

Inside this issue:

Memorials	2
WELCA/In Loving Memory Baptism News	3
Scholarship Awards World Hunger 50 years	4
News around St. John	5
Rogation Days Invitation Ascension Day Dinner	6
God's Global Barnyard Summer song pick!	7
Stewardship Page	8
Vacation Bible School!	9
VBS Registration Form	10
Confirmation News NWOS Year of Rest-May	11
Council Highlights	12
Finance Report	13
Online giving form	14
May Celebrations	15
May/June Worship Helpers	16
May Calendar	17

Faith Practice #3 Reading Hebrews



May 6 – Hebrews 5
May 13 – Hebrews 6
May 20 – Hebrews 7
May 27 – Hebrews 8

Ask the Pastor

“Why don’t Lutherans pray to Mary like our Roman Catholic friends do?”

First, I want to affirm Lutherans do honor the saints. In the Apology to the Augsburg Confession, (a statement of Lutheran Beliefs) Article 21, we confess:

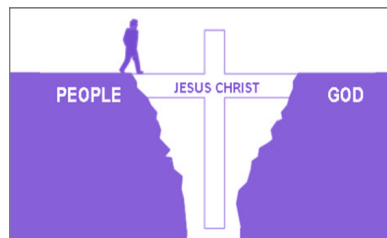
“It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling.”

Lutherans give thanks for the saints as examples of God’s mercy, we remember them to strengthen our own faith, and we seek to imitate their faithful service to God.

However, the Lutheran tradition has continued to affirm that Jesus Christ is our intercessor before God, and he can be addressed directly by any believer. There is no need to pray first to Mary (or any of the saints), but instead we are to take our prayers directly to Christ.

We look to the words of Paul in his letter to Timothy,

“for there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.” (1 Timothy 2:5-6)



As Lutherans, we respect Mary, we believe she played an important role as the mother of Jesus, and we look to her example of faithfulness, but we bring our prayers of intercession to Christ, our great high priest before the throne of God.

Pastor Shawn O’Brien

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.



As of 4/23/24

In Memory of Richard Phillips

Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock
Thomas and Joan Truman
Carol Vargo
Dennis and RoseMarie Dickinson
Darryl and Darlene Traver
Cal & Marvel Nelson
Alice Witt
Margaret Berger
Al & Traci Brown
Richard and Shirley Crosskill
Elaine Gruetter
Bob and Diane Kapp
John and Helen Meyer
Diane Dickinson
Larry and Nancy Strohscher
Dennis and Cindy Hartman
Lowell and Diane Hartman
LaVonda & George Thiel

In Memory of Katie Vogel

Carolyn Lasseter and Marilyn Sandrock
Dennis and RoseMarie Dickinson
Elaine Gruetter
Richard and Shirley Crosskill
Al & Traci Brown
Diane Dickinson

In Memory of Ann Tschappat

Carol Vargo
Alice Witt



St. John Family,

I would like to thank my church family for all the prayers, cards and concerns for me during my time in the hospital, nursing home and after my emergency surgery. It's been a long road and I still have a way to go for a full recovery, but with prayers, faith and determination..I'll make it. A very special thank you for Pastor O'Brien for his many visits and prayers and to the Blanket ladies for my beautiful quilt. I couldn't have picked a prettier one. And thank you for Carol and Alice for everything they did for my family and me. I truly appreciate everything that was done for me..so thank you to everyone and God bless all of you. I couldn't have made it without all of you.

Phyllis Haeft

St John Family,

Many thanks to our church family for the prayers, the food that was brought in, the errands that were run for us, the cards, flowers, visits and many other expressions of love shown during our surgeries and convalescing. Special thanks to Pastor O'Brien for his prayers and kind words. Thanks to all for being a Blessing to us. We're both on the road to recovery. Ron is walking more each day with his new knee. Diane is very slowly progressing with her back issues. God's Blessings to all!

Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer

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by St. John Lutheran Church
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@stjohnwilliston.org

**Saturday Worship
at 5:00 PM**

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

**Sunday Worship 9:45 AM
(9:00 AM beginning June 2)**

**Deadline for the
June 2024 newsletter is
Monday, May 20th 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."**

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

First Thursday of May



**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**

National Observance
Thursday, May 2, 2024 8 PM

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org>
or on your favorite Christian TV network
or radio station.

Follow Us!



Join Kathy Branzell, co-host A.R. Bernard, Matthew West, Os Guinness, Bishop Robert Stearns, Ken Harrison, Tony Perkins, Doug Stringer, Dianne Ogle, Bishop Derek Grier, Geoff Eckart, Glenn Sheppard and others for our National Observance Broadcast at 8 pm ET, on our website, online, or on your favorite Christian television or radio network.



**LIFT UP THE WORD -
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
National Observance Broadcast
Thursday, May 2nd at 8 p.m. ET
www.nationaldayofprayer.org



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

Circle and Board Meetings- May 2024

ESTHER CIRCLE: Tuesday, May 7th at 2:00 PM
Bible Study: Jan Sheahan

REBEKAH CIRCLE: Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study: Group discussion



The "Blanket Ladies" gather every week to make quilts on **Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am.**

Bed sheets (Queen size) are needed for quilt backings.

Donations may be left in the box outside the church office.

Come join us!

You only need to know how to tie a knot and the coffee is always on!

2122

Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years

A \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund

Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. 2122 is a \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund that is designed to support the organization into the next 100 years of mission and ministry. **Learn ways you can support the campaign by visiting**

[https:// www.womenoftheelca.org](https://www.womenoftheelca.org).



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!* Thank you!

In Loving Memory of Richard Phillips

November 29, 1948 - April 13, 2024



Richard R. Phillips, 75, of Curtice, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

He was born in Oregon, Ohio on November 29, 1948, to Elmer & Lucielle (Davis) Phillips. He was a graduate of Clay High School, class of 1966. He served proudly in the U.S. Navy from February 1969, until November 1971, during the Vietnam War and served on the USS Gridley. Richard married Janet M. (Vogtsberger) on August 16, 1975, and they were married for 17 years, until her passing away on

March 18, 1992. He was blessed to find love again, and married Jane (Bowser) on June 12, 2004, and she survives. Richard was a railroad man his entire career serving in many positions. He retired in 2008, as a Tower Operator for CSX in the Walbridge Yard after 41 years. Richard was a dedicated brother, husband, father, and papa, valuing above all else, the time he spent with his family and friends. Richard was active at St. John Lutheran Church in Williston, Ohio, donating of his time and talents for whatever needed done. He is survived by his wife, Jane, three children, Carrie & (Eric) Karlene, Matthew & (Christine) Phillips, Kelly & (Brad) Hickman, two stepdaughters, Christa & (Mark) Havel, Erica & (Brent) Celso, his nine grandchildren, and sisters, Marilyn Brossia and Jeanette & (Walt) Humberger. The services were private with interment at Allen Township Cemetery. Donations can be made to the Luther Home of Mercy or St. John Lutheran Church, Williston, Ohio



On Sunday, April 21st, we welcomed

Natalie Renee Orians into the family of Christ through Holy Baptism.

She is the daughter of Rob and Kristen Orians.

Her sponsors are Blair and Sarah Skilliter

Welcome Natalie!

May God Bless You and Keep You Always.

Scholarship Recipients



Congratulations to our 2024
Scholarship Recipients
at St. John.

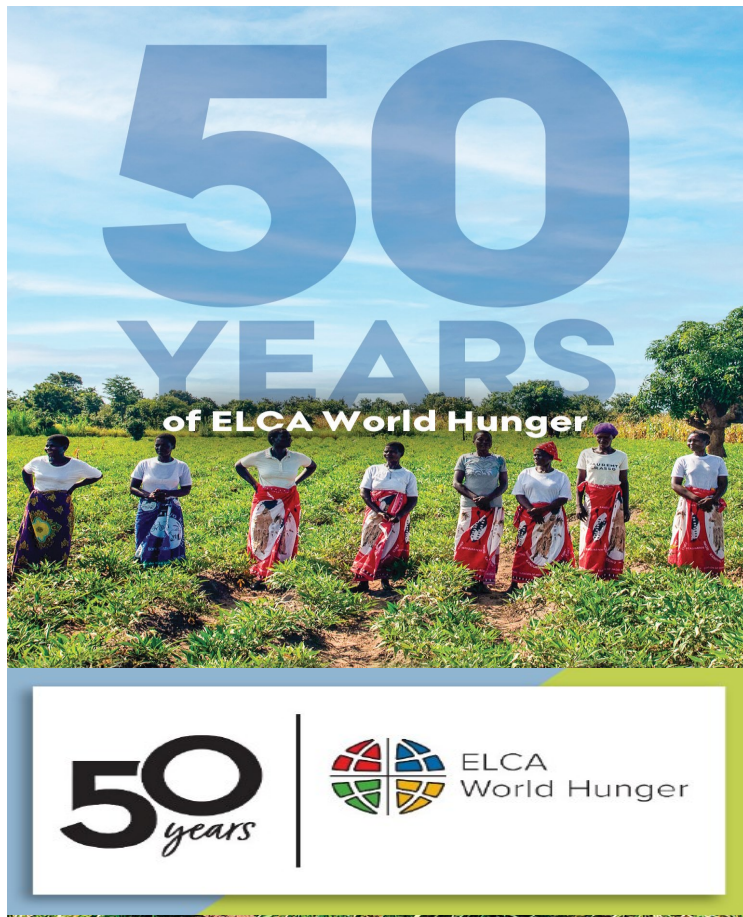
2024 Younker Memorial Scholarship

*Anna Sommers
Andy Kessler*

2024 Carol and Robert Tank Memorial Scholarship 2024 Earl Johnson Memorial Scholarship 2024 Martin & Phyllis Parks Memorial Scholarship

*Sophia Cashen
Aidan O'Brien
Payton Donnelly*

*Let us pray,
Lord, help our students face their tasks with
calmness, confidence, and courage; with
wisdom, faithfulness, and honesty; that they
may do justice both to themselves and to their
professors, and set forth your glory, who
yourself are wisdom and truth, and the giver of
knowledge and of every virtue and good gift in
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**For 50 years we have joined together
as Lutherans to address the root causes of hunger
and poverty around the world through
ELCA World Hunger.**

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Will you join us?

For years, St. John Williston has been dedicated to ELCA World Hunger. Want to give more? You can give anytime! Just make your check out to St. John and we will make sure your blessing is passed along! Or, you can give to ELCA World Hunger online on our website!!

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.

News around St. John!

McDonalds Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and fellowship at the Northwood 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.



Watch with us!

The
CHOSEN



May 5th

We will gather following
Sunday worship (11:00ish)

and have pizza while we watch!

We welcome anyone to join us. If you miss an episode or need to catch up, you can find the show at
<https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen>



Our last Sunday School for the whole family (before summer break) will be held on Sunday, May 5th at 8:30 AM. Come join the fun! We will have Bible lessons, crafts, music and more! Invite a friend!



Will you STEP UP??

Volunteers needed for VBS!

St. John Vacation Bible School

will be held June 3-7 from 9-noon.

Adults and kids 6th grade and older needed to lead groups, run crafts, music, snacks, and games,

help with opening and closing.

Please contact Stefanie Hill at

shill@stjohnwilliston.org

or Deanna Neuman at dneuman2@stjohnwilliston.org.

Service hours can be earned!



North Central Conference-Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Rogation Days 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

No Farm, No Food. This popular statement is most certainly true. In Northwestern Ohio farming is a way of life for many who sit in the pews of area Lutheran Churches. We want to honor and celebrate this important work. Without local farms and farmers our lives would be held hostage by huge corporate conglomerates that look out for their own bottom line, not the well-being of consumers.

How can the church assist farmers during the planting season? **Rogation Days** is an ancient church blessing of farms, farm animals, and farm equipment, around the time of Ascension Day, which is 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 should 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 would like to join together to present the first annual Rogation Days festival.**

Teams of pastors and lay leaders will travel around our conference to different farms which desire to receive a blessing of fields, livestock, and equipment. We will not take too much of your valuable time. The dates for the rogation blessings will be May 6, 7, and 8. Times will be determined by the interest generated. Please sign up with your Pastor.



Thursday May 9th, 2024 is Ascension Day. Our Conference Dean Pastor Shawn O’Brien would like to invite everyone to a special dinner and worship service at Solomon Lutheran church in Woodville Ohio. The start time for the dinner will be 6:00 PM with worship starting at 7:30.

Please set some time away from your work to join us for a time of blessing, renewal.

Yours in Christ, Co-chairs of the Festival,

Pastor Alan Brown
Solomon Lutheran Church

Pastor Bob Noble
Calvary and Christ Lutheran

There will be a sign up sheet near Pastor O’Brien’s office door.
Sign up today!

Have you **HERD** the **Good News?**

PICK YOUR FAVORITE HYMN

OR SONG TO SING IN WORSHIP AND SUPPORT

ELCA WORLD HUNGER!



How?

**1) PICK YOUR FAVORITE SATURDAY WORSHIP
SONG FROM THE LIST OR YOUR FAVORITE
SUNDAY HYMN FROM ONE OF THE HYMNALS**

(AVAILABLE NEXT TO THE BULLETINS IN SANCTUARY)

2) FILL OUT A SLIP WITH YOUR SELECTION

**3) MAKE A \$5.00 DONATION FOR EACH SONG OR
HYMN YOU SELECT & DROP IT IN THE OFFERING
PLATE BEFORE MAY 26TH.**

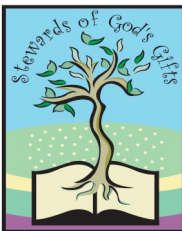
<https://goodgifts.elca.org>

WITH YOUR GENEROSITY, WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH MUSIC TO ENJOY
THROUGH THE SUMMER AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE GIFTS TO FILL

ELCA'S GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD.

THESE GIFTS WILL BE USED WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST TO SUPPORT **ELCA WORLD
HUNGER** LIVESTOCK, AGRICULTURE AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS,
WHICH HELP FARMERS AND FAMILIES WITH THE RESOURCES
THEY NEED TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

May Stewardship



Because of God's Great Mercy

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people"

– 1 Peter 2:9

God's mercy comes to you in countless ways. Our Lord Jesus is chief among these. It is through the love and forgiveness that is ours in our Lord Jesus that we can boldly claim to be God's own people – not because of what we have done, but because of what God has done for us through his only Son.

God's mercy also comes to you in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions you enjoy. They are gifts from God, but more than this, they are entrusted to you by God. The Bible teaches us that everything belongs to God. To be a steward is to be entrusted to care for some of what God owns in this world. That steward is you, entrusted to care for all that God has placed in your hands.

Because of God's great mercy, we marvel at all we have received. Because of God's great mercy, we think about how we will respond.

Stewardship Prayer

**My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.**

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

**It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.**

**It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.**

**It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness
and faith, and a church with a noble spirit,
if I, who make it, am filled with these same things.**

**Therefore, with your help, Lord, I shall dedicate myself
to the task of being all the things that I want my
church to be.**

Amen.



1 Respond gratefully

to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God's grace.

Everything we are, have, and use comes from God. Best of all, God gives the gift of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. It all begins with God. Our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is not of our doing. Grateful stewards put God first.

"...but they gave themselves first to the Lord."
2 Corinthians 8:5

3 Sacrifice proportionately

as Christ sacrificed for us. For our sake Jesus gave up everything to make us rich through the cross and the resurrection. We are called to sacrifice so others may share in God's word and blessings.

"...gave according to their means, and even beyond their means."
2 Corinthians 8:3

Our role as God's stewards is one of many dimensions - grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and challenged. By generously giving of ourselves, we discover joy in Christ.

"... you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

6 Give proportionately

is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our "means," not according to an income or a budget.

"If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have,"
2 Corinthians 8:12

8 Contribute regularly

means practicing our stewardship on a daily basis. By doing so this becomes a lifestyle. Paul instructs us:

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn."
1 Corinthians 16:2

9 Live genuinely

means putting your faith into action. This is the tangible demonstration of what is sincerely on our hearts and where our treasure is, not simply a verbal expression. The Macedonians set an example that Paul called to the attention of the Corinthians.

"I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others."
2 Corinthians 8:8

2 Obey responsibly

to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God's word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves.

"...you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ."
2 Corinthians 9:13

4 Give willingly

as moved by the Holy Spirit. We have been prepared to give of ourselves. We give our time, talents, and resources freely.

"For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave..."
2 Corinthians 8:3

5 Share abundantly

as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all.

"...and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."
2 Corinthians 9:8

7 Commit intentionally

means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God's work.

"...arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised."
2 Corinthians 9:5

10 Accept a challenge

means recognizing the dynamic nature of our faith. As our faith grows so will our blessings, and our responsibilities. Paul writes,

"...the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."
2 Corinthians 9:6

10 Stewardship Principles



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Living in God's amazing grace

2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ST JOHN!



SEEKERS *in* SNEAKERS Discover Jesus!

June 3-7 9am to Noon

Welcome to *Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus!*, an interactive Vacation Bible School where children use their investigative skills to discover Jesus. Geocaching activities will challenge children to dig into the Bible to find the way to Jesus. This journey of discovery has many twists and turns, so children will learn to ask questions, work with others, shine their light in the world, follow Jesus' example of serving others, and trust Jesus when things go wrong. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children are invited to follow the example and teachings of Jesus in every place and every part of life.

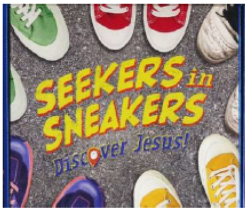
So grab your water bottle, your Bible, and your friends,
because this is going to be a great adventure!

**Lace up your sneakers and join us! It's FUN! It's FREE
We have snacks! Invite your friends!!**

**Sign up on line at www.stjohnwilliston.org
or use the registration page and turn it in to the office!!**

Adults and kids 6th grade and older needed to lead groups, run crafts, music, snacks, and games, help with opening and closing. Please contact Stefanie Hill at shill@stjohnwilliston.org or Deanna Neuman at dneuman2@stjohnwilliston.org.

Service hours can be earned!



2024 Vacation Bible School

Seekers in Sneakers!

June 3-7 9am-Noon

Student's Information		
Name (first last)	T shirt size (circle Youth/Adult)	
Age	YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL AXL A2X A3X	
Last Grade Completed	School	
Home Church?		
Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other		
Parent/Guardian Information		
Name		
Address		
Cell Phone	Work Phone	
Email		
#1 Student's Emergency Contact		
Relation to student		
Contact number		
#2 Student's Emergency Contact		
Relation to student		
Contact Number		

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_____

Confirmation 2024

Logan Michael Hays

Parents: Matthew and Melissa Hays

Sponsors: Amanda Marsh and Ericha Harrold

This young man has been instructed in the Christian faith and desires to make public Affirmation of his Baptism... We will join him in the Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 9:45 am



Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2024: The Year of Rest
Memory Verse
"So then, a sabbath
rest still remains for
the people of God"
Hebrews 4:9



May '24

Year of Rest Calendar

	Mental SUNDAY	Sensory MONDAY	Emotional TUESDAY	Social WEDNESDAY	Creative THURSDAY	Spiritual FRIDAY	Physical SATURDAY
The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Isaiah 58:11				1 Spend time in one of your favorite places.	2 Visit some murals or art.	3 Spend a few minutes in prayer.	4 Do something you enjoy that requires movement.
Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. Genesis 1:11	5 Go outside and enjoy God's creation.	6 Take a moment to be in a peaceful place.	7 Share how you are doing with someone you trust.	8 Affirm a gift you see in another.	9 Visit a park or beach.	10 Take time to help another.	11 Practice relaxing the muscles in your body.
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58	12 Make a list of what you are grateful for.	13 Smell something delightful.	14 Ask someone else how they are doing.	15 Take 1 thing off your calendar	16 Tend to a space in your home.	17 Write a thank you note to someone.	18 Stretch for 5 minutes.
He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20	19 Pause to listen to your favorite song.	20 Take a walk and leave your phone at home.	21 Take a break from screens.	22 Spend time with a loved one.	23 Cook something you love to eat.	24 Spend time looking at clouds or stars.	25 Take a nap.
O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Psalm 104:24	26 Meditate or sit in silence for 5 minutes.	27 Enjoy a favorite food.	28 Do something that rejuvenates your soul.	29 Meet with people who you share an interest with.	30 Plant something.	31 Reflect on where you saw God today.	





April 2024 Church Council Highlights

Members Present: Pastor O'Brien, Tim Titgemeyer, Jennifer Nelson, Margaret Berger, Dan Kessler, Dave Neuman, Pam LaRue, Kellie Ulrich, John Mazur, Cheryl Berger, and Diana Pfaff

Devotions led by Pastor: Psalm: 23

Pastor's Report: Worship Attendance: Worship

Attendance In person average for March 2024 - 145.2 compared to Mar 2023 - 121.5. Online average for Mar 2024 - 97.8 compared to Feb 2023 - 81. **Numbers:** 18

hospital/homebound visit/individual or family meetings, 3 committee/group meetings, 6 community/youth/fellowship events, 5 professional/clergy activities, 6 special services, 1 funeral. **Funeral:** On March 7, 2024, I presided at the funeral of Katheryn Wilka..

May Committee Night: The North Central Conference (the group of congregations we are part of) is planning Rogation Days (festival days devoted to special prayers for farm equipment and planting crops) culminating in a Conference wide Ascension Day worship service and meal at Solomon, Woodville. There is a signup sheet next to my office to reserve a spot for the meal. May Committee Night rescheduled to May 2, 2024..

Confirmation Sunday: Confirmation Sunday will be May 19th this year. Pastor has recommended that Logan Hays be approved for Affirmation of Baptism.

Holy Week Worship: Thank you to Beckie, the choir/singers, altar strippers, and everyone who worked behind the scenes decorating, placing flowers, making bulletins, preparing communion, etc. for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter worship. It was a series of wonderful worship events.

Vacation: I will be out of town from May 29 through June 5. On the weekend of June 1/2 LisaAnne Gregg will be leading worship. **Host Volunteer Needed:** I will need a volunteer to unlock the church, turn on lights, welcome people etc. for an event on June 2nd (late morning, early evening) when I am out of town. A motion was made by Pastor to approve Logan Hays for Affirmation of Baptism, 2nd by Cheryl Berger. Motion Passed. Tim Titgemeyer has volunteered to be the host at the church on June 2nd for the Memorial Service for Dee Wukotich.

Financial Secretary, Treasurer & Finance Committee

Report: Income: We are 102% of our monthly budget and 102% of our year-to-date budget.

Expenses: We are 95% of the monthly budget and 96% of the year-to-date budget. Income over expenses: On a year-to-date basis, we are currently negative (\$2263) compared to our budget of negative (\$6563). Lenten Offerings- \$3812. Easter Offerings - \$2603. Scholarships have been awarded. Roof Repair Quote is \$15400. We have \$12414 in the Roof Fund currently. The additional funds needed will come from Undesignated Memorial Funds

Christian Community Life: Cheryl Berger-The committee decided to hand out flowers for Mother's Day. Discussion about how to acknowledge our Veterans. Food Pantry News: Bauman Car Raffle tickets should be available in May. The

Meijer Simply Give Spring Program is going to continue until June 29th. Double match date is June 15th. Patrons served- 67 and Families served were 31. Donations- \$584.75. Expenses- \$809.09. Meijer- \$2314.58. Walmart grants are being investigated. More info to come.

Evangelism: Margaret Berger-The rotation of filling the pew envelopes will go from meeting to meeting

Parish Education: Deanna Neuman-VBS materials have arrived. Still looking for volunteers. Carol Jensen and Deanna Neuman began going through the Sunday School office to plan for cleaning it up/organizing it. We had 6 kids, and their adults who attended the April 4th Sunday School. Carol Jensen led this month. We contacted the office to check on confirmation and everything has been set up. (Bibles, robes, photographer)

Stewardship: Pam LaRue-will update next month

Worship Life: Kellie Ulrich-Discussed that the Easter hyacinths were becoming a challenge for persons who have allergies to smells. For next year, maybe tulips could be a substitute. The hyacinths could still be ordered but displayed elsewhere in or around the outside the church. The church organ's computer system needs maintenance, and we would like to check with area churches who have a similar type of organ to see who they use. Sandy Toth will be added to the lector rotation. Communion set-up has written instructions; however, we would like to add photos to give a visual aid as well. We are checking into purchasing a protective plastic covering for the entire top of the altar to help with keeping the candles ashes and wine stains from the altar linens. Discussed a token of appreciation for those who serve as lectors, ushers, and communion servers. Through the summer months, we would like to do a "choose a hymn" project as a fundraiser. Sunday members can use the hymns from the blue, green or red hymnals which will be provided in the back of the church and bell choir area. There will be a form in which you can write down the hymn(s) you'd like to choose and explain how the hymn has meaning to you or why you chose it. Explanations will need to be concise for the bulletin. You can have your name included or not. We discussed a \$5.00 amount per hymn. The goal for the money raised would be to support Global World Relief (livestock can be purchased). Amy spoke to Tami and for Saturday services, and a list of songs will be developed to choose from, (Summer of Song) Deadline will be the end of May so that all involved will have time to prepare.

Property: John Mazur- Replaced 105 light bulbs. Lawn mower has been serviced. Richard Phillips refinished the baptismal font. Discussed that the Scout room needs to be cleaned out and reorganized. Both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will need to work together for this cleaning project. Contacting the leaders of each group.

New Business: The council is asking for prayers on how to get more people to know about our church and how to get them into our church. Please share ideas with any council members or the church office.

Next Committee Mtg: Thurs., May 2, 2024, at 7pm

Next Council Mtg: Thurs., May 16, 2024, at 7pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by John Mazur and seconded by Cheryl Berger - meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Pfaff, Council Secretary

ELECTRONIC GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM

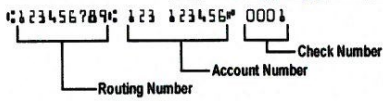
St. John Lutheran Church PO Box 235 Williston, OH 43468

www.stjohnwilliston.org

(419)836-5144

email: office@stjohnwilliston.org



FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		ENVELOPE/DONOR #		DATE	
Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____					
Type of authorization:		<input type="checkbox"/> New authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information	<input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation		
Last Name			First Name		
Address					
City			State	Zip	
Email Address			Phone #		
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____		FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – DAY _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Add'l donation to offset fees Total \$ _____	
				AMOUNTS: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	
If you would like to designate your giving to another fund not listed: please state your desire here. Thank You.					
CHECKING / SAVINGS	Please debit my donation from my (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)		Routing Number: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ 		
	I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____				
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD	Card Brand (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card				
	Card Number:			Expiration Date:	
	Name on Card:				
	Billing Address (if different from above):				
	I authorize the above organization to process transactions in accordance with the information above. Signature (as it appears on the card): _____ Date: _____				

*If using a checking account, please attach a voided check over the credit/debit card section above.
We do urge you to use a checking or savings account as opposed to a credit card to save transaction fees. Thank you.
Please allow 2-3 business days for processing. Thank you for being a blessing to St. John Lutheran Church.*



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

4- Jack Mathews
11- Donnelly Family
18-Buhrow Family
25- Ron Gerkenmeyer

Lectors

4- LisaAnne
11- Nancy Strohscher
18-Tracy Orians
25-Beverly Harder

Acolytes

4-Nolan Delventhal
11-Liam Delventhal
18-Jacob Higginbotham
25-Nolan Delventhal

Communion

4-Nancy Strohscher
11- Carol Vargo
18-JoElaine Schimming
25-Al & Traci Brown

Sundays 9:45am

Ushers

5-Jim Vogelbacher
12-Diana Pfaff
19-The Titgemeyer's
26-Jill Kao

Lectors

5-Cebie Titgemeyer
12-Melissa Lammers
19- Tim Titgemeyer
26-Kellie Ulrich

Acolytes

5- Logan Hays
12- Logan Hays
19- Lauren Hoeft
25-Mila McQueary

Communion

5-Diana Pfaff
12-Tim Titgemeyer
19- Margaret Berger
26- Roland Sandrock



Worship Assistants

Saturdays 5:00pm

Ushers

1- Donnelly Family
8- Buhrow Family
15-Jack Mathews
22- Ron Gerkenmeyer
29-Donnelly Family

Lectors

1- Nancy Strohscher
8- Sandra Toth
15-Beverly Harder
22-Amy Schloegl
29-Christine Danhoff

Acolytes

1-Liam Delventhal
8-Jacob Higginbotham
15-Nolan Delventhal
22-Liam Delventhal
29-Jacob Higginbotham

Communion

1-No Communion
8- Alice Witt
15-JoElaine Schimming
22-Al & Traci Brown
29-LisaAnne G.

Sundays 9:00 am

Ushers

2-Titgemeyer's
9-Jim Vogelbacher
16-Diana Pfaff
23-Jill Kao
30-Titgemeyer's

Lectors

2-Jill Kao
9-Deanna Neuman
16- Diana Pfaff
23-Melissa Lammers
30-Cebie Titgemeyer

Acolytes

2-Mila McQueary
9-Lauren Hoeft
16-Mila McQueary
23-Lauren Hoeft
30-Mila McQueary

Communion















2-No Communion
9-Dave Neuman
16- Kellie Ulrich
23- Pam LaRue
30-Roland Sandrock

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!

**Sunday Worship
times change to
9 AM June 2nd!**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30am Confirmation Class (Review and test) 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am -12:00pm The Chosen Movie 5:00pm -6:30pm Scouts	29 Faith Practice Reading Hebrews 4	30 9:00am Blankets	1  7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	2  7:00pm Committee Meeting	3 Office closed	4 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
5  8:30am No Confirmation Class this am 8:30am -9:30am Sunday School for ALL AGES 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 11:00am -1:00pm The Chosen Movie 2:00pm -4:00pm West End Bunch 4-H (SH)	6 Faith Practice Reading Hebrews 5	7  Esther Circle 2 pm Rachel Circle 7 PM 9:00am Blankets	8  7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	9  6:00pm -8:00pm Ascension Day Dinner at Solomon Lutheran	10 Office closed	11 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
12  9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	13 Faith Practice Reading Hebrews 6	14 9:00am Blankets	15  7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	16  7:00pm Church Council Meeting	17 Office closed	18 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
19  Jensen-Social Hall- Noon 8:30am Confirmation Sunday 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice 4:00pm -6:00pm Livestock Unlimited 4-H (B)	20  Hebrews 7	21 9:00am Blankets	22  7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	23	24 Office closed	25 5:00pm Contemporary Worship
26 9:45am -10:45am Traditional Worship 10:45am Choir Practice	27  Memorial Day- Office Closed Hebrews 8	28 9:00am Blankets	29  7:00am Breakfast Gathering Northwood McDonalds	30	31 Office closed	1 5:00pm Contemporary Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

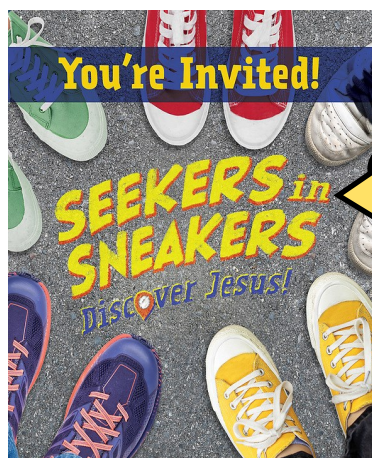
21140 W. Toledo Street

P. O. Box 235

Williston, Ohio 43468-0235

Volume 712 Issue 337

May 2024



Coming in June!
Vacation Bible School
June 3-7 9 AM to Noon
Sign up today at
www.stjohnwilliston.org

Worship Hours at St. John

Saturday Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM

Sunday Traditional Worship 9:45 AM (Sept-May)

****Sunday Worship at 9 AM beginning June 2nd!**

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

419-378-1112 cell ph

E-mail address:

pastorobrien@stjohnwilliston.org

Church Office

LisaAnne Gregg

Office Administrator

Church: 419-836-5514

E-mail address:

office@stjohnwilliston.org

*Visit us on Facebook

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