



The Forerunner

April 2025

Volume 0723
Issue 347

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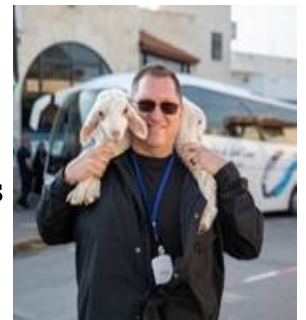
Ask the Pastor

“What is the difference between a PASTOR and a REVEREND?”

“What is the difference between a PASTOR and a REVEREND? Which are you?” I actually get this question quite frequently. I’m not quite as eloquent when answering on the fly, but I like Rolf Jacobson’s definition of PASTOR in his book “Crazy Talk”; A PASTOR is “a sinner who is so aware of the power of sin in his or her own life that he or she feels called by the Holy Spirit to announce that God loves sinners.” A great definition, but it probably doesn’t answer the original question, so we will get technical... PASTOR comes from the Latin word for shepherd. Throughout the Bible, the image of sheep and shepherd are used for God and God’s people; Psalm 23 is one of the first to jump to mind. We also read that God asks those called to take care of his "sheep." An example is at the end of John’s Gospel where the risen Jesus commands Peter: "Feed my sheep." In this sense, PASTORS are shepherds of God's flock. (I prefer to think of myself more like an assistant shepherd, maybe like a sheep dog, for THE Shepherd, but that’s for another time.)

REVERAND is a title of respect for members of the clergy. It carries the meaning of someone who is worthy reverence. (Interesting aside... when I was preparing for my ordination, the Bishop referred to me as “The Almost-Reverend O’Brien” since I wasn’t yet officially clergy. Some would argue that title is appropriate even now.)

Finally, to the question, “Which are you?” the answer is both. REVEREND is a title. Because I have been ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American and I am a member of the clergy, I am Reverend Shawn O’Brien. PASTOR is a relationship. Because I am (an assistant to the) shepherd of God’s flock at St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, I am Pastor Shawn O’Brien.



It’s not about
the bunny.
It’s about
the Lamb



John 10:11

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.

Memorials and gifts



In Memory of David Witt
Roland and Janice Sandrock

In Memory of Alice Witt
Duane & Tami Tailford
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn
Sandrock

Gary & LisaAnne Gregg
Ray & Jami Baer
Jean Witt

Donna and Susie Mathews
Keith Witt

First Nails Family
Bob and Diane Kapp
Roland and Janice Sandrock
Larry and Nancy Strohscher
Shirley Witt

Margaret Berger
Dan and Pam Berger
Cheryl Berger
Rosalie Katona, John Dandar
& Mary Johnston

Darlene Carstensen
Carole Beamer
Susan Deitemyer
Carol Vargo and family
Al & Traci Brown
Merle & Shirley Berger

Alice & Tom Siglar
John & Helen Meyer

Doris Titgemeyer
Jim & Mona Vogelbacher
JoElaine Schimming & family
Elaine Gruetter
Pat Sievert
Jane Phillips
Richard and Shirley Crosskill
Dave and Jennie Hodulik
Pat & Ted Ehrman
Roger & Carla Boyer
Phyllis Haeft
Evelyn Witt

Grateful
Hearts 



St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous
donation of multiple quilts
made by the “Quilting Ladies,”
cash, toiletries, and an
additional financial donation
after the drive.

We are most grateful not only
for your donations, but your
fellowship and partnership.
May God bless you one and
all!

Nightingale’s Harvest

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

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office@stjohnwilliston.org
stjohnwilliston.org

Pastor Shawn O’Brien
Home Telephone:
419-378-1112

pastorobrien
@stjohnwilliston.org

Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM

Sunday School for the
whole family 8:30 AM
on the first Sunday of the Month

Sunday Worship 9:45 AM

Deadline for the
May 2025 newsletter is
Monday, April 21st @ 9 AM
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 Loving Memory of Alice Witt

Alice R. Witt passed away on March 12, 2025. She was born on July 26, 1942 to Andrew and Alice Komives in Toledo, Ohio. She grew up in Bono, Ohio; graduating from Clay High School. Alice married Richard Witt on August 8, 1959. They were married for 57 years before his passing in 2017. She spent her married years living in Williston; raising two sons, Mark and Keith. Alice was a beautician for 34 years, along with spending 31 years working at Genoa Jewelers with her brother, Frank Komives. She was an avid church goer, a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, often participating in fundraisers, trunk or treats and breakfast dinners. Alice will be missed by friends and family alike, along with her beloved dog, Eddie. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; sons Baby Witt and Mark, brothers Jim, Jack, Andy (Junior), Mike and friends. She will be remembered by her family and friends keeping her memory alive. In spirit of Alice’s giving nature, the family is asking that donations be made to St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235, Williston, Ohio 43468. Services were held at St. John on March 20th.



LisaAnne Gregg
Office Admin.
9am—3pm
M-T-W
Thurs. hours
may vary
Office closed
on Friday₂

Circle Meetings

April 2025

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 8 @ 2 PM
Bible Study-Diane Gerkenmeyer

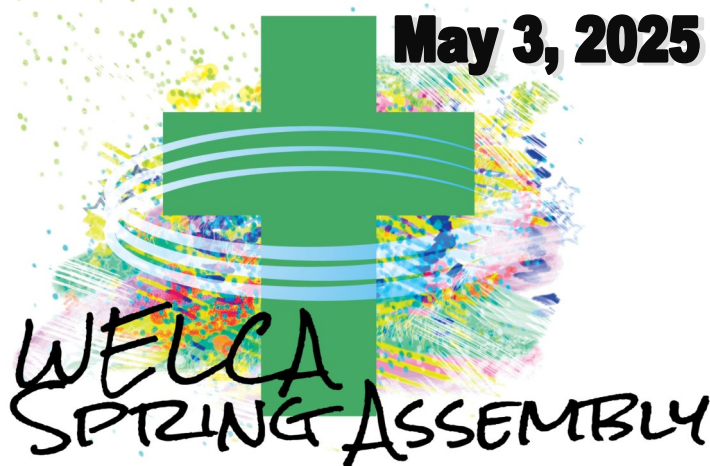
REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, April 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Group discussion

Café

boldcafe.org

Café (<http://boldcafe.org>), an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young adult women + friends who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of Café include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use Café as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.

JOIN US FOR MONTHLY DINNER VIA ZOOM
Join Boldcafe writers + friends for conversation and dinner the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.



North Central WELCA Spring Assembly Saturday May, 3 2025

St. John Lutheran Church Social Hall
21140 W Toledo Street
Williston, OH 43468

\$10 registration fee covers breakfast, speakers and lunch.

Please make checks payable to St. John WELCA and mail with registration form to
Margaret Berger PO Box 143
Williston, OH 43468

Any questions, please call Margaret at 419-836-7384 or 419-340-2150 or email dmberger24@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

Church _____

Names

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Enclosed:
_____ registrations x \$10 = \$ _____

The North Central WELCA Spring Assembly will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at St. John-Williston. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the program will begin at 9:00 AM.

The deadline to register in April 26th.

The registration fee of \$10 covers a continental breakfast, speakers and lunch.

This program is open to all ladies and friends!

Our first speaker for the morning will be Lisa Eisenbach, founder and director of Nightingale's Harvest. They are located at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Alexis Road in Toledo and they provide nutritional food, hygiene products and resources to aid families experiencing cancer through northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

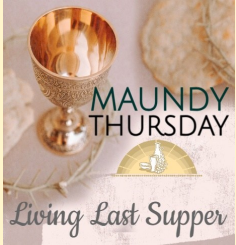
Our second speaker will be Kelly Morse. Kelly is a certified genetic counselor with ProMedica Cancer Institute. She will speak on the advantages of getting genetic counseling and guide you through the appointment process.

We are asking you bring a non perishable food item, paper product or personal hygiene item for Nightingale's Harvest.

Please register by using the form provided and mailing them to Margaret Berger PO Box 143 Williston, OH 43468. Checks may be made out to St. John WELCA.



Holy Week at St. John



Maundy Thursday Service
April 17th 7 PM



Good Friday Service
April 18th 7 PM

Saturday April 19th



Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday April 19th at 10:30 AM (note the new time!)
(we are taking donations of candy to fill the Easter Eggs!
Please drop your in the box near the office.)
Catechism students please arrive by 9:30 AM to help!



Holy Saturday
Worship with Holy Communion 5 PM

Easter Sunday April 20th



Easter Breakfast
8:30-9:30 AM
Scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, assorted sweet rolls, coffee,
tea, milk or juice.



Easter Sunday with Holy Communion
Worship at 9:45



Easter
Worship
at
St. John

Join us for Easter worship as
we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Easter Saturday Worship with
Holy Communion
Saturday April 19th at 5 PM

Easter Sunday Worship with
Holy Communion
Sunday April 20th at 9:45 PM

All are welcome!

News around St. John!

April
6th

Join us for SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We host Sunday School for the **WHOLE FAMILY**
on the 1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 AM

Come join us and enjoy music, bible stories, crafts and videos!
It is fun and learning for everyone! See you on April 6th!



McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship at the Genoa McDonald's on Wednesdays. We will gather starting at 7:00 AM and if you are available, we would like to invite you to stop by and have breakfast with your St. John friends.



The "Blanket Ladies" gather to make quilts on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join! The coffee will be on! No experience is needed. You just have to know how to tie a knot.

Bed sheets (Queen size) are needed for quilt backings. Donations may be left in the box outside the church office.



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 Margaret Berger (419 340-2150), Pastor O'Brien (cell phone 419-378-1112) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain.



Will you STEP UP and Head "True North" with us??

Volunteers & Leader needed for VBS

St. John Vacation Bible School

will be held in June. We need a leader to head up VBS and we need adults and kids 6th grade and older to lead groups, run crafts, music, snacks, and games, & help with opening and closing.

or Deanna Neuman at dneuman2@stjohnwilliston.org or Carol Jensen at cjensen@amplex.net to help.

Service hours can be earned!



Stewardship



Online Giving Easy & Secure Available Now

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.

Faithfulness Prayer



Dear God, we ask for your help to be faithful. Guide us to keep our promises, to be honest, and to care for others. Help us stand strong when things are tough. Keep us away from things that can hurt us. Remind us always of your love and goodness. As we try to do the right thing, let us feel your kindness and love in our hearts. Thank you for always being there for us. Amen.



The Stewardship of Listening

WHAT GREAT LISTENERS ACTUALLY DO
JACK ZENGER, JOSEPH FOLKMAN

1 ASK QUESTIONS THAT PROMOTE DISCOVERY and INSIGHT

TWO WAY DIALOG → CONSTRUCTIVE

2 INTERACTIONS THAT BUILD SELF ESTEEM

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO OPENLY DISCUSS ISSUES/DIFFERENCES

3 A CO-OPERATIVE CONVERSATION

FEEDBACK FLOWS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS

CHALLENGE/DISAGREE WITHOUT MAKING OTHER PERSON DEFENSIVE

4 MAKE SUGGESTIONS SKILLFULLY

THAT OPEN UP ALTERNATIVE PATHS

GOOD LISTENER IS NOT A SPONGE THAT ABSORBS BUT A TRAMPOLINE TO BOUNCE IDEAS OFF!

LEVELS OF LISTENING

- 1 CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT TO DISCUSS
- 2 CLEAR AWAY DISTRACTIONS AND MAKE EYE CONTACT
- 3 UNDERSTAND THE SUBSTANCE ASK QUESTIONS, CONFIRM
- 4 OBSERVE NON-VERBAL CLUES
↳ 80% OF COMMUNICATION
- 5 UNDERSTAND EMOTIONS & FEELINGS ABOUT TOPIC
↳ EMPATHIZE
- 6 HELP OTHER PERSON TO SEE ISSUE IN DIFFERENT LIGHT

Sketchnote by: Tanmay Vora | @tnvora | QAspire.com

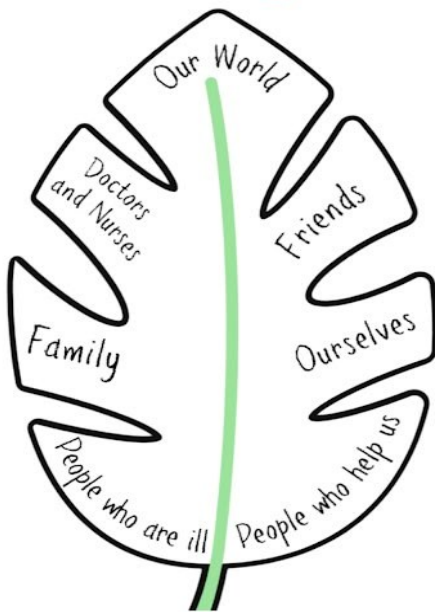
St John Council voted to support a neighboring ministry with our Lenten offerings. Our 2025 Lenten Offerings will benefit **The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston Zion UMC** which is open on the 2nd Weds. of each month from **5 to 7 PM**. It is a free choice food pantry serving **all** of Ottawa County. Each month, the LIGHT Pantry serves a free home-cooked to 20 to 30 families meal and our friendly volunteers help each family "shop" in the pantry which is set up like a small grocery store with food, frozen meat, milk, bread, eggs, hygiene items, paper products and more! (Stop in and check it out!) This summer, the LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry will be on the move! Through continued support from St. John, community churches and a grant from the United Methodist Church, the LIGHT Pantry will be utilizing a new mobile food pantry trailer to serve those neighbors without transportation in the underserved areas of the county! Watch for it! Want to hear more? Call or see LisaAnne in the St. John church office or call 419-250-1188 or email ellistonzionpastor@gmail.com P.S...Thank you!!



St. John Kid's



Palm Sunday Palm Leaf Prayers



- Colour your Palm Leaf. You could pray for each section as you colour.
- Cut out your leaf & stick it onto a door
- Every day as you pass your leaf pray for one section

Thank You God that you always listen to our prayers. Sometimes we don't always know what is ahead of us, but like Jesus journeying through Jerusalem, may we always know you are with us. Amen

© sunhatsandwellieboots.com



April 19th 10:30 am
Treats, prizes, fun!

FILL IN THE SCRIPTURE:

FOR GOD SO _____ THE _____, THAT HE
GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN _____, THAT
WHOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT

JOHN 3:16. KJV

I LOVE EASTER SUNDAY BECAUSE...

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS:

BOTM _____
SOCRSR _____
USEJS _____
ENSOT _____
ESIRN _____



ISPY...

HOW MANY
EASTER EGGS
CAN YOU
FIND?

I LOVE EASTER SUNDAY BECAUSE...

HE IS RISEN!

HELP THE DISCIPLES
FIND THE RISEN
MESSIAH!



© CRI CHURCHART.COM

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19th

10:30 AM

Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Meet us at 10:30 AM for fun and prizes.

(Volunteers, please come early to help!)

We also need donations of candy to stuff the eggs.

Easter Breakfast

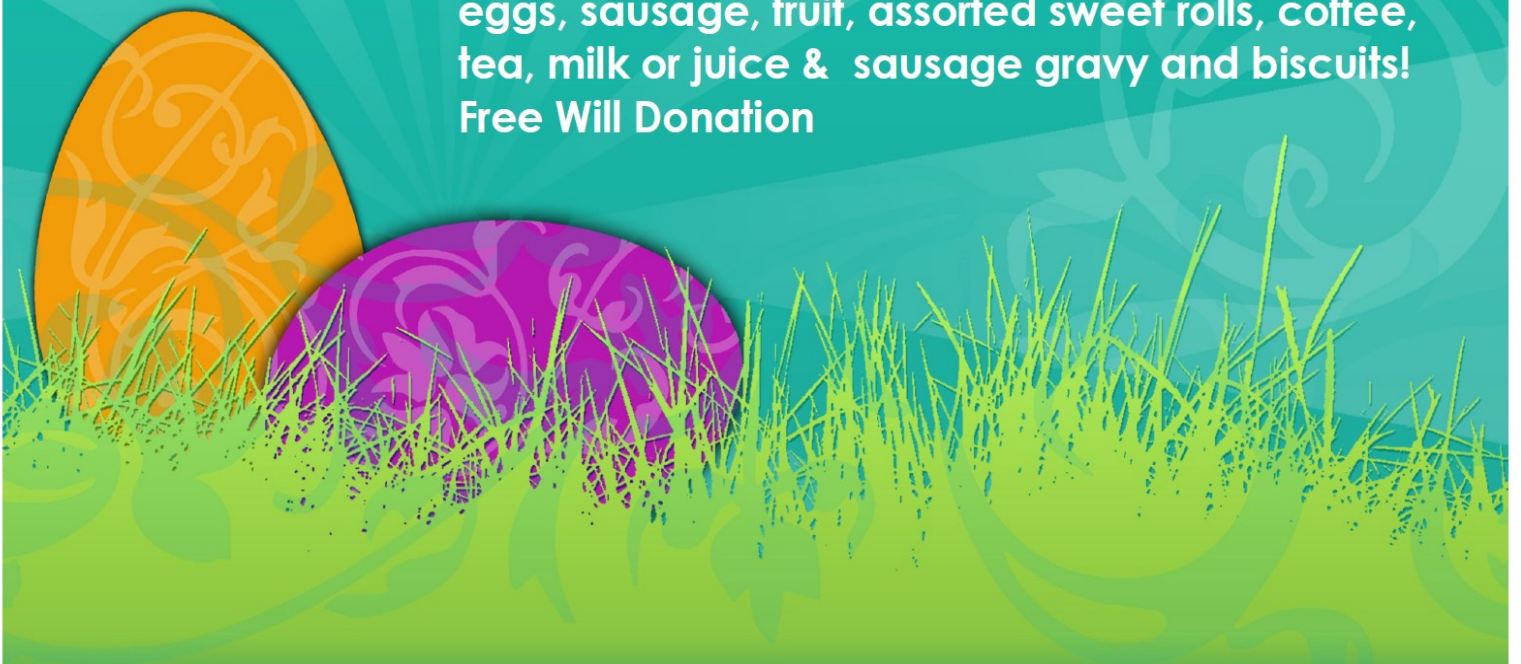
Sunday, April 20th

8:30 AM—9:30 AM

Come as we gather on Easter Morning for breakfast and fellowship before worship. Menu: Scrambled

eggs, sausage, fruit, assorted sweet rolls, coffee, tea, milk or juice & sausage gravy and biscuits!

Free Will Donation





North Central Conference-Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Rogation Days 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Rogation Days are quickly approaching. Rogation comes from the Latin "rogare" which means to beseech or to ask. On the festival of the Ascension (Christ ascending/returning to heaven) we beseech God's blessing for the seed, for the soil, for those who labor in the fields and for all of God's creation.

Rogation Days is an ancient church blessing of farmers, farms, farm animals, and farm equipment, around the time of Ascension Day (40 days after Easter). Starting in Europe during the time of the Reformation, church leaders would bless the ground, and animals that would provide the food at the fall harvest. Many of our congregations celebrate harvest days in the fall; we also do the same at the beginning of the cycle of planting, growing, and feeding what will produce that harvest in the fall.

We have heard from one church member, "My grandfather never planted a seed until after Ascension Day." This idea certainly comes from the European tradition of Rogation Days. While times have changed and planting is dictated by different metrics, receiving the gift of God's blessing, for the creation of food for God's people, is a metric that is timeless. The pastors of the North Central Conference (Wood and Ottawa Counties) would like to join together to present our second annual Rogation Days and Ascension Day festival.

The dates for the rogation blessings will be May 27 and 28. A Rogation Day blessing has been made available to all pastoral leaders in the conference. If you would like to receive a blessing of fields, gardens, livestock, and/or equipment, contact your pastor or SAM. If your congregation's pastoral leader is not available for a blessing, contact our Conference Dean, Pastor Shawn O'Brien (pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org or call/text 419-378-1112) and he will coordinate with an area pastor to schedule a blessing.

Thursday May 29, is Ascension Day. The entire North Central Conference is invited to a special dinner and worship service at Solomon Lutheran church in Woodville, Ohio. **Worship will begin at 6:00p with dinner following (7:00p-ish).** Please set some time away from your work to join us for a time of blessing and renewal. We are asking congregations to sign people up locally and report expected attendance to Solomon Lutheran Church (email: srewoldt@solomon.pvt.k12.oh.us or call the church office at 419-849-3600) by May 19.

You can find Rogation Days publicity materials at <https://stjohnwilliston.org/activities/rogation-days.html>

Yours in Christ, Co-chairs of the Festival,
Pastor Alan Brown
Solomon Lutheran Church and School
Pastor Bob Noble
Calvary and Christ Lutheran



2025

Year of Listening



"Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." Isaiah 55:3a

April 2025

Psalm 95: 1-7

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Week 1

"He's got the whole world in His hands..."

Throughout your week, take notice of the way the hands around you care for and take care of others. Take a moment to pray prayers of blessing for each person.

Week 2

"He's got you and me, sister, in His hands..."

It can be powerful to remind each other of God's care for us at times we may struggle to feel His hands. Who in your life might need a reminder in these days? Send a note, call or visit.

Week 3

"He's got the wind and the rain, in His hands..."

As April showers and storms are upon us, how might you use this song as a meditation as the storms roll in? When you notice the weather changing, out the window or in life, sing with gusto.

Week 4

"He's got everybody here, in his hands..."

As you encounter busy, people-filled places this week, remind yourself that each person is indeed in the hands of God. Make eye contact and smile at those you encounter as a blessing.

More about Pastor Steve

Meet Pastor Steve!

Leader of Simply Worship at Epiphany, Toledo



Simply Worship is a unique worship service offered weekly at Epiphany Lutheran Church that is designed specifically to enhance participation for people with developmental disabilities. The songs are simple expressions of faith, simple language is used throughout and the message is designed to address the experiences of those who live in group homes and participate in activities in the community. People of all abilities are invited to light candles, welcome visitors and share their talents in this community of faith. One of the favorite songs of the gathered is the African-American spiritual, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. Pastor Steve notes, "Especially in the context of anyone who may be marginalized, in this case the developmentally disabled, this song is a wonderful reminder that we all share a common source, God."

Listen to the the folks at Simply Worship sing
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands! →



From the Bishop....

At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages His followers to be both hearers and doers of the word (Matthew 7:24-27).

Jesus calls us to listen and to act.

Have you ever considered the call of Jesus to listen as a Lenten discipline? During this Year of Listening, I encourage you to seek out intentional ways to listen to God, to listen to others, and to listen to your community.

Listening to God through Scripture, prayer, and silence helps us to connect with the ways and the will of the Living God. Listening to God helps us to hear what is right and true, which is a stark contrast to so much of what we hear on social media, radio talk shows, and from our political leaders.

Listening to others through study and deliberation helps us to connect with the people God has placed in our lives. The journey of faith (including the discipline of Lent) is not a solo act, but a corporate opportunity. Please take some time during this Lenten season to engage in Bible study or participate in a prayer group to simply listen to the hopes and fears of those who are a part of your parish. Are there ways that you might work together to bring the tangible love of God to your faith community? I think of the two women who started a widow's group in our parish to help those who were grieving to experience love and support. It is in these corporate

contemplative and quiet moments that we hear the voice of God speak through those who are near to us. Listening to the community through service and generosity helps us to connect with our neighbors.

We are called by Jesus to love God and to love our neighbor. And we love best by listening, and especially listening to those who are frightened, anxious, and suffering. How might we seek tangible ways to bring healing and hope to those who are vulnerable and in need? Many of our parishes offer food pantries, community meals, 12-step groups, and opportunities to learn the English language. How might you find a way to listen, to love, and to walk with those in need in our communities?

2025 is the year of Listening in the Northwestern Ohio Synod. How might listening serve as a Lenten discipline for you and your community?

Our team has prepared for you an entire catalog of 2025 Year of Listening Resources that we hope will accompany you in individual and parish exploration of this year of listening.

Visit www.nwos-elca.org for more details.

You're Invited

Spring Meeting

PORTAGE VALLEY FEDERATION OF LUTHERAN MEN & PASTORS

APRIL 12 2025

SATURDAY 9:30 AM

GENESIS COMMUNITY CENTER
4400 Woodville Rd.
Northwood, OH 43469

"The History of Hymns" by Dave Baker
Join us in singing hymns & learning their history.

If you cannot attend the meeting and wish to contribute to our project, please mail your contribution to:
Ralph W Aufdenkamp, Treasurer
8369 Kramer Rd
Bowling Green, OH 43402

welcome Spring



Emmanuel Lutheran Center Day Program Open House

Sponsored by Luther Home of Mercy
Friday, April 4, 2025 2PM to 4 PM
3557 US Highway 20, Lindsay Ohio
(Rt 20 east of Rt 590)

Emmanuel Lutheran features beautiful outdoor areas for activities and relaxation. Inside you'll find spaces for activities, quiet time, worship, arts and crafts, job skills and more. Luther Home of Mercy serves individuals of all abilities at day programs in Sandusky, Ottawa, Wood & Lucas counties. Programs focus on enrichment, work, socialization and community integration that is tailored to each individual's goals.

For more information on day program services, please contact Amanda at 419-704-1375.



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a Non-Profit organization which builds and delivers twin size beds for kids ages 3-17 of families who otherwise do not have a bed to sleep in. Our local Oak Harbor chapter serves kids who attend school in all of Ottawa County.

We receive our funds from our community and use it to help the youth of our community. 90% of our monetary and 100% of our in-kind donations stay locally in Ottawa County. Bed frames, bedding, pillows, mattresses, are all provided from the support of our community.

If you or someone you know is in need of a bed, or would like to help, please reach out to us.

Apply for a bed

Contact for more info



shpbeds.org/

Email: jim.berlin@shpbeds.org
Facebook: @SHPOAKHARBOR
Phone: 844-432-2337 EXT 5921

Website:

SHPBEDS.ORG/CHAPTER/OH-OAK-HARBOR

HOW IT WORKS



You are cordially invited

3rd Annual Ottawa County Women of Faith Fellowship Brunch

Saturday May 10, 2025 * 10:00 AM

Elliston Zion United Methodist Church
18045 W. William St. (off Elliston Trowbridge Rd.)
Graytown, OH

Join your area sisters-in-Christ for a delicious homemade brunch menu with special music by Acoustical Guitarist/Vocalist Bret Guthrie followed by faith-filled testimonies and information from All In Community—a ministry of the United Methodist Church connecting former inmates to the community through the compassion of Christ.

Please make your reservation by April 30th
Suggested donations: \$10 per person/ \$50 table of 6
RSVP via text/email/in person
Text: Pastor LisaAnne at 419-250-1188
email ellistonzionpastor@gmail.com
Donations accepted at the door.
All are welcome. Invite a friend!



St John Council Meeting Held 3/20/2025

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Dan Kessler, Diana Lambert, Cheryl Berger, Dave Neuman, Deanna Neuman, Rick Buhrow, Kellie Ulrich, Robin Perkins, John Mazur, and Jennifer Nelson

Meeting Opened: At 7:02 pm, by Dave Neuman

Devotions led by Pastor: 63rd Psalm

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2025 was made by Deanna Neuman and 2nd by Cheryl Berger. Motion passed. Motion to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes corrected as listed was made by Dave Neuman. 2nd by Jennifer Nelson- motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for February 2025-101.8 compared to February 2024-108.5. Online average for February 2025- 105.5 compared to February 2024-65.5. **Numbers-**12 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 4 committee/group meetings 4 community/youth/fellowship events.6 professional/clergy activities. **Mid-week Lent-**Our theme for midweek Lenten worship this year is listening. Worship is on Wednesdays at 11:00 with lunch following. There are three remaining March 26, April 2nd and April 9. If you are not available in the morning, worship at St. Peter, Blackberry is at 7:00 pm and Calvary, Northwood has "dinner" church at 6:30 pm. **Maundy Thursday-**Mandy Thursday is the same day as our next Council meeting. Therefore, we will meet at 7:00 pm for worship and our April meeting will immediately follow. **Holy Week Worship-**Mandy Thursday, (4/17) and Good Friday (4/18) will be at 7:00 pm. Easter worship on Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 9:45 am. **Confirmation-**Confirmation will be on Saturday, May 17 this year at 5:00 pm.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: Income: We are 116% of our monthly budget and 101% of our year-to-date budget.. Expenses: We are 94% of the monthly budget and 95% of the year-to-date budget. Our Video Tech Committee has requested the purchase of 3 new computers for \$4100. Please submit any scholarship applications by the end of March. The Future Development Fund had \$55,000 that was moved to Genoa Financial and put into a 12-month CD Certificate to earn more interest. Endowment Fund had \$5900 earned interest that needs to be used for some type of project of purchase.

Christian Community Life: We served approximately 80 people at the Pancake Supper. A Big Thanks to all the helpers and the chefs! We brought in \$422 for our Blessing Box.. Mother's ideas were discussed. Remember March 22 is Meijer's Double Day for the Genoa Food

Pantry. No Food Pantry report because their meeting was the same day as our Pancake Supper.

Evangelism: The Easter basket for the East Egg Hunt will be completed at April's committee night and will be placed in the Sunday school room until the Easter Egg Hunt.. The ad in the Comet Communicator has been sent to the school are waiting approval of the proof.

Parish Education: Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 at 10:30. We will have a goodie bag for each child. We are looking for candy donations. We are asking the Catechism students to help at 9:30 that morning. Tammy Mazur is coordinating the Easter Breakfast. Easter Offering will go to the Blessing Box. We are going to try a different Sunday School format next year. We will have weekly classes starting September 7 from 9:00- 9:30 am. Melissa Lammers, Beckie Goldstein and Diana Lambert will organize with assistance from the Parish Ed members. We will be including Bible stories, songs, crafts, puppets and kids bells as some of the activities. VBS kit has already come in. We are looking for someone to lead this year's VBS week and then we can set the dates

Worship Life: We reviewed the Altar Linens schedule for Holy week, there will be several changes and after Maundy Thursday service, the altar will be stripped. On April 9, we will share responsibility of the Lenten luncheon with Parish Ed. Plans are being made and volunteers to help are in place to help serve. Thank you, Margaret, Carol J, and Diana.. We still need 4 more volunteers to help play the part of a disciple for the Living Last supper on Maundy Thursday. Wednesday Lent leaders are still needed for April 2 and 9. There was a problem with no sound on March 12th, hopefully this is resolved. On Palm Sunday, ushers will hand out palms. We will also need 3 to4 lectors/readers on Palm Sunday. Tracy Brown will help with arranging Easter flowers, thank you! Searching for a worship leader for May 3 and 4th. We may be having recorded music on this Sunday as well. Sharing of peace during service was discussed for after the cold and flu season. We want all to know that hands free is perfectly acceptable.

Property: Painted the west side stairwell in the basement. **Put in a new faucet in the kitchen**

Old Business: Reminder of money needed from Council Members for the Lenten lunch on April 2nd. Please give to John Mazur for the pizza.

New Business: The Courtyard Renovation Committee has been formed and will contact those interested for the first meeting day and time. We are looking into a Mud Hens game day for the church members to attend. More details to come with dates and cost for the tickets. Deanna Neuman made a motion to adjourn. John Mazur 2nd. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 7:35 pm. Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert,



Worship Assistants

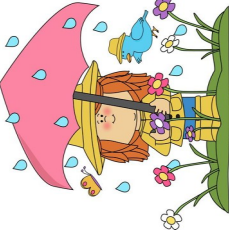
Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45am
Ushers	Ushers
5- Ron Gerkenseyer	6- The Titgemeyers
12- Donnelly Family	13-Diana Lambert
19-Buhrow Family	20- Jill Kao
26-Jack Mathews	27- Jim Vogelbacher
Lectors	Lectors
5- Nancy Strohscher	6-Jill Kao
12-Sandy Toth	13-Cebie Titgemeyer
19- Amy Schloegl	20-Kellie Ulrich
26-Beverly Harder	27-Melissa Lammers
Acolytes	Acolytes
5- Liam D.	6-Lauren H.
12-Nolan D.	13-Mila M.
19-Jonah D.	20-Makenna C.
26-Trenton K.	27- Rylie C.
Communion	Communion
5-Nancy Strohscher	6-Robin Perkins
12-Ron Gerkenmeyer	13-Pam LaRue
19-Carol Vargo	20-Dave Neuman
26-Al & Traci Brown	27- Margaret Berger

Thank you for serving in worship this week!!




Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:45 am
Ushers	Ushers
3- Ron Gerkenmeyer	4-Titgemeyer's
10-Donnelly Family	11-Diana Lambert
17-Buhrow Family	18-Jim Vogelbacher
24-Jack Mathews	25-Titgemeyer's
31- Ron Gerkenmeyer	
Lectors	Lectors
3-Jonah D.	4-Tim Titgemeyer
10-Nancy Strohscher	11-Deanna Neuman
17-Confirmands	18-Jerry Goldstein
24-Tracy Orians	25-Melissa Lammers
31-Beverly Harder	
Acolytes	Acolytes
3-Jacob H.	4-Rylan S.
10- Liam	11-Lauren
17-Comfirmands	18-Makenna
24-Nolan	25-Rylie
31-Trenton	
Communion	Communion
3-Nancy Strohscher	4-Cebie Titgemeyer
10-JoElaine Schimming	11-Kellie Ulrich
17-Confirmands	18-Roland Sandrock
24-Carol Vargo	25-Diana Lambert
31-Al & Traci Brown	



APRIL



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
30	8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	31	 Scholarship Application Deadline	1	9:00am Blankets 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2	  Easter Flower Order Deadline! 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 11:00am -1:00pm Lenten Worship and Lunch 6:30pm -8:30pm Scout Committee Meeting (B)	3		4	Office closed	5	5:00pm Contemporary Worship
6	8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	7	Faith Practice Reading - Job 35 7:00pm -8:00pm Scout Committee Meeting (B) 	8	Esther Circle 2 pm Rachel Circle 7 PM 9:00am Blankets 	9	  7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 11:00am -1:00pm Lenten Worship and Lunch	10	 Committee Night 7 PM	11	NATIONAL PET DAY 	12	5:00pm Contemporary Worship
13	 Livestock Unlimited 4-H 3 PM West End Bunch 4-H 2 PM 8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 4:00pm -6:00pm CubScout Den Meeting (B) 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts-Court of Honor	14	Faith Practice Reading - Job 36	15	9:00am Blankets	16	 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	17	 Council Meeting 8 PM Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM	18	 Office closed 7:00pm -8:00pm Good Friday Service 7 PM	19	 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 AM 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
20	 Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	21	Faith Practice Reading - Job 37 Forerunner deadline 9 AM 	22	9:00am Blankets 	23	 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	24		25	Office closed	26	5:00pm Contemporary Worship 
27	8:30am -9:30am Confirmation Class 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	28	Faith Practice Reading - Job 38	29	9:00am Blankets	30	 7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds	1	6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)	2	Office closed 7:00am -7:00pm Assembly Set Up	3	WELCA Spring Assembly AM 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Volume 723 Issue 347

April 2025



*Joy Comes in the Morning;
Join us this Easter!*

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorbrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office Hours

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

***Visit us/worship live on**

Facebook

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday School for the whole family

8:30 AM 1st Sunday of the month.

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM

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