

MARCH 16, 2025



ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you worship with us. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John's, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16	Council Meeting
March 19	Choir @ 3 pm
March 26	Choir @ 3 pm
April 2	Tech Session
April 12	Spring Gospel Sing @ 2 pm
April 20	Easter Sunday

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rebecca, niece of Mike Moore, recent ankle/leg surgeries

Ryan Rutter, work related accident, damaged thumb, successful surgery this past Monday

Roger Stemen, thanks to everyone for the prayers for Sally's brother (who actually grew up in our church). His procedure went well and he is doing fine.

Samantha Bennet, age 19, daughter of a friend of Sally Acton, had thyroid cancer surgery and they were able to get it all. She is in college and will be going back to school Monday.

Continued prayers for **Freda Rutter, Nancy Fogle, Linda Miller, Shirley & Larry West, Steve Acton, and Linda Leist.**

The next Council Meeting is **TODAY**, immediately after church - basement Parish Hall



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Gina Meyers	March 18
Maddie Dillon	March 23
Judy Storts	March 25
Amy Anderson	April 9
Linda Wolf	April 9



The Altar flowers today are in memory of Eric Preskar, son of Diana Johnson

Mark your calendar for the **Spring Gospel Sing**

⇒ April 12th

⇒ 2:00 pm

HELP SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FOOD BANKS!



THE INSIDE STORY BY **SALLY ACTON**



This week's sending song, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" was written by Robert Robinson. He entered the ministry at the age of 20 and 3 years later while serving Calvinist Methodist Chapel in Norfolk, England, he wrote a hymn for his sermon on Pentecost Sunday. It was a prayer that the Holy Spirit flood into our hearts with His streams of mercy, enabling us to sing God's praises and remain faithful to Him.

GALS AND GUYS LUNCH BUNCH
eating and mingling at THE PUMP HOUSE



FACILITIES Upcoming Projects

Replace Ramp Panels

Once the weather breaks, Jon will need a few folks to help remove and replace the panels in the ramp leading to the basement. He has the panels, just needs help.

Parking Lot Asphalt

The parking lot is showing signs of fatigue with several noticeable cracks. Estimates are forthcoming for having the, 1) cracks fixed, 2) asphalt re-surfaced, and 3) (which will mean) the parking area re-stripped.

TECH SESSIONS COMING SOON

Don Hornbeck will be conducting sessions starting in **early April** to help those needing assistance to navigate the United Church Directory, website, texting, etc. More details to follow.

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES from February 23, 2025

ATTENDEES: Mike Drodofsky, Alan Fisher, Jon Leist, Sue Mason, Chuck Wolcott, Ruby Wolcott

ALAN FISHER went over our church finances. Offerings are good. Attendance is not.

DON HORNBECK also attended council to discuss the many tools we have (Announcements, Website, Facebook, etc.) at our disposal to ensure consistent and accurate news and information is passed to the congregation. He went over each tool and discussed the high-lights. Another suggestion was to have greeters at the door on Sunday mornings.

JON LEIST mentioned again that the parking lot is deteriorating. A decision is needed on how to tackle this problem. Jon will work to get estimates to possibly have the cracks fixed and the asphalt re-surfaced.

ALAN FISHER discussed ideas for fellowship and/or outreach on the last Sunday for those months that have 5 Sundays. Some folks prefer that any event should be right after our church service. That could give non-members a chance to experience our worship service as well as enjoy after-church functions.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS were about whether to have an Easter breakfast, last year it was not well attended, but Jon Leist confirmed he will head it up again this year.

"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" Jon received a notice that on September 9, 2025 there will be an ELCA event called "God's Work, Our Hands". This is a day each congregation in the ELCA could observe a day to use our hands to perform God's Work. This is certainly something to keep in mind. What could our work be?

We closed with the Lord's prayer. Submitted by Ruby Wolcott w/edits

2025 YTD Offerings Summary	
Offerings through:	3/9/2025
Budget (yearly)	56,750.00
Budget YTD	12,004.81
Offerings - Total Rcvd	14,734.38
YTD Over(+)/Under(-)	2,729.57

Ceiling Loan Summary	
Original Loan Amount:	36,231.00
P+I Payments made (35):	-23,386.65
Principal (only) Payments:	-11,500.00
Loan Balance Remaining:	4,044.00

~ 6 more pymts

2025 Attendance Information	
Jan = 36, Feb = 28, Mar = 34	

Ceiling Gifts Summary	
Total Gifts Received:	34,185.20
Principal & Interest Paid:	-34,886.65
Current Gift Balance:	-701.45
# of Possible Payments:	-1.05

\$668.19/mo

Who's preaching?...

March Pastor Joe

Happenings

New Sun 3/16/25 Council Meeting immediately after church
 Sat 4/12/25 Spring Gospel Sing at St. John at 2pm

Opportunities to Serve

Don Hornbeck is now producing the cover page for our Sunday bulletins. Give him your information.

Monthly 'Spirit' Newsletter - we need someone to lead the 'SPIRIT' team

Please contact a council member if you are interested - **WWJD?**

New Easter Breakfast - Let Jon Leist know if you can help with the breakfast

Sunday School

Adults - Sunday mornings at 9:00am upstairs in the Parish Hall
 Children - During the church service in the Parish Hall (see Jonette Christy)

Weekly Average Attendance by month for 2021 through 2025

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
2021	0	15	22	34	29	26	30	28	29	30	30	20	24
2022	14	21	26	48	40	32	31	30	38	32	29	34	31
2023	24	31	29	35	38	33	33	30	35	26	29	29	31
2024	17	23	30	25	46	46	45	39	34	29	30	36	33
2025	36	28	34										32
Yr-Yr Chg	19	5	4										

Pastor Joe's contact info 614-738-3356 / email: wolfieproductions0728@gmail.com
 Council President cell/text: 614-286-6175
 St John's website: www.stjlithopolis.com
 St John's email address: office.stjohnlithopolis@gmail.com
 St John's office phone: 614-837-2947 (voice mailbox)
 St John's mailing address: 133 West South Street, PO Box 206 Lithopolis, Ohio 43136
 New St John's facebook page: https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064863065429 (updated)