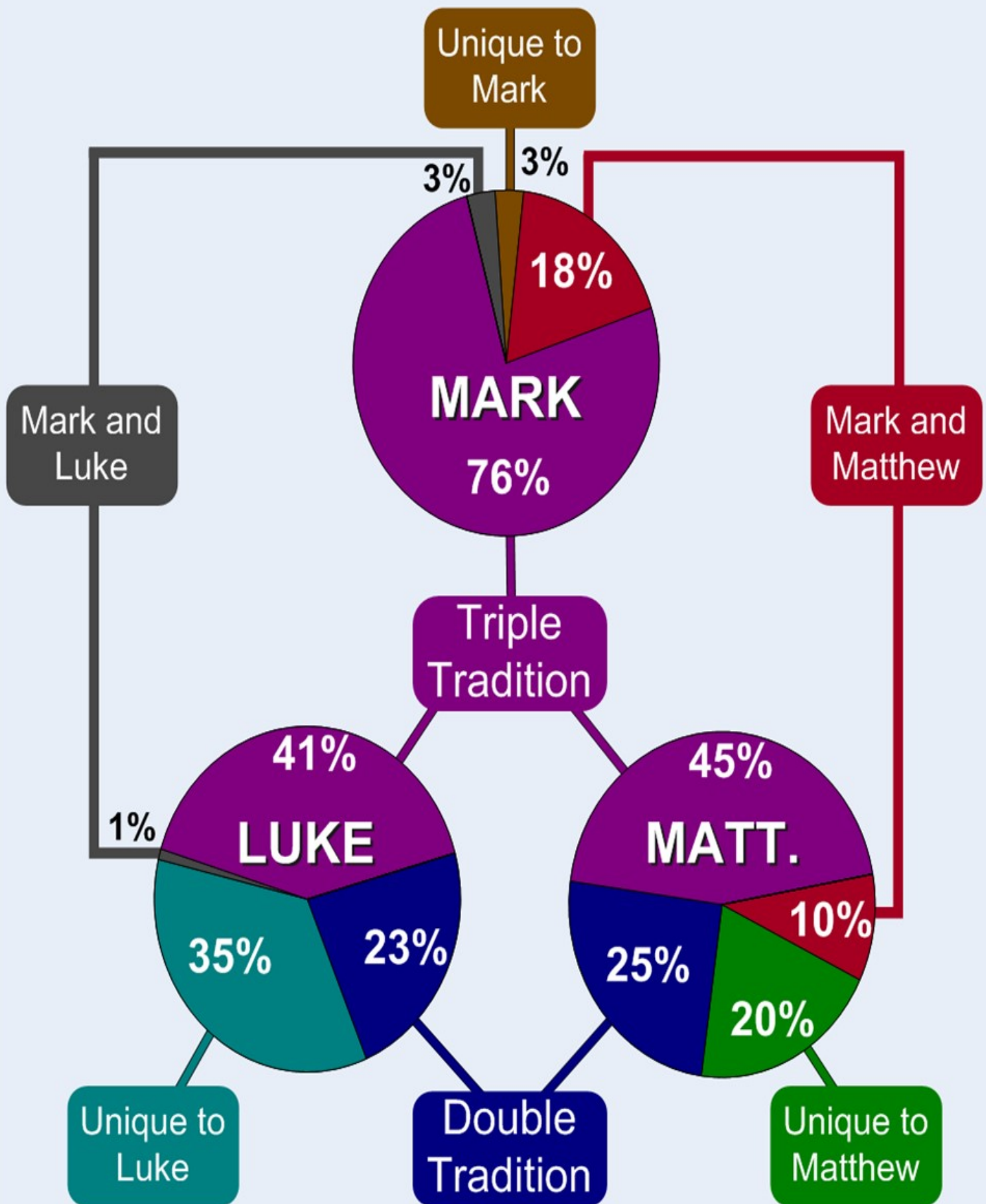
The difficulty in explaining the similarities and differences among the Synoptic Gospels is referred to as the Synoptic Problem, which I'm not going to try to solve in a newsletter article. But hopefully the above gives you a glimpse of the issues.

In my view, the Synoptic "Problem" is not really much of a problem at all. It's obvious the three Gospel writers share a tradition (oral or written) and each one used the material to share their own unique story of the Good News of Jesus. Depending on their audience, their setting, their own experience, etc. they each had an account they needed to tell, points they needed to highlight, emphasizes they needed to make. Studying the differences to understand how the Luke Gospel Church was different from the Matthew Gospel Church may be a better response that trying to "solve a problem" and make them all match.

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.

See page #2 for graphic corresponding with article.

Happy
Father's
Day!





Thank you for the prayers & cards during my recent surgery and subsequent hospital stay. Special thanks to Pastor O'Brien for always checking in with me and to Margaret Berger for bringing me the altar flowers. All were appreciated.
Cindy Hartman

Thank you to all of the Sunday School / Confirmation class teachers this year! With your help, kindness, time and patience, we are able to support the children of the church with their learning the story of Jesus.

Pastor O'Brien
Matt Milbrodt
Tammy Mazur
Diana Pfaff
Melissa Lammers
Jerry Goldstein
Cadan Goldstein
Caira Goldstein
Anna Sommers
Jen Delventhal

Sincerely, Parish Education Committee

We would like to thank you for your prayers, phone calls, sympathy cards for our husband and father, Tom Siglar. He was a patient in the Genoa Care Center for almost two years but "fought the fight and won the race," and now he's in a better place. A special thank you to Pastor O'Brien for the wonderful graveside service and our congregation's Stephen Ministries.
Alice Siglar and Tom H. Siglar

To My St. John Family,
Thank you for your prayers, love, support, cards, flowers and for all you've done for Ron and me following my recent back surgery. Recovery continues! God is good! A very special thank you to Pastor O'Brien for his prayers and reassuring words of support. Thanks to each of you for the food that was brought in; a warm thank you to those who visited and called. We are indeed blessed with friends who care, who seem to know our needs and respond with love. You are a vital part of our lives and we are grateful every day for you!
God's Blessing, Diane Gerkenmeyer

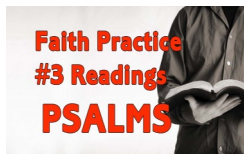
Thank You to Anna Sommers

Those who fill the Blessing Box on a daily basis would like to give a huge "thank you" to Anna Sommers for choosing for her Eagle Scout project -
- "the storage area for our Blessing Box food supplies" -- above Amelia's office (4th floor).

Anna and her helpers had to move all of the pews that were in storage in that room into the attic. They also had to move the surplus pew pads to the attic. In addition, they moved all of the current food supplies to the hall before she could start building the shelves.

Anna built beautiful shelves on the north and east walls in the room. All of the shelves are lined for easy cleaning. The boxed pastas, packaged noodles, flour, sugar, etc. will be stored in marked plastic bins. It will be so helpful with the way she has sorted all items (so the longest shelf-life dates are in the back, with the shorter shelf-life items in the front). This organization makes it so much better to pick supplies to fill the Blessing Box. We truly appreciate the great job Anna has done to make it easier, faster and safer to refill the Blessing Box each day.

Finally, Anna will use any money she has left from her Eagle Scout project to buy food items for the Blessing Box.
Great job, Anna!



June 6- Psalm 61
June 13 - Psalm 62
June 20- Psalm 63
June 27- Psalm 64
July 4- Psalm 65

**Summer Worship hours begin Sunday June 5th.
Sunday worship will begin at 9AM.**

**Summer Office Hours:
Starting Monday June 6th
Mon: 8:30am-2:30pm
Tues: CLOSED
Wed: 8:30am-2:30pm
Thurs: 8:30am-2:30pm
Fri: 8:30am-2:30pm**

2022 Acolyte Schedule

Saturday

June

4 Olivia Martin
11 Kennedy Donnelly
18 Emma Morgan
25 Lindsay Krumnow

July

2 Benjamin Sommers
9 Olivia Martin
16 Kennedy Donnelly
23 Emma Morgan
30 Lindsay Krumnow

Sunday

June

5 Lily Sondergeld
12 Aiden Johnson
19 Lucas Titgemeyer
26 Caleb Hays

July

3 Logan Hays
10 Lily Sondergeld
17 Aiden Johnson
24 Lucas Titgemeyer
31 Caleb Hays



The Forerunner

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

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Pastor Shawn O'Brien

Home Telephone:
419-972-4003

Email:
pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Hours
Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM

Deadline for the
June newsletter is
Monday, June 20 @ 9AM
Please send articles and/or
information to
office@stjohnwilliston.org.



"Creating and nurturing life
changing relationships
based on the love of God in
Jesus Christ, so that we may
grow in faith, serve God and
serve our neighbor."



Amelia Burkey
Office

Administrator

8:30 am—2:30 pm
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri.
(419) 836-5514
Email:
Office @stjohnwilliston.org

OUR BLESSING BOX

Mini Pantry has been used quite a bit recently. To help restock we need cereal, jelly, canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) and personal care items (toothbrushes have been a popular item). When you are shopping this week, consider purchasing a few extra items and bringing them to the church. Thank you!



VBS 2022 Spark Studios will be June 6-10! Pre-registration for kids will come soon, but we need adult, young adult, and teen helpers.

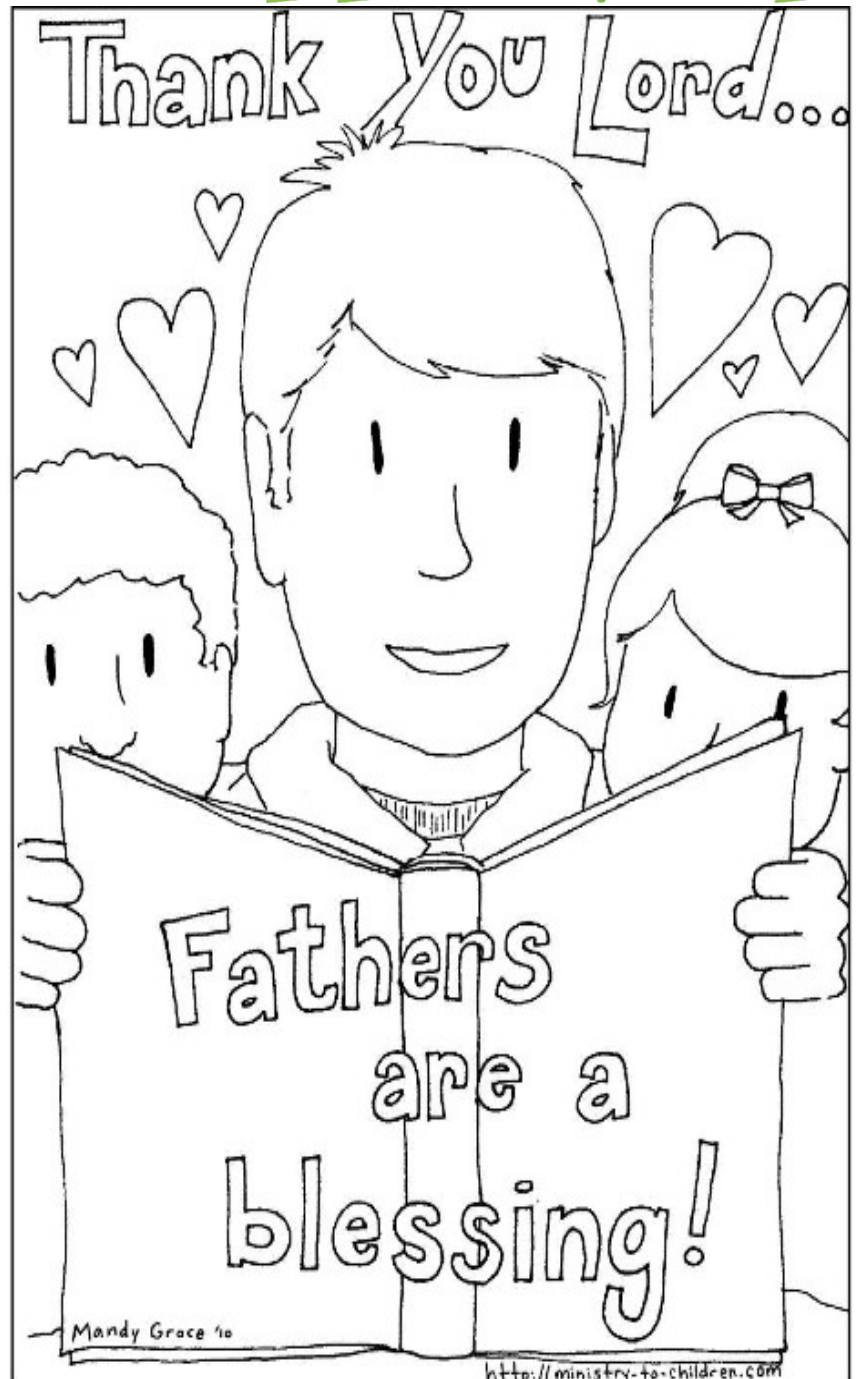
If you are interested in helping out, please contact Stefanie Neuman at 419-705-9926 or email at stefaniehneuman@gmail.com.

Women **ELCA**

WHAT'S
HAPPENING

Circle and Board Meetings

Esther Circle
Tuesday, June 7 at 2:00 p.m.
Meet in **Basement**

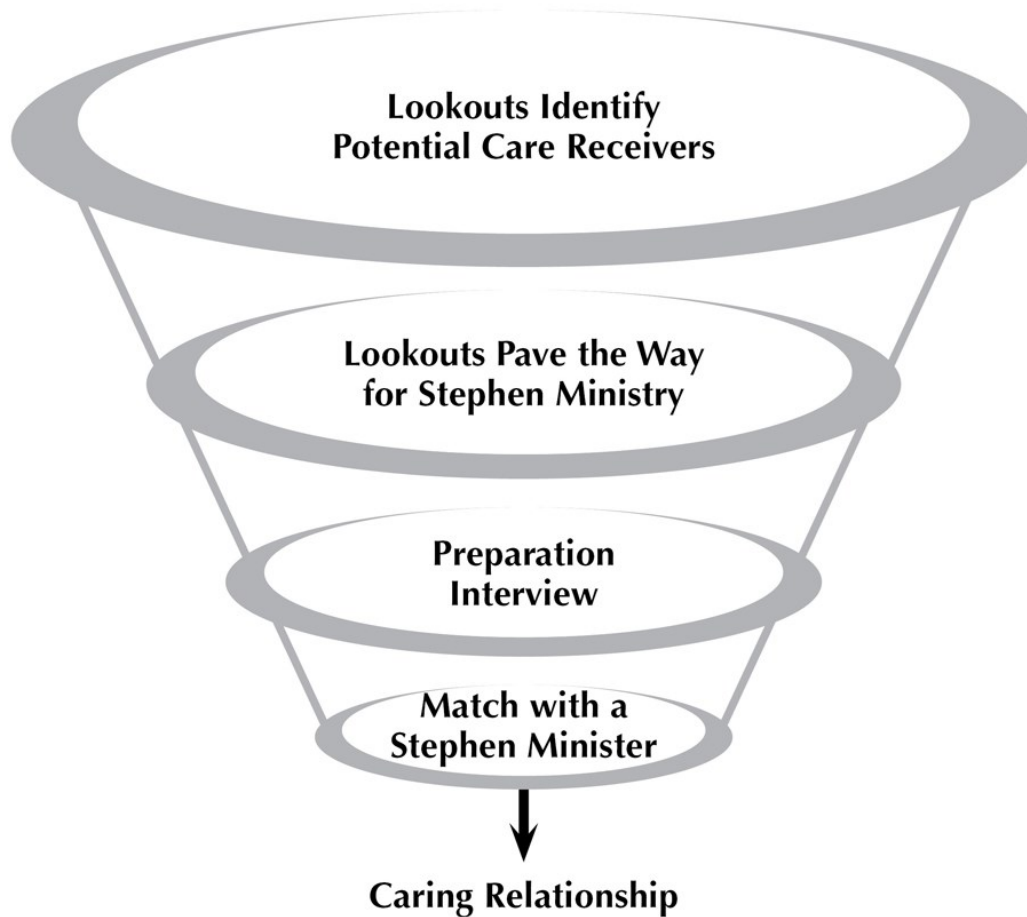


**JOIN US FOR VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL!**

**"SPARK STUDIOS"
June 6th– 10th**



People in Need of Care



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.

**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.**

June

Stewardship

The Stewardship of Fatherhood

Leadership requires setting a standard.

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

June Stewardship

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all the fathers and father figures in this world and for the many ways you use them to lovingly guide others to You. We ask that you would bless them and give them great joy and peace.

We are the stewards of those lives. God depends on us to use them to accomplish God's purposes



Church Council Highlights

April Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Diana Pfaff, Tim Titgemeyer, Tracy Orians, Kristina Wildman, Melissa Hayes, Donna Mathews, Kim Sommers, & Rosemarie Dickinson

Members Absent: Kent Delventhal, Jennifer Nelson, Susie Mathews, Ron Gerkenmeyer, and Gary Johnson

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm 67

Pastor's Report:

-In person average attendance for April 2022-140.3 compared to April 2021-80.8 & Online average for April 2022-108.3 compared to April 2021-123.3

-Conducted 17 hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 3 committee/group meetings, 4 community/youth/fellowship events, 7 professional/clergy activities, 6 classes/Bible studies, 3 special worship services and 1 funeral for "Pinky" Traver on March 31, and his graveside service on April 9.

-Having completed all the assigned tasks and a successful exit interview, I recommend the following Confirmands be approved for Affirmation of Baptism: Kennedy Donnelly, Aiden Johnson, Olivia Martin, Benjamin Sommers, and Lucas Titgemeyer.

-Grace Lutheran Church in Syracuse (our video partners) have invited me to join them for worship. I am tentatively scheduling July 17. If anyone would like to make the trip, they would be delighted to see you.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Finance

Committee Report: Kristina Wildman

-Expenses: We are 88% of monthly budget and 95% of year to date budget. Income: We are 93% of our monthly budget and 97% of our year to date budget. Income over expenses: On a year to date basis, we are currently negative \$6,431 compared to our budget of negative \$9,029.

-Income is ahead of where it was last year and under budget. Statements should be going out soon. Expenses are back on track.

Christian Community Life: Donna Mathews

-We will be serving cake and refreshments after Confirmation on Saturday May 21st.

-On The last day of Vacation Bible School (June 10th) we will be providing lunch.

-The Williston Encounter will be starting on June 15th and will run through the month of June. We will be serving lunch for the children, with some kind of entertainment or activities.

Evangelism: Melissa Hayes

-Notebook pads and pens that say St. John's will be available for visitors again and plan to hand them out on Rally day, September 11.

-Bi-Laws and membership lists being reviewed.

Parish Education: Kim Sommers

-Flowers, pictures and bibles have all been ordered or set up, ready for Confirmation.

-The last day of Sunday school for pre k-7th grade is May 22. Notifications went home with all students.

-Vacation Bible School will be June 6-10 from 9 AM to noon. We need adult volunteers, including HS students needing service hours. If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to a member of Parish Ed.

-Looking for Sunday school teachers to start this fall. If interested, please see a member of Parish Ed. Could be a great idea for HS students needing service hours

Stewardship: Rosemarie Dickinson

-Working on a confirmation list and collecting addresses for reunion.

-Planning on having Derek Witt do a presentation on weather in the fall for anyone in the congregation.

Worship Life: No report

-Audrey Milbrodt resigned from her elected position on the Worship Life Committee. The church council will be working to appoint someone to complete her term.

Property: No report

Old Business:

-Still reviewing the constitution and committees have been reviewing their bylaws as part of this process.

-Waiting for an update on the defibrillator check/review.

New Business:

-Since we cut back on mailed forerunners we will be including a downloadable link for the forerunner in the Monday email after it is posted online. Currently about 50 forerunners are mailed out by request and mailed hard copies can still be requested to be mailed from the church office, at any time.

-We would love ideas on how to get more students joining catechism.

-If you are interested in volunteering as acolyte please contact the church office.

-We are looking to get back to a set rotation of lectors/ushers/greeters. If you would like to get on this rotation for assigned dates please contact Amelia.

-Next Committee Mtg: Thursday, Aug 11, 7pm (no committee meetings for June or July)

-Next Council Mtg: Thursday, June 23rd, 7pm (no council meeting for July)

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Orians, Council Secretary



April

Finance report

**St. John Lutheran Church
Statement of Income and Expense
As of April 30, 2022**

	Full Year	Month to Date			Year to Date				
		Budget	Actual	%	Budget	Actual	%	Prior Year	% Growth
Income: *	290,000	25,331	23,552	93%	92,831	89,878	97%	88,762	1.3%
* does not include memorials and other dedicated offerings									
* online giving IS included.									
Expenses:									
Benevolence	38,000	2,958	2,958	100%	11,833	11,833	100%		
Board/Ministries	11,900	992	297	30%	3,967	2,430	61%		
Staff Salaries	105,500	9,277	8,565	92%	35,967	33,850	94%		
Staff Benefits	63,100	5,258	5,006	95%	21,033	19,716	94%		
Operating Expenses	71,500	7,886	6,377	81%	29,060	28,480	98%		
Expense Totals	290,000	26,371	23,203	88%	101,860	96,309	95%		
Income less Expenses		(1,040)	349		(9,029)	(6,431)			

Dedicated Fund Balances

Building/Development	5,432
Endowment Fund	124,222
Savings	48,231
Activity Center Savings	332,714
Music Fund	4,878
HVAC Fund	32,172
Future Development	38,556
Courtyard	9,260
Memorials	6,121
Youth	22,415
Good Samaritan	10,553
Scholarships	88,876
Other	14,699
Total	738,129

(Other includes designated offerings, Stephen Ministries, etc.)

Online Giving

Giving made *easy*!

An easy, safe, convenient way to support our vision and mission – anywhere, any time!

GET STARTED!

Available on the App Store | Google play

If you have questions, please contact the Board of Finance - Jennifer Nelson, Kent Delventhal or Kristina Wildman

Finance pg. 1

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 Amelia in the office.

Happy Birthday!

James Fouke	6/1
Lauren LaRue	6/1
Merle Berger	6/2
Cindy Hartman	6/3
Marcia Morgan	6/4
Dee Wukotich	6/4
Cadan Goldstein	6/6
Dennis Vogtsberger	6/6
Ronald Kozina	6/7
Linda Kwiatkowski	6/7
Bentley Wojciechowski	6/7
Jared Hillman	6/8
Oliver Langenderfer	6/8
Kimberly Sommers	6/8
Magnolia Gibbons	6/9
John Meyer	6/10
Jeff Clough	6/11
Mark Wolf	6/11
Alexander Lammers	6/12
Matthew Wehner	6/12
Jodi Martin	6/13
Mason Orians	6/14
Traci Brown	6/15
JoElaine Schimming	6/15
Olivia Smith	6/17

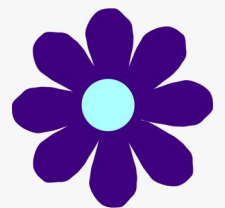
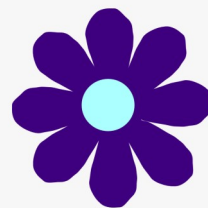
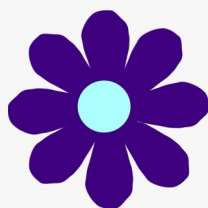
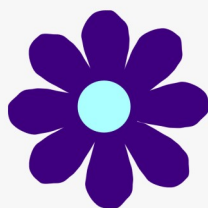
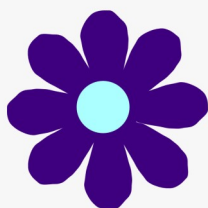
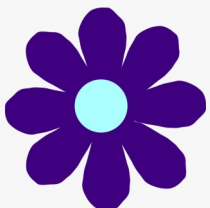
Angela Fredericksen	6/23
Mary Schimmel	6/24
Mary Brossia	6/26
Carol Vargo	6/26
Natalie Symanski	6/27
Stephanie Tank	6/29
Jon Keeley	6/30
Edna Rideout	6/30

Happy Anniversary

Pamela & Peter Langenderfer	6/2
Henry & Carrol Krukemyer	6/4
Donald & Dee Wukotich	6/4
Wayne & Michaelina Schimming	6/6
Jason & Stephanie Tank	6/7
Chad & Jessica Hartman	6/7
Dennis & Cindy Hartman	6/7
Dan & Joan Nelson	6/7
Tracy & Michael Donnelly	6/9
Jane & Richard Phillips	6/12
Thomas & Heather Cashen III	6/13
Thomas & Joan Truman	6/13
Brian & Michelle Skotynsky	6/15
Kathleen & James Walters	6/15
Eric & Jacqueline Horvath	6/16
Jillian & Christopher Brandt	6/20
Randy & Melissa Grosjean	6/21
Ben, Sr. & Katie Sommers	6/22
Kenny & Misty Smith	6/25
Betsy & Kenneth Rossler	6/28
Lowell & Diane Hartman	6/29
Jill & Alan Kao	6/30

JUNE

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



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Volume 0689 Issue 314
June 2022



June 2022

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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
Closed Tuesdays
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**