



June 2026  
Volume 0735 Issue 361

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**Ask the Pastor**

**“What does it mean that we are supposed to ‘hate our life’ to have eternal life?”**

*Note, this is a reference to John 12:25 – “Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”*

Have you ever read a passage of scripture and found yourself questioning its meaning? It's not uncommon, especially when encountering verses like this one from John, where Jesus talks about hating one's life. At first glance, it seems contradictory to the message of love and compassion that Jesus embodies.

In such cases, I've found it helps to look beyond a literal/surface reading for a deeper understanding. Jesus often used extreme language to emphasize a point, and in this context, "hate" isn't about self-loathing but about prioritization. It's about putting God first above all else, even one's own desires and comforts.

With this hyperbole, Jesus is urging us to prioritize our lives, focusing on eternal values rather than temporary pleasures. He's not suggesting we neglect ourselves or harbor self-hatred; as much as issuing a call to align our priorities with God's kingdom. When we prioritize God, everything else falls into place. Loving God above all else doesn't diminish our worth or value; rather, it enhances it, as we recognize our place in God's plan. It's about living a life of love, both for God and for others.

So, no, we don't have to hate ourselves to get into heaven. That's not how it works and that's not what Jesus was talking about. Jesus isn't promoting self-hatred but urging us to prioritize God's love. By putting God first, we discover a life worth living – a life rooted in love, purpose, and eternal significance.

And... the next time you encounter a challenging scripture passage, take a moment to delve deeper. Digging below the literal reading to understand the context and even referencing a commentary or Bible dictionary to get at the original language can reveal scripture that is more nuanced and more beautiful than we originally suspected.

*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 & Gifts to St. John

# Grateful & Blessed

## In Memory of Robert Joehlin

JoElaine Schimming  
Mr & Mrs Stanley Joehlin

## In Memory of Elaine Gruetter

Fred and Melissa Lammers  
Margaret Berger  
Al & Traci Brown

## In Memory of Gene Bihn

Deb & Jerry Bihn  
Jane Phillips  
Carol Vargo  
Janice Sheahan  
Dennis & Rosemarie Dickenson  
Linda Schlievert  
John & Tammy Mazur  
Bob & Diana Kapp  
Carole Beamer  
Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock  
Doris Titgemeyer  
Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer  
John and Helen Meyer  
Kent Delventhal & Evie Zimmerman  
Merle & Shirley Berger  
Jonathan & Emily Milbrodt  
William & Mary Spencer  
Larry & Nancy Strohscher  
Dale & Tamera Busdecker  
Al & Traci Brown  
Roland & Janice Sandrock  
JoElaine Schimming  
Margaret Berger  
John, Tammy & Anna Mazur  
Karl Bihn & Mary Jo Wagner  
Steve and Teresa Fillmore

\*thru May 22. Online memorials and gifts will be listed in the July Forerunner.

## St. John Family,

My family and I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and support during Gene's illness and when he passed on. Special thanks to Pastor for his visits and communion for both of us. Thanks also to LisaAnne for all her hard work in getting things together for the service, John Mazur for doing the sound, Becky Goldstein and Carol Vargo and the Esther Circle for all they did for the funeral & luncheon. I'm so blessed to be a member of St. John. Grace and Peace,  
**Amy Bihn & family**

## St. John Family,

We would like to thank everyone who thought of Merle during his recent hospitalization. Your prayers, phone calls and Pastor's visits meant so much. God continues to watch over him as he heals. Thank you and bless you all.  
**Merle and Shirley Berger**

## Thank You, St. John

Thank you for your donation to our Food Pantry. Your support is greatly appreciated. Many Blessings!  
**Richard Hozak**  
**Jerusalem Twp. Food Pantry**



## In Loving Memory of Eugene "Gene" Bihn

Eugene Anthony Bihn age 77 of Genoa passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 1, 2026. Eugene was born to Lawrence and Olive (Busson) Bihn on May 27, 1948 in Toledo, Ohio. He was a 1966 graduate of Lake High School and earned his Associates Degree from Owens Community College after serving our country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. During the war, Eugene served as a combat medic with the 82nd Airborne and earned 2 Bronze Stars.

After college, he worked as a line worker for the phone company until his retirement. He served as Union Steward for the IBEW #986.

Eugene was an active member of St. John Lutheran Church in Williston where he was a member of the church choir. Eugene is a past Post Commander of the VFW Post #7510 in Genoa, Ohio, Cub Scout Master for Pack 310 and Scout Leader for Pack 342, and a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Eugene is survived by his loving wife Amy (Townsend); children Benjamin (Liza) Bihn and Megan Bihn; siblings Larry Bihn, Ann Keeler, Judy Bihn, Rita Bates; best friend Bill Wolf; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, twin brother Jim; brothers Bob, Andy, Milo, Jerry, Ray; sisters Carolyn Bosse and Norma Cuprack.

Services were held at St. John. Memorials may be directed to St. John or Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

**The Forerunner**  
is published monthly  
by St. John Lutheran Church  
21140 W. Toledo Street  
Williston, Ohio  
Corner of Main and Toledo Street

Telephone: 419-836-5514  
e-mail:  
office@stjohnwilliston.org  
stjohnwilliston.org

**Pastor Shawn O'Brien**  
**Home Telephone:**  
**419-378-1112**

pastorobrien  
@stjohnwilliston.org

**Saturday Worship**  
**at 5:00 PM**

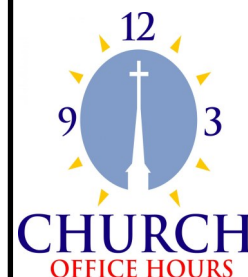
**Sunday Worship**  
**9:00 AM beginning June 7th**

**Sunday School for kids**  
**Sept thru May only- 9 AM**

**Deadline for the**  
**July 2026 newsletter is**  
**Monday, June 22nd at 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."**



**LisaAnne Gregg**  
**Office Admin.**  
9am—3pm  
M-T-W  
Thurs. hours  
may vary  
Office closed  
on Friday<sub>2</sub>

## Circle and Board Meetings– June 2026

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, June 2 at 12:00 PM  
Kitchen Cleaning!

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study: Group discussion



## WELCA Fellowship Dinner

WELCA will be hosting a Special dinner at St. John in the church basement on Tues. July 7th at 5:30 PM.

All ladies of the congregation are warmly invited to join us for a time of fun, food, laughter and fellowship. The meal will be catered by Chef Butch's Country Catering. (different from last year) The menu will include fried chicken, swiss steak, red skin potatoes, glazed carrots, cole slaw and delicious Costco cake for dessert.

The cost is \$5 per person for church members/\$ 16.50 for non members- payable in advance.

We encourage every woman of our church to join us....whether you're faithfully tying blankets each week, singing in one of our choirs, serving as organist, baking for sales or events, filling the Blessing Box, serving as an usher, a lector, serving communion, teaching Sunday School, delivering altar flowers, volunteering for Vacation Bible School or doing other chores around the church in service to our Lord,.....OR faithfully worshipping our Lord from your pew on Sat. or Sun.....YOU are deeply appreciated. Every act of service-large or small-helps to strengthen our church family and builds God's kingdom. Each of you bring unique gifts, caring hearts and faithful dedication to the life of our congregation. Please come and allow us the joy of celebrating and thanking you for all you do.

Please call/contact Diane Gerkenmeyer (419-836-7052) or Margaret Berger (419-836-7384) to reserve a spot and to be included in this evening of enjoyment and friendship.

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, June 28th.

HAPPY  
Anniversary  
FROM YOUR  
CHURCH FAMILY

The 70th Wedding Anniversary of Lowell and Diane Hartman is June 29, 2026. We would like to bless them with a "Card Shower".

Please send a card with a brief memory of your special times together. Please send cards to Lowell and Diane Hartman, P. O. Box 51, Williston, OH 43468. Thank you!

## THANK YOU!



Nightingales Harvest wishes to acknowledge your coordination of food and toiletries we received on May 12th. Thank you for bringing different churches together in awareness of our goals!

Rest assured, your support is appreciated and what an impact you are making in the lives of cancer patients and their families!  
May God Bless one and all,



## Our Blessing Box can always use your help!

Needed: Spaghetti Sauce (cans) Peanut Butter, Hamburger Helper, Canned Meat, Rice A Roni/side dishes, Applesauce- cups, Cereal (small boxes) Fruit cups, soup, small snacks, canned pastas, canned fruits and veggies. (*no glass, medicine or expired food, please*). There is a donation box near the office. Thank You for caring and for helping

*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 (cell phone 419-378-1112), Margaret Berger (419-340-2150) or the church office (419-836-5514) who will begin the prayer chain. Prayers are sent out by phone message and by email. Please keep your message to the minimum to avoid any errors in passing it on. *Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to this wonderful ministry!*



**Autumn Elizabeth Jeffers** graduated from University of Toledo, Magna Cum Laude in Early Childhood Education . She is the daughter of Brian Jeffers and Granddaughter of Karen Jeffers. Congratulations, Autumn!



**Lucas Titgemeyer**, son of Tim and Cebie Titgemeyer, graduated from Clay High School where he excelled in academics, played hockey and golf and lacrosse and participated in numerous activities.

Lucas is heading to Bowling Green State University to major in Finance.



**Benjamin Sommers, III**, son of Ben and Kimberly Sommers, graduated from Genoa High School where he excelled in academics, participated in cross-country and track and was president of the National Honor Society. He was also in the marching band and pep band and received his Eagle Scout award from Boy Scouts of America. Ben is heading to Ohio Northern University where he will major in Biology with a concentration in pre-dentistry.



**Kennedy Donnelly**, daughter of Mike and Tracy Donnelly, graduated from St. Ursula Academy where she excelled in academics. She also participated in Track and Field, French Club, Philosophy Club and was Team Captain of her Golf Team and Track Team. She also won Academic All-Ohio and All-American Awards. Kennedy will attend The University of New Hampshire with a major in Business Administration.



**Lauren LaRue** graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. While at UA, Lauren participated in Track & Field and Cross Country, she was a member of the nationally award winning- Geo-Challenge team, the ASCE Eastern Great Lakes Student Symposium and several other activities. She is the daughter of Brad and Pam LaRue and graduated from Clay High School.



### AED and CPR Training Coming Soon!

St. John is working to replace our AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) machine. We thought it would be good to have multiple people trained on how to properly use it, and we discovered that is now part of the CPR training course. If you are interested in participating in such a course, please sign up outside Pastor O'Brien's office door.

Exact times and dates are TBD.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**OHIO SUMMER YOUTH RETREAT**

**CHOOSE LOVE**  
2026  
1 JOHN 4:19  
HOPEWOOD PINES

**Ohio Summer 2026 YOUTH RETREAT**

**JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**FOR YOUTH ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**HopeWood Outdoors** Northeastern Ohio Synod  
Northwestern Ohio Synod  
Southern Ohio Synod

## Assisting Opportunities



## IN WORSHIP

**We are in need of worship assistants!**

**Would you like to serve at St. John?**

Lector  
(read the scripture)

Communion Server  
(assist Pastor serve and set up communion)

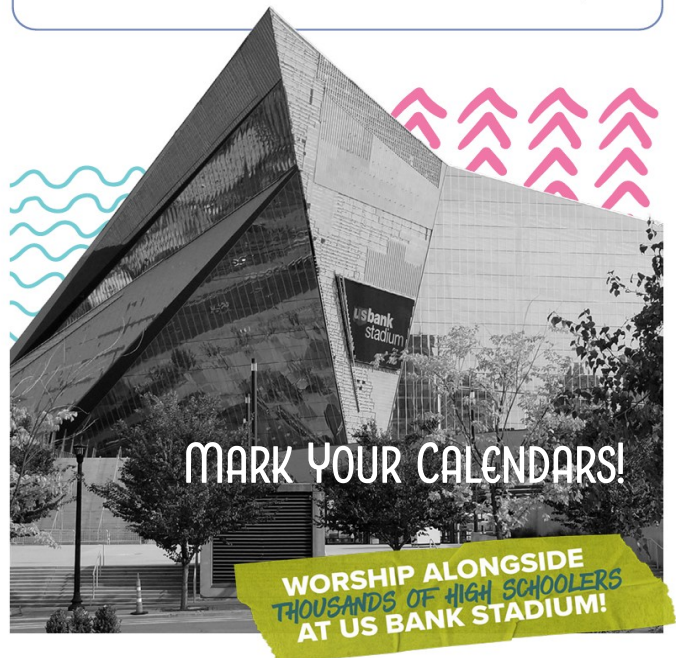
Usher  
(unlock doors, greet people, pass out bulletins)

**Training is available!** Simply let Pastor O'Brien or the office know you would like to be added to our rotating lists.

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

### 2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING Minneapolis, MN

<i>MYLE</i>	<i>THE TABLE</i>	<i>YOUNG ADULT</i>
Multicultural Youth Leadership Event June 26 -28	Pre-Event for Youth with Disabilities June 26 -28	ELCA Young Adult Gathering June 28 - July 2



# Around the Community



## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

EACH CHILD RECEIVES A GRAB-AND-GO BAG CONTAINING 7 BREAKFASTS, 7 LUNCHES, AND A GALLON OF MILK.



### Tuesdays

St. John's Rocky Ridge  
11:30-1:30  
Materion Campground  
3:00 -3:45  
St. John's Rocky Ridge  
4:00-6:00

### Wednesdays

Lemoyne Baptist Church- Genoa  
12-1:30  
Grace Brethren Chapel-  
Gibsonburg  
2:30 - 3:30  
Mother of Sorrows Catholic  
Church - Put-in-Bay  
4:00 - 5:00

### Thursdays

Port Clinton Police Department  
11:30-12:30  
Grace Lutheran Church-Castalia  
2:00-3:00  
The Chapel-Port Clinton  
3:45- 4:15  
Family Advocacy Center-Port Clinton  
5:00-6:00

### Registration

Visit our website to register for meals pick-up:

[www.ocfamilyadvocacy.org/summer-lunch](http://www.ocfamilyadvocacy.org/summer-lunch)

Or scan the QR code below.



#### QUESTIONS

(419) 301-0225

#### ELIGIBILITY

Any child ages 1 to 18,  
no residency restrictions

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER, EMPLOYER,  
AND LENDER.



## 2026 ST. BONIFACE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JUNE 7  
12 PM - 4 PM

### \$15 CHICKEN DINNERS:

half chicken, baked beans, baked potato, roll, cookie  
BIKE RAFFLE: \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20

**DINNER & BIKE RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

Purchase after mass on 5/23, 5/24, 5/30, & 5/31

Or by calling the school office at (419) 898-1340.

FREE BOUNCE HOUSE • KONA ICE TRUCK • CONCESSIONS  
ENDLESS GAMES FOR \$10 • BAKE SALE • FUN FOR ALL!



dinner tickets!



"BUILD A BIGGER TENT"  
-ISAIAH 54:1



## TOLEDO MUD HENS

Senior Day

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

**\$25 PER PERSON**

### YOUR DAY INCLUDES:

- Continental Breakfast at your senior center 1 hour before departure time. *PIB - will receive a breakfast bag at pick up at the docks.*
- Game Time: 12:00 PM
- Game Ticket
- Hot Dog Lunch
- Transportation from your senior center to the game & back



A great day of baseball & community!

Sign up at your senior center or at the Senior Resources Main Office

419-898-6459

### SENIOR CENTER LOCATIONS

Danbury Senior Center  
419-798-4101

Miller Ferry Dock - PIB Senior Center  
419-285-5501

Port Clinton Senior Center  
419-734-1481

Ed Griswold Senior Center  
419-885-4491



Pre-payment requested by June 5th. Sign up at your senior center or at the Senior Resources Main Office.

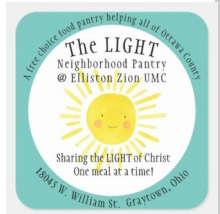
Cancellations before June 5th will be refunded. Cancellations after June 5th will only be refunded \$5.00.

Ottawa County  
**Senior Resources**

## The LIGHT Neighborhood

### Pantry at Elliston Zion is

open on the 2nd Weds. of every month from 5 to 7 PM. We are a free choice food pantry helping all of Ottawa County. Every month, our guests are invited to shop for what they need and also enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends. We serve without judgement, prejudice or agendas...just the light and love of Christ! **We always welcome new volunteers!** Our helpers stock shelves, rotate stock, check expiration dates, prepare and serve meals and clean up. Community service credits can be earned. For more information, call LisaAnne at 419-250-1188 (or see me in the office at St. John.) **Thank you for your continued support! And thank you to the St. John ladies for preparing the May meal!**





You'll go bananas  
for all this fun!

# RAINFOREST FALLS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING TO ST. JOHN!

**JUNE 15TH THROUGH  
JUNE 19TH  
9:00 AM TO NOON**

**SIGN UP TODAY IN PERSON, BY MAIL OR  
BY VISITING [WWW.STJOHNWILLISTON.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNWILLISTON.ORG)!**

We are looking for Youth and Adult Volunteers to lead our littles as we explore the Nature of God! Want to help? Contact Melissa 419-367-6220 or Carol at 419-340-2518.

YOU CAN HELP, TOO! PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING FROM THE DONATION LIST TO OFFSET THE COSTS OF VBS! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

### DONATION LIST:

- \*DISPOSABLE TABLE CLOTHS IN GREENS, BROWNS AND BLUES.
- \*GREEN PAPER CUPS.
- \*CRAFT PAPER OR BUTCHER PAPER IN BROWNS AND GREENS.
- \*CONSTRUCTION PAPER IN BROWNS AND GREENS.
- \*PAPER TOWEL TUBES.
- \*COLORED DUCT TAPE
- \*CARDBOARD BOXES, ALL SIZES
- \*RAINFOREST ANIMAL STUFFED ANIMALS  
(PLEASE MARK IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR STUFFIE RETURNED TO YOU!)
- \*CRAFT DECORATING ITEMS (CRAYONS, STICKERS, MARKERS, WASHABLE PAINTS, BRUSHES ETC.)
- & ANYTHING ELSE SOMEONE THINKS MAY FIT THE RAINFOREST DECORATION THEME.



**St. John Lutheran Church-Williston**  
**RAINFOREST FALLS Vacation Bible School**  
**June 15-19, 2026      9 AM to Noon**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

<b>Student's Information</b>		
<b>Name (first last)</b>		
<b>Age</b>		
<b>Last Grade Completed</b>	<b>School</b>	
<b>Home Church?</b>		
<b>Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other</b>		
<b>Parent/Guardian Information</b>		
<b>Name</b>		
<b>Address</b>		
<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>Work Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>		
<b>#1 Student's Emergency Contact</b>		
<b>Relation to student</b>		
<b>Contact number</b>		
<b>#2 Student's Emergency Contact</b>		
<b>Relation to student</b>		
<b>Contact Number</b>		

Photo release: St. John/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

St. John Lutheran Church  
 21140 W Toledo Street Williston, Ohio 43432  
 419-836-5514





**DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.**

**Blood Drive**  
**St. John Lutheran Church**

Fellowship Hall  
21140 W. Toledo  
Williston, OH 43468

**Friday, June 26, 2026**  
**12 PM to 5 PM**

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: STJOHNWILLISTON or sign up with the Red Cross donor app.

**Want to help even more?**

We need volunteers to man this blood drive!

Can you...

- \*Make and serve snacks?
- \*be donor escort?
- \*greet & check in donors?
- \*help with clean up at 5PM?

**Please check out the sign up sheet next to Pastor's office.**

**Thank you for helping to save lives!!**

# JUNE STEWARDSHIP



GROWING TOGETHER  
IN CHRIST

## Stewardship of our bodily health

Paul writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?" -2 Corinthians 6:19

God has given each of us a physical body that, like an automobile, is a masterfully engineered, complex vehicle that carries us along our road of life. Like our cars, our bodies need attention and care to function optimally and bring us smoothly down the road of life.

Of course, everybody gets sick sometimes, and many of us have health problems that are beyond our control, such as genetics, environment and misfortune. With so many variables over which we have *no control*, we need to do our best with the variables we *can* control.

For June, dedicate yourselves to being a better steward of your body. Here are some ideas:

**Get a physical.** A doctor can evaluate you and advise you on optimizing your health.

**Move it!** Even small amounts of exercise improve health and wellbeing. Ask your doctor how to get going.

**Diet.** Not just eating to lose weight, but watching your diet for healthy living. Learn about the nutritional value of the foods you now eat, and explore choices that are more healthful.

**Stop smoking.** The number one preventable health risk, smoking causes cancers, high blood pressure, heart disease, etc. Enough said.

**Sleep.** Eight hours of shut-eye does wonders for body and mind.

**Pray and meditate.** Spiritual disciplines lower your stress, which improves physical health, too.

God gave us wonderful bodies to carry us through our life's journey of discipleship. The better we care for it, the more fruitful our journey will be.

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## The Stewardship of Time

MANAGE YOUR TIME WELL!  
LIFELONG DISCIPLESHIP STARTS TODAY!

### THE 1% SOLUTION

Will you dedicate just 1% of your time to the  
**SPIRITUAL WELFARE OF  
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?**



**In the Word & Prayer ...  
1% of Every Day**

Each day we live is a gift from the Lord. And He gives each of us the same amount of time each day: **1,440 minutes**.

Will you use **14** of those minutes, just **1%** of the time the Lord has given you each day, to read the Bible and pray?



**In Worship ...  
1% of Every Week**

If you get the full 8 hours of sleep the doctor recommends each night, that leaves **112 waking hours** per week.

Will you spend just **1%** of those hours to come to church each week and worship the Lord?



### GOD PROMISES TO BLESS THOSE WHO READ HIS WORD

**Deuteronomy 6:6-7:** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

**John 8:31-32:** Jesus said ... "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Psalms 19:9-10:** The rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold.

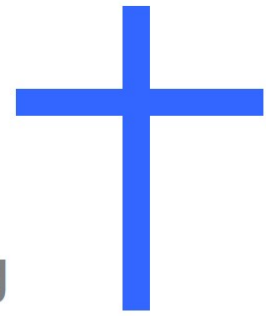
**2 Timothy 3:16-17:** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



### GOD PROMISES TO HEAR THOSE WHO PRAY

**Matthew 7:7-8:** [Jesus said,] "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."

**John 14:13-14:** Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.



## 13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing

***Proceeds to benefit St. John Good Samaritan Fund***  
(Good Samaritan Fund assists with emergency requests from individuals and families of the community.)

**All Golfers Welcome and Needed!**  
**(Hole sponsors also needed)**

# **Foursome Team Scramble** **Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026**

## **Chippewa Golf Club**

23550 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412

8:00 am — Registration

9:00 am — Shot Gun Start

**\$75 per player**

**18 Holes with cart**

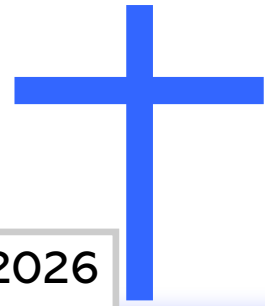
**includes Meal**

**PRIZES PRIZES**  
**PRIZES**

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT  
YOUR BUSINESS! \$50 each hole. Your business  
name will be displayed at the hole!  
Email: [office@stjohnwilliston](mailto:office@stjohnwilliston) for details!

For information: Tom (419) 205-1942 or the church office (419) 836-5514

# FOURSOME REGISTRATION FORM



13th Annual Benevolence Golf Outing 9/26/2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be contacted about next year's golf outing? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No



2026  
**THE WAY  
OF LOVE**  
1 JOHN 4:19



**“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil;  
hold fast to what is good; love one another  
with mutual affection; outdo one another  
in showing honor.” (Romans 12: 9-10)**

We all have experienced "count downs" to something - A birthday, graduation, a new Bible study or a long-awaited vacation. Right now, I'm counting down to something deeply personal: a mission trip to Kashasha, Tanzania. By the time you read this, I'll have already been there. Please look me up - I'd love to tell you all about the adventure!

I can already imagine it: moving bricks, clearing brush, painting a newly renovated school. I can see the smiling faces from all the photos and videos - faces that I've grown to love even before meeting them in person. One story that stays with me is about a little girl whose face lit up when she tasted porridge with a side of beans for the first time. She exclaimed, "yum, yum! This is good!" (She really loved those beans!)

What joy in something so simple. This story was shared by Wellington and Moja, a couple from Africa who came to the United States for about 40 years and have now moved back to Wellington's home village, Kashasha. They have done so much to help those in the village but without changing the people that live there.

We need to remember; we're not there to change or "fix" anyone: they are not broken. We are there to help with what is truly needed like clean water and learning to grow their own food. Now the children proudly bring their water jugs to school for clean water which is available. I've heard that school attendance is higher than ever - all because of something as basic as water, food, and the love of learning.

Over the years, I've been part of many projects that feed

people, but this one feels different. This is where I've found love - in people half a world away. Why does God keep leading me to those who need to be fed? I believe it's because He knows it fills me with love - not just to feed bodies, but to nourish hearts with love and friendship. God is always inviting us into deeper relationships - with Him and with others.

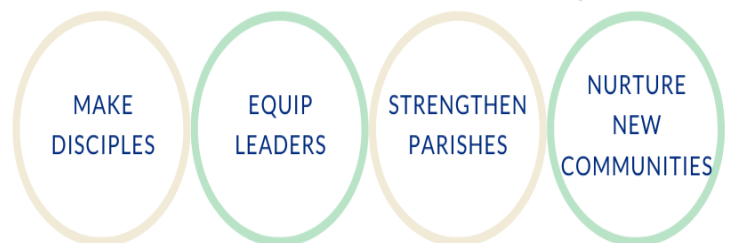
The question is: are we listening? As my husband likes to say, we need to keep our "antenna up," and be ready to hear when God is speaking.

1. Where has God directed you to share His love?
2. Is there something about God's love in your life that just won't let you sit still? (I know there is in mine!)

*Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting us into Your love story - one that reaches across oceans, cultures, and hearts. Help us to recognize Your call to love others, even when it requires us to step outside our comfort zones. Fill us with Your patience, Your kindness, and Your compassion, so that others may see You in us. In Your holy name we pray, Amen*

Sarah Neal is a lay leader at St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Academy in Bowling Green, Ohio. She is currently a student in the Growing in Faith: Diakonia program.

Sent by the crucified and Risen Jesus together we:



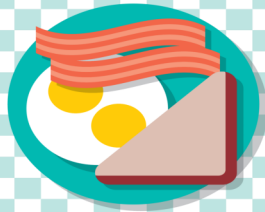
for the renewal of Northwestern Ohio & the world.

***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](http://www.elca.org).***

***For the Northwestern Ohio Synod website-visit [ELCA-NWOS.church](http://ELCA-NWOS.church)***



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND ST. JOHN?



**JOIN US  
FOR  
BREAKFAST!**

**Have Breakfast with us!!!  
Every Wednesday, we meet for breakfast  
at the **GENOA McDonald's!****

**Every Wednesday we gather starting at 7:00 AM and if you are available, we would like to invite you to stop by and have breakfast and a few laughs with your St. John friends.**



## Luther League

### On the Go-July 15th!



On **July 15** we will meet at the church at **9:00a** to travel to the **Merry-Go-Round Museum** (a captivating tribute to the artistry and

history of carousels) in Sandusky. We will spend a couple hours exploring the museum, ride the carousel, and then head to **Berardi's Family Kitchen** (voted Best Fries, Best Lunch, Best Place to Get a Homemade Meal, and Best Desserts via the Readers Choice Awards) for lunch. Entry to the museum is **\$10 or \$7 for seniors** (we *may* get a group discount). Meals at Berardi's are in the \$15-\$20 range.

If you would like to attend, call the church office to sign-up. Please indicate if you would like a ride or if you are willing to drive, and how many you can take in addition to yourself if you are willing to take passengers.

**Friends and guests are always welcome. You do not need to be a member of St. John to attend.**

If you have any questions, contact Pastor O'Brien.



The St. John Blanket Ladies meet every Tuesday morning at 9 AM to make hundreds of beautiful quilts to be distributed to church members, several area charities and shelters. You can help, too! All you need to know is how to tie a knot! Feel free to join us this Tuesday. The coffee is on!

We are also accepting donations of new or gently used bed sheets and fabric.

There is a donation box across from the church office.

## Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua



**June 20-27, 2026**

### Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua

Celebrate faith, fellowship, and family during Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua. Join fellow Lutherans for uplifting worship (featuring Rev. Michael Beck), family activities, and joyful community along the shores of Lake Erie. For more information about registration, complimentary passes, and the Lakeside Lutheran Chautauqua week, please visit our website!

[www.lakesideohio.com](http://www.lakesideohio.com)



*No matter where summer takes you, online giving makes it easy to support St. John from near or afar!*

*Simply visit our website at [www.stjohnwilliston.org](http://www.stjohnwilliston.org) and click on the "online giving" link. You may also stop in the office and we will be happy to assist you!*



### Council Meeting Highlights– May 21, 2026

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien Dan Kessler, John Mazur, Diana Lambert, Cheryl Berger, Dave Neuman, Jack Mathews, Rick Buhrow, Carol Jensen, Cebie Titgemeyer.

Meeting Opened: At 7:00 pm, by Dave Neuman  
Devotions – Pastor O'Brien shared devotions from Psalm 150 and Colossians 3.

Council Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from Carol Jensen. Jack Mathews 2nd. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: In Person average for April 2026-165.5 compared to April 2025-152. Online average for April 2026- 83.3 compared to April 2025-105.5.

Numbers- 16 hospital/home-bound visits/individual or family meeting. 2 committee/group meetings.

9 community/youth/fellowship events.

5 professional/clergy activities.

2 Special Worship Services.

1 Funeral. Funeral-I presided at the funeral of Robert Joehlin on April 20.

Luther League-On April 30, a group saw Jesus Christ Superstar at La Comedia Dinner Theater. Our next event is the Merry-Go-Round Museum on July 15. Hopewood Pines-I will be serving as camp pastor at Hopewood Pines on June 28 through July 1 (Sunday afternoon to Wednesday). No pastoral supply is needed for that time..

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee Report: Income: We are at 93% of our monthly budget and 106% of our year-to-date budget. Expenses: We are at 96% of the monthly budget and 98% of the year-to-date budget.

Christian Community Life: Father's Day gifts have been figured out

Evangelism: Nothing new to report

Parish Education: Sunday School celebrated their last day with Send-off-to Summer Party. We are continuing to prepare for the theme Rainforest Falls VBS on June 15 – 19.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report

Worship Life: Nothing new to report.

Property: Dan Kessler and John Mazur put sealer on the curbs in the parking lot. John Mazur installed a new switch.

Old Business: Denny Hartman was contacted to give input about the AED machine that we need to replace. Two quotes were found for the same machine. Dan Kessler made a motion to purchase the new AED unit for \$1488.00. Dave Neuman 2nd. Motion passed.

New Business: The Tank repairs and updates have been completed. The cost of these final updates came to \$8320. The renter completing the repairs had agreed to exchange one year's rent for payment to him for finishing the repairs himself. There will be an additional \$5000 given to the renter as agreed upon for completing this entire repair project for \$22300 and he completed all this in one year's time. We can close this project after that payment is made to him.

The Bauman Car Raffle tickets are available to purchase. LisaAnne will have them in her office to purchase one.

They are still \$5.00 each ticket.

Carpeting should be in the Lounge by next week.

Cheryl Berger made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

2nd by John Mazur. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Lambert, Council Secretary

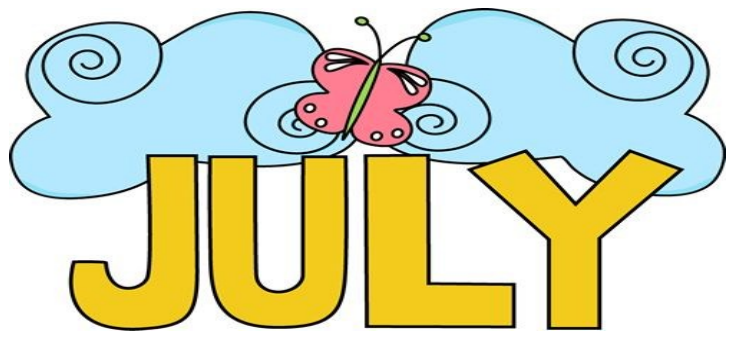




*Worship Assistants*

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
6 -Ron Gerkenmeyer	7-Diana Lambert
13- Donnelly Family	14-Titgemeyer's
20-Jack Mathews	21-Diana Lambert
27- Buhrow Family	28-Jim Vogelbacher
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
6- Nancy Strohscher	7-Kellie Ulrich
13-Sandy Toth	14-Melissa Lammers
20- Beverly Harder	21-Jerry Goldstein
27-Amy Schloegl	28-Tim Titgemeyer
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
6-Jonah	7-Rylie
13- Trenton	14-Makenna
20-Pierce	21-Ellie
27-Trenton	28-Rylan
<b>Communion</b>	<b>Communion</b>
6-Nancy Strohscher	7- RoseMarie D.
13-Ron Gerkenmeyer	14- Diana Lambert
20-JoElaine Schimming	21- Kellie Ulrich
27-Al & Traci Brown	28-Margaret Berger

*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. Thank you!*



*Worship Assistants*

Saturdays 5:00pm	Sundays 9:00 am
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
4- Donnelly Family	5-Diana Lambert
11-Buhrow Family	12-Titgemeyer Family
18-Jack Mathews	19- Diana Lambert
25- Ron Gerkenmeyer	26-Jim Vogelbacher
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Lectors</b>
4- Tracy Orians	5- Kellie Ulrich
11- Nancy Strohscher	12-Deanna Neuman
18- Beverly Harder	19- Melissa Lammers
25- Amy Schloegl	26-Cebie Titgemeyer
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>
4-Jonah	5-Makenna C.
11-Trenton	12-Rylan S
18-Pierce	19-Ellie
25-Jonah	26- Rylie
<b>Communion</b>	<b>Communion</b>
4-Nancy Strohscher	5-Roland Sandrock
11- Carol Vargo	12-Robin Perkins
18- JoElaine Schimming	19-Dave Neuman
25-Al & Traci Brown	26-Pam LaRue
















*Sunday Worship time changes to 9 AM June 7th!*





# June 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31</p> <p>9:45am -10:45am Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 22 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Esther Circle NOON Cleaning Day! Rebekah Circle 7 PM 9:00am -12:00pm Blankets  Scouts 6 PM (B)</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am -5:00pm Social Hall - Spmmers 5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>7</p>  <p>9:00am -10:00am Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 1:00pm -4:00pm Blausey-basement 1:30pm -4:30pm West End Bunch (SH)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading- Isaiah 23</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>Committee Night 7 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>14</p> <p><b>9:00am -10:00am Baptism</b> 9:00am -10:00am Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 3:00pm -5:00pm Livestock Unlimited 4-H (B)</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 24 9:00am -12:00pm Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School!!</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets 9:00am -12:00pm Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School!!</p>	<p>17</p>   <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 9:00am -12:00pm Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School!!</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Church Council Meeting 7 PM 9:00am -12:00pm Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School!!</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>Office closed 9:00am -12:00pm Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School!!</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>21</p>  <p>9:00am -10:00am Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 25 Forerunner deadline 9 AM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets  Scouts 6 PM (B)</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Blood Drive 12-5 Office closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00am -10:00am Worship 11:00am -12:00pm Choir practice 11:00am -2:00pm Hartman (SH) 1:30pm -4:30pm West End Bunch 4-H (B)</p> <p>WELCA Dinner RSVP Deadline is today!</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Faith Practice Reading-Isaiah 26</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00am -12:00pm Blankets</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>7:00am Breakfast Gathering at GENOA McDonalds 6:00pm -8:00pm Cub Scouts Committee Meeting (B)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:00pm Contemporary Worship</p>

*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church*

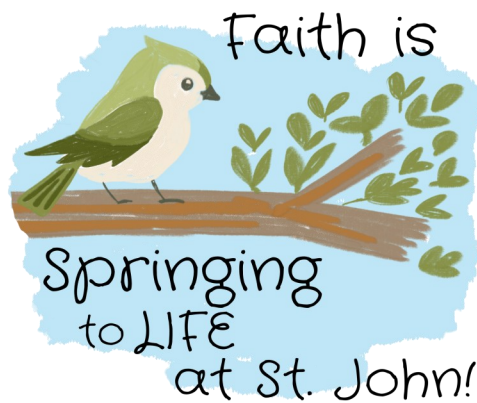
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**June 2026**

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**Worship Hours at St. John**  
**Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM**  
**\*\*Sunday Worship at 9 AM beginning June 7th!**

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\*Watch us on YouTube!