

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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## April 2026 Newsletter



# Serving in Worship during April

## **Acolytes:**

2: Addy Hendricks  
3: 3 pm Charlotte Johnston  
3: 7:30 pm Harry Rose  
5: Grace Saneholtz, Quinn Shoup  
12: Braxton Smith  
19: Kenley Smith  
26: Cashe Thomas

## **Lesson Readers:**

5: Dave Jaessing  
12: Merlin Wright  
19: open  
26: open

## **Greeters:**

5: Sue Dewire, Shoup family, Deacons  
12: open, Deacons  
19: open Deacons  
26: Smith family, Deacons





## April Birthdays

1 – Kati Ewers  
1 – Trey Hutchinson  
1 – Sally Lemmon  
4 – Tom Mick  
8 – Hayden Dye  
8 – Henley Dye  
8 – Karen Esterline  
8 – Gezzy Kidston  
12 – Michael Kidston  
13 – Katie (Baker) Solo  
14 – Ed Kidston  
16 – Kendyl Thomas

19 – Michell Rings  
20 – Dan Clum  
20 – Susie Mick  
21 – Trent Jaessing  
21 – Cory Steinke  
22 – Alesha Sloan  
26 – Gage Kidston  
28 – Sarah Willson  
29 – Mark Baker  
29 – Brandon Scott  
30 – Jake Dewire  
30 – Dave Gearhart



## April Anniversaries

3 – Rob & Karen Taylor  
4 – Jim & Janice Thompson  
6 – Dave & Ellen Gearhart  
7 – Greg & Julie Lee  
10 – Kyle & Stacy Sapp  
23 – Dave & Becky Jaessing  
28 – Josh & Jodie Fiser

# *From the Pastor's Desk*

## **“April Fools.”**

“Your Shoe is untied.” “April Fools” we shout, when our unsuspecting victim has been tricked on April 1<sup>st</sup> into looking at their shoe, which is not untied.

Surprisingly, the best explanation for the origin of “All Fools Day” is itself an “April Fools” joke. A professor of history said that the practice began when Emperor Constantine appointed one of his court jesters to be king for a day. After the professor’s explanation had been printed in many newspapers in 1983, the professor confessed that it was actually an April Fools’ joke.

The best April Fools prank of all time occurred April 1, 1957 when the British News broadcasted a three-minute report about an abundant spaghetti harvest in Switzerland. The bumper crop was attributed to an unusually mild winter and the “virtual disappearance of the spaghetti weevil.” The respected anchor ended the broadcast with the words, “for those who love this dish, there’s nothing like real, home-grown spaghetti.” Hundreds phoned wanting to know how to grow their own spaghetti tree to which the BBC responded, “Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best”.

The closest historical explanation that has been identified for the beginning of “All Fools Day” occurs during the reform of the calendar under Charles IX in 1582. Prior to this, the new year was celebrated for eight days beginning March 25, climaxing with New Year’s Day on April 1. With the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar, New Year’s Day was moved to January 1. Those who refused to accept the new calendar and continued to celebrate the New Year on April 1 were labelled “fools”. There was no humour in calling people fools because it was intended as an insulting and derogatory slur.

Many of us today are proud to call ourselves Christian, but even this term was considered derogatory when it was first used by the Greeks to describe the followers of Christ. “It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:26). Historically the Jews, Romans and Greeks had problems with this new religion. Until Constantine made Christian worship legal in 313, anyone professing to be a follower of the Way was put to death. Paul best described the challenges faced by early

followers when he wrote, “Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks ask for wisdom, but we preach about a crucified Christ, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles” (1 Cor. 1:22-23).

The modern symbol of our faith which adorns many of our churches today, the cross of Christ, was not actually used by the early church for at least three centuries, because it was considered nonsense. The “*Alexamenos graffito*” found in Rome is one of the earliest pictorial representations of the Crucifixion of Jesus. It is the mocking portrayal of a “Christian” worshipping a crucified Jesus who is depicted as having a donkey’s head. In order to believe that Christ rose from the dead, one must first believe that this influential teacher and leader of this new religion purposely put himself in harm’s way, travelling to Jerusalem where he knew the religious authorities were plotting to kill him. For Jews who are looking for a great Davidic Messiah to rescue them and for the Greeks who look for wisdom and proof of what Jesus does is problematic nonsense.

Even now, two thousand years later, we claim that what Jesus did is not an “All Fools” joke. Unlike modern pranksters, who will come forward yelling “April Fools” when they devolve the truth of their trickery, the first disciples of Jesus stood their ground, suffered and died as martyrs for what they saw and experienced, professing a faith that Jesus was God incarnate, did suffer, did die and three days later rose from the dead as he had promised. Many non-believers continue to see this and the Bible as absurdity. They won’t believe in the existence of God without proof. They won’t believe that Jesus is God and that he died and rose in order to save us from sin and death because they see themselves as basically good people who are not in need of being saved. The story of our salvation continues to be a stumbling block and foolishness to many. “But, to all who receive him, who believe in his name, he gave the power to become children of God” (John 1:12). Then, we can also call ourselves Christian and faithfully accept everything God has done for us as “Truth”. We might even call ourselves “fools for Christ” showing forth God’s grace and love to others as we invite them to become fools with us.

*In Deepest Sympathy*

*We express our Christian love to the family of our former Pastor Paul & Joy Gruetter whose mother went to be with the Lord March 18. Her funeral was March 23 at St. John's Lutheran Church at Williston, Ohio.*

**Thank You!!!!**

**Thank You to All the Volunteers for Lenten Meals!!!!**  
**We give thanks to the Men's Group who served a meal already on February 25. Thank you to Rozetta Luke and Susanne Fredericks for providing a meal on March 4. Thank you to WOTC who will be in charge of a meal on March 11. Thank you again to Rozetta Luke and Cindy Clark for providing a meal on March 18. Thank you to the families of Sue Dewire who volunteered to be in charge of a meal on March 25. WE APPRECIATE ALL YOUR WORK TO PROVIDE A MEAL FOR US!!!!**

**St. John's Outside Cleanup Day**

**The trustees could use your help to clean the outside of our church on Saturday, April 4 starting at 8 a.m. Come help them make our church beautiful after the long hard winter just in time for Easter!**

*Community*  
**GOOD FRIDAY**

**SERVICE**

**APRIL 3, 2026**

**@ ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
209 BROAD ST. | MONTPELIER OH**

**2:00 PM  
PRAYER  
IN THE SANCTUARY**

**3:00 PM  
SERVICE BEGINS**



**MONTPELIER  
MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Palm Sunday – March 29

Maundy Thursday – April 2 Potluck Meal at 6 p.m.,  
Service at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 3 Community Prayer 2 p.m.  
at St. John's this year  
Community Service 3 p.m.  
at St. John's this year  
St. John's own Good Friday service  
at 7:30 p.m.

Easter – April 5 Sunrise Service 7 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 8 a.m.  
Breakfast 9 a.m.  
Traditional Worship 10 a.m.

### **Building Project Restarted**

The Trustees want you to know that Building Project Fund donations are still being accepted as they recreate a new Building Committee again. More information will be shared with the congregation soon.

### **See Tashia Thompson for LIFEWISE tickets!**

**God continues to bless the Lifewise movement in our young folks! The vision should always outpace the funding and the need is present! Someone will have a great prize in all these fantastic Montpelier businesses!!! Several of them graciously and generously donated all or part of their prize! Let me know if you want any, and know that you can be directly involved in sharing Jesus with our youth! Only 200 sold!**

# Ohio Mission Region Annual Convocation

# NOT ASHAMED

ROMANS 1:16-17

May 1, 2026  
12:00pm - 5:30pm  
May 2, 2026  
8:00am - 3:00pm



Saint John's  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

3220 Columbus Street,  
Grove City, Ohio 43123  
office phone: 614-875-2314

## ALL OHIO MISSION DISTRICTS GATHERING

Saturday afternoon will include district and region meetings to review last year's events and plan next year's events and leadership.

These meetings will likely include elections. Please see the map available at [theNALCOhio.org](http://theNALCOhio.org) in order to determine your district before filling out the registration form.

See Pastor Marc for more details if you are interested in attending.  
Registration is due by Friday, April 17, 2026.



**Members of St. John’s Church with our former Intern,  
now Pastor Philip Sandi, who sends his Easter greetings to you.**

Since its establishment, the Yangesa International Academy (YIA) in the country of Sierra Leone, Africa, has experienced remarkable growth. From an initial enrollment of just 20 children in 2019, the academy by 2021, had an enrollment of 60 students. By this time, Philip Sandi was an intern at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Montpelier, Ohio. Some members at St. John’s embraced the Yangesa mission and have been its major support base. YIA welcomed 136 students by 2024 and has reached 200 students in grades 1 through 7 this past school year of 2025-2026. The academy’s mission is to deliver high-quality Christian education to children living in extreme poverty, many surviving on less than a dollar a day. To support their learning, the school provides: tuition and fees-free enrollment. Breakfast and lunch is provided for free each school day (Monday – Friday). School supplies, including books, footwear, backpacks, and uniforms are also provided for free.

If you are able to help support the Yangesa International Academy (a 501 (c) (3) Tax exempt ID # 81-1095404), go to the website: [www.christianmediacenter.us](http://www.christianmediacenter.us) There you will be able to give online if you click on the Donate button We are very grateful for your donation as we work to make this world a better place for the poor and needy, building their lives beyond their challenging stories of destitution.

Thank You,  
Pastor Philip Sandi

## April is WOTC Health Kit Month

The WOTC are collecting the following:

- 1 deodorant
- 1 bath towel
- 1 comb
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bar of soap (2 if travel size)
- 1 toothbrush 1 pack floss (optional)
- 1 nail clippers (optional)
- 1 shampoo (2 if travel size)
- 1 tube toothpaste (2 if travel size)

Pack all items in a 2-gallon plastic bag (Ziplock)



## WOTC Board Meeting March 8, 2026

Present: Brenda Athy, Janice Thompson, Julie Carlson, Bev Purny & Stacy DeMara

Devotions were done by Bev.

**Treasurer's Balances:**                      Checking \$4,439.65                      Funeral Fund  
\$2,333.58

**President** – Lexy asked Brenda to see what our thoughts are on giving some of the blanket money to the ladies who are making quilts.

**Vice President** – Janice said that our CD's will be coming due before our next meeting.

**Secretary of Mission** – Mary Bates will be speaking at both services on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Secretary of Community** – Bev will be leaving her position on the board as they are moving to Auburn.

**Old Business**

Discussion was held on what each of the board members will be making for the Lenten meal on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was also held on the mailing address for the NALC Disaster Relief. Julie will give Mary Bates the check that was returned due to the address change.

**New Business**

Janice brought bags for the cookies that are being baked & given to the Senior Center in April. Riki Timbrook & Brenda will be making the cookies.

Next meeting will be June 14, 2026. Janice will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara



**St. John’s Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
March 8, 2026**

**Present:** Ryan Burt, Mike Shilling, Jeanne Willson, Brandon Shoup, Mike Timbrook, Matthew Luke, Marilyn Parrish, Lisa Baker, Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Robin Willson, Nathan Baker, Dale Gearhart, Bill Hill, Pastor Marc Lapointe, and Brenda Athy.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** President Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.
2. **Approve the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Bill and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.
3. **Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.
4. **Devotions:** Given by Mike T. from the deacons. (Elders in April)
5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The February 8, 2026 Church Council meeting and the February 15, 2026 Congregational meeting minutes, previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the February 8, 2026 Church Council meeting minutes made by Mike T. and seconded by Megan. Motion approved.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** No report given.
7. **Board Reports:**
  - **Deacons** – given by Mike T. Present were Brandon and Mike T.
    - There were 4 Sundays in February. The attendance for 8 a.m. services had an average of 20, the 10 a.m. had an average of 61, which makes a total average of 81 for February. Ash Wednesday had a total of 82 in attendance. The old wooden cross was brought inside for Lent.
  - **Elders** – given by Matthew. Present were Marilyn and Matthew.
    - Discussed the elder assisting communion worship schedules.
    - Pastor Marc showed the elders a prayer booklet he created and is looking for comments.
    - The elders and Pastor Marc discussed the Mutual Ministry committee. They have 3 volunteers. Pastor shared when he talked to the NALC office about Mutual Ministry, they asked him to be on a committee to write up a guide for churches to put in their constitution about it.
    - Discussed post card distribution.
  - **Parish Ed.** – Given by Megan. Present were Lisa, Kati, Megan, and Robin.

- Discussed VBS which will be June 22-26 with the program on Sunday, June 28.
- All the end of the year dates are set. April 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. is a Mentor meeting. April 22 is the last Wednesday class until September. The last Sunday school is April 26 until September. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism interviews are Wednesday, April 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Sunday is May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 10 a.m. service.
- We had a really good turnout for Ash Wednesday and people liked the 6:30 p.m. service starting time.
- Megan asked the trustees about having a special food truck to come and have a meal for Wednesday, March 25. She will check in it.
- Much discussion of ideas of having different times for the extra Wednesday night meals and services for next year.
- **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Nathan, Dale, and Bill.
- Talked about setting a spring cleanup day around the outside of the church date in early April.
- Talked about the steps in the front of the church and Dale will contact someone to repair them.

## 8. **Pastor's Report:** Given by Pastor Marc.

- We had a funeral for Betty Rings and that went well.
- Ash Wednesday went very well and we had a very large crowd.
- Shrove Tuesday went especially well with a good turnout of kids participating.
- We are in the process of planning the Montpelier Community Good Friday service, April 3 which will be held here at St. John's this year with prayers at 2 p.m. and the service at 3 p.m.
- Our own St. John's Good Friday, April 3 service will be at 7:30 p.m.
- The NALC constitution amendments passed with 335 out of 543 congregations submitted their votes and Amendments 1, 2, and 3 were approved. The new NALC constitution is now available to download for any churches that want it.

- Planning a youth service with everything completely done by the youth including the sermon for Mother's Day, May 10 at the 10 a.m. service. Megan added she will plan to have the younger kids sing for special music that day also.
- April 8 – 15, Pastor Marc's oldest daughter will be coming for a visit so he will be in and out of the office, but will still be here Sunday, April 12.

## **9. Other Report:**

**WOTC** - given by Brenda Athy, WOTC president. (The WOTC minutes can be read in the April newsletter.)

- The ladies met today. Mary Bates, coordinator for NALC Disaster Response, and her husband, Ken, will be coming Sunday, March 15 to give an update about meeting the needs of people affected by disasters all across the country.
- Brenda hopes to have our youth go down to the NALC warehouse and help them with distributing items.
- Brenda is also looking for someone to fill the WOTC Secretary of Community position as Bev Purny is moving away to be closer to her grandchildren.
- They are not planning to meet monthly any more, but quarterly so they are planning to revise the constitution's term of office.
- The Blanket Sunday donation envelopes will continue to be in the pews for another week.
- All the quilts are ready to go and packed up so Mary Bates can take them to the warehouse with her.

**10. Approve All Reports:** Motion to approve all reports made by Dale and seconded by Mike T. Motion approved.

**11. Half-Time Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.

## **12. Old Business:**

- President Ryan reported the church's insurance policy has been updated.
- President Ryan asked if anyone had looked into online giving. Nathan stated it has to be tied into an individual person or an

email or something so the trustees are trying to figure out how to do this.

### **13. New Business:**

- President Ryan shared that Dale and he met with an engineer and the contractor about the building project and upgrading to a new elevator. They decided they have to actually have a Cad drawing to see where things could fit in the space we have. They want to stay as far away from the kitchen area and wall as possible as that complicates things with possible kitchen codes. The kitchen needs to wait until the other remodel is finished. They will have to make some changes from the original plans to accommodate the larger elevator. Dale wants a note put in the bulletin that we are still accepting donations for the Building Project Fund. When the plans are updated, they can be presented to the congregation and they can see that the project is back.
- Mike S. suggested an idea that we create something like a memorial wall or to buy a brick or some kind of fund raiser.
- Pastor Marc suggested a special ground breaking ceremony.
- President Ryan needs approval from council to get a Building Project committee together. He has two volunteers so far. Motion made by Bill and seconded by Dale to approve creating a Building Project committee. Motion approved.
- Mike T. reminded the Deacons will supply the meat and the rolls for the Maundy Thursday potluck meal at 6 p.m. on April 2.

**14. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike T. and seconded by Nathan. Motion approved.

**15. Lord's Prayer:** The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is April 12, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.

16.

*Wishing you a Blessed Easter!*