

St. John's Lutheran Church

209 Broad St., P O Box 203
Montpelier, OH 43543
419-485-3736

Pastor Marc Lapointe
613-513-7347

revlapointe@gmail.com

stjohnsmontpeliers@gmail.com

stjohnmontpelier.org

August 2026 Newsletter



Hello August!

May the month
ahead bring you love,
happiness and
sunshine.

Serving in Worship during August

Acolytes:

2: Cashe Thomas
9: LoDena Woods
16: Nevaeh Woods
23: Jaxton Brancheau
30: Emmi Burt

Lesson Readers:

2: Dave Jaesing
9: Merlin Wright
16: Lonnie Gillen
23: Michael Kidston
30: open

Greeters:

2: Sue Dewire, Deacons
9: Merlin & Mary Wright, Deacons
16: Lonnie Gillen, Deacons
23: Michael Kidston family, Deacons
30: open, Deacons





August Birthdays

2 – Hudson O'Grinn
4 – Nick Henry
6 – Julie Lee
7 – Nathan Baker
9 – Sharon Eli
11 – Mitchell Bumb
15 – Emmi Burt
15 – Dave Jaessing

19 – Kay Rockey
20 – Bill Psurny
25 – Kevin Scott
28 – Joni Engels
29 – Clay O'Neal
31 – Kyle Sapp
31 – Michie Rjegsecker

August Anniversaries

1 – Trent & Shelby Gillen
2 – Mike & Riki Timbrook
4 – Michael & Michie Rjegsecker
6 – Scott & Katie Solo
11 – Travis & Dawn Smith
11 – Ivan & Jamie (Steinke) King
18 – Dale & Becky Kunkel
20 – Dan & Lonnie Gillen
21 – Steve & Kim Bumb



From the Pastor's Desk

“Finding Hope in Unanswered Prayers”

Easter is now but a memory. Our celebrations of Confirmation and the Nation's birthday are all behind us. With the exception of the County Fairs, August almost appears as a quiet time between our busy summer and our upcoming September activities. The seasons in our faith journey might sometimes also appear to contain silent times of “unanswered prayers”.

Consider for a moment if there is a prayer that you have given up praying? The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1) might appear that way. Unlike their friends, this couple wanted children, but no children came. After a while, giving up praying, even for something so dear to their hearts might appear easy. They knew no reason why their prayer had gone unanswered; they lived for God, served him diligently, prayed faithfully, and yet the cradle remained empty. Then, as time passed, and their prayer to God appeared to disappear into thin air, and they found themselves beyond the child bearing years, they stopped praying.

No doubt this unanswered prayer was made all the more painful when their neighbors and friends had their desires fulfilled with homes filled with the laughter of little ones. This would have made their sorrow deeper with the disappointment which went beyond simply being childless - disappointment with God who had not given them children. If God was good, why was he silent? Why was their prayer for a child unanswered?

When Zechariah carried out his time of service in the temple, offering incense to God, the angel Gabriel appeared and informed Zechariah that Elizabeth would be having a child. Their prayer had been heard! In what should have been

welcomed news, Zechariah, so sure that God could no longer answer his prayer, argues with God's messenger. In a moment that called for faith, his disappointment with the years of silence denied God's answer and ability.

We all know how the story unfolds. But from this story we first learn that the prayers we give up on can lead us down the road of deep disappointment with God. A season of silence in our prayers can cause us to doubt in God's ability to answer even the simplest of requests. We need to always be aware of Satan's ploys to use silence and apparently unanswered prayer as meaning that something is wrong with us or that God is evil and uncaring.

The Bible clearly states that Zechariah and Elizabeth were good people, yet their prayer was not answered when they asked, because there was something else going on. God had a greater plan in mind; and the child would be given, not in their timing but in God's timing.

Silence in our prayers is to be expected and not feared. We may have given up praying certain prayers, but it does not mean that God has not heard them. God heard all of Zechariah's prayers and an answer was forthcoming. They would become the parents in their old age and their son would be no ordinary child. Therefore, the prayers we no longer pray may yet be answered and answered beyond what we ever thought possible. Should you ever believe that there are prayers you no longer pray, prayers that it seems too late for God to answer, remember that the Word of God assures us that God has heard them and God will answer all our prayers in His wisdom. And, in fact, if your prayer has not yet been answered it does not mean that God's ears are closed. Trust in God's goodness, and reject Satan's attempts to make your disappointments turn into bitterness with God. Do not be afraid of the silence in your prayer time because when we are quiet, that's we can hear God most clearly.

Dealing with Allergies

I suppose we all have allergies of one kind or another (peanut butter, gluten, lactose, seafood, dust, pollen, pets, latex, etc.). Some allergies are life-threatening while others are an annoyance.

When we first moved to the Prairies in 1996 to work on my Master's Degree, I developed psoriasis. The doctors tried to determine a cause and treatment, but in the end, they attributed it to either stress and/or weather.

Mary developed an active form of Rosacea around that same time. It was first diagnosed by a dermatologist in Toronto. For many years prior, she would have a healthy pinkish glow when she drank or ate those things now on her restricted list. People are born with Rosacea and many people don't realize they have it. Amongst noted persons are Cameran Diaz, Bill Clinton and W.C. Fields (had a disfiguring version).

Rosacea appears by eating or drinking those things that cause the blood vessels in the face to swell and blush while aggravated Rosacea manifest itself as an adult acme. For some it fades after a few days, for others, antibiotics (Mary's case) are required to reduce the blotches.

I'm often asked about what Mary can and cannot eat. In a restaurant, we order her food bland (exception of salt and/or garlic). Most good restaurants make sure to clean the area where the food is prepared to avoid cross-contamination. We rarely attend a pot-luck or any meal where we don't know what the food contains (or Mary brings her own).

The restricted items which she avoids are alcohol, caffeine, brown chocolate, black pepper (anything in pepper family), herbs, spices and seasoning. The last two generic words are things used in the ingredient list of store-bought products in order to hide their secret formulations. Take a look at your mayo or salad dressing and see what you find.

Generally, we have been avoiding eating/drinking the restricted items and Mary has not had a case of aggravated Rosacea in years. It's always best to ask if you prepare something for her – which is really true of any of us. Even I don't like or eat tomatoes!

2026 NALC Convocation

The North American Lutheran Church Online Convocation is scheduled for Friday, August 7, 2026 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

St John's Lutheran Church, Montpelier, Ohio is approved to have two (2) lay delegates and one (1) clergy delegate. Congregations are encouraged to commit to having their full number of delegates present for the NALC's "highest decision-making body" as a congregationally based organization.

Please let Pastor Marc know as soon as possible if you are able to participate.

Concert Invitation

An invitation to attend a Christian concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, 410 Talor St., Delta, Ohio on Friday, August 21. True Muzik is a local Christian Rapper who has recorded several albums and performed with some big names in Christian Hip-Hop. Music starts at 7 pm and Pastor Matthew Voyer invites you for grilling starting at 6 pm.



North West Ohio District

Fall Mission Event

Host: Zion Lutheran Church
210 N Wayne Street, St. Mary's, Ohio, 45884
Saturday, September, 19, 2026 at 10 am



Old Testament Live

Open to ALL ages.

District is covering registration cost.

Confirmation of attendance is required to ensure we have sufficient food for lunch.

Adult: _____

Youth: _____

Child: _____

Each church needs to collect the attendance and return the total number of attendees per church by September 6^h to Kathy Bishir (kbishir@hotmail.com)

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY PICTURES

Because of the business of summer sports, the dates for the pictures are under review. To get ready for our new directory, a paper has been inserted into the bulletin for families to fill out and complete so we can update our church records and church member information list for the new directory. More details about the new dates will be upcoming. Please place your St. John's member info papers in the baskets at each door.

WOTC Collecting Elementary School Kits in August

(A cloth bag will be provided)

- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 blunt scissor
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 4 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- 1 glue stick
- 1 Hand sanitizer or wipes

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED
WITH BEAN DAYS SAUSAGE
SANDWICHES AND ROOT BEER
FLOATS!!!**



WOTC Board Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2026

Present: Brenda Athy, Janice Thompson, Julie Carlson, Lexy Robson & Stacy DeMara

Devotions were done by Stacy.

Treasurer's Balances:	Checking \$4,519.28	Funeral Fund
	\$2,468.34	

President – Brenda read a thank you note from Megan for helping with the Bible School snacks. Brenda also went through the schedule for the root beer float stand.

Vice President – Janice will get the change for next weekend.

Secretary of Mission – Lexy will be picking up the ice cream on Wednesday. Lexy was also asking about where we can find extra trash bags for the big barrels. Lexy will try to find between 10-12 extra buckets that can be filled by donated items or filled by the women's group.

Secretary of Community –

Old Business

Janice was looking through her notes to see how many bottles of root beer & orange pop we used last year.

Brenda & her husband will be putting up the tent on Thursday. We could still use some people to work the afternoon shift on Saturday.

New Business

None at this time.

Next meeting will be September 13, 2026. Lexy will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
July 12, 2026**

Present: Ryan Burt, Mike Shilling, Jeanne Willson, Joey Burt, Al Henry, Brandon Shoup, Marilyn Parrish, Lisa Baker, Kati Burt, Nathan Baker, Dale Gearhart, Matt Sloan, Pastor Marc Lapointe, and Brenda Athy.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** President Ryan called the meeting to order.
2. **Approve the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Dale and seconded by Matt. Motion approved.
3. **Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.
4. **Devotions:** Given by Lisa from Parish Ed. (Trustees in October)
5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The April 12, 2026 Church Council meeting minutes, previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the April 12, 2026 Church Council meeting minutes made by Lisa and seconded by Matt. Motion approved.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Ryan. (Copies of the June Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in the yellow/orange folder by the front door entrance.).

Treasurer's Notes for June

- In May we pulled the CD's from F & M Bank due to rates and moved them all to WesBanco.
- One CD that was already with WesBanco renewed on its own for 7 months at a rate of 3.30% APY. Expiration date is 12/17/2026.
- We opened a new 7-month CD at WesBanco for \$139,927.52 for 7 months with a rate of 3.75% APY (rate is higher due to "NEW" money brought in). Expiration date on this CD is 12/27/2026.
- We opened a liquid money market account with WesBanco for \$100,000. Funds in this account are readily available if needed.
- The Total amount of Building Fund (CD/MM) comes to \$349,602.19 after all interest (\$9,195.44 accrued and new accounts were setup in May.
- Clearing account leftover funds moved to Offering.

7. Board Reports:

- **Deacons** – given by Al. Present were Joey, Al, and Brandon.
- There were 4 Sundays in April. The attendance for the 8 a.m. service had an average of 30 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 83 which makes a total Sunday average of 113 for April. There were 5 Sundays in May. The attendance for the 8 a.m. service had an average of 25 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 72 which makes a total Sunday average of 97 for May. There were 4 Sundays in June. The attendance for the 8 a.m. service had an average of 21 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 49 which makes a total Sunday average of 70.
- The deacons helped with St. John's work day in May and VBS decoration cleanup in June.
- Set up table and chairs for the Church Council meeting today.
- **Elders** – given by Marilyn. Present Marilyn.
- Nothing to report.
- **Parish Ed.** – Given by Kati. Present were Lisa and Kati.
- VBS June 22 – 26 and the program on Sunday, June 28 went well.

- Getting ready for the fall. Rally Day is September 20 Megan is getting classes worked out and is working on High School materials.
- Lisa thanked the Deacons for helping get the VBS tall decorations down.
- **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Nathan, Dale, and Matt.
- The May work Day had lots of kids show up and they got a lot done. Everyone ignored the rain and still kept on working.
- A broken window needs fixed.
- Checked the AC unit in treasurer's office and is running ok.

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

- At St. John's since April: 5 young people were confirmed, the Sunday Worship Service led by the confirmation students was successful, had hospital and home visits with communion, led Worship and Bible studies, led 3 movie nights with discussions, taught a VBS class, and preparing for September – December Confirmation schedule.
- As a member of the Montpelier Ministerial Association: filled many gasoline requests, work boots, attended 2 meetings and elected Pastor Kevin Doseck as chair, spoke and prayed during National Day of Prayer and Montpelier Memorial Day celebration, participated at the Baccalaureate program, presented a scholarship at the Scholarship Banquet, planned and will lead the Montpelier Community Worship Service during Bean Days. We will have a permit to block off the street during the service to prevent loud vehicles interrupting the service.
- As a member of the Northwest Ohio Mission District: attended 2 pastor meetings (including farewell to both Pastors Schultz who moved to Wisconsin), attended Ohio Mission District meeting in Grove City with Pastor Voyer (Delta) and elected new Northern Ohio District Deans (Pastors Poe and South), participated in 2 Zoom meetings with Bible Camp committee and planning to have a confirmation aged youth camp north of Columbus in September, there will be an online NALC Convocation August 7

in the evening (need 2 delegates), will have a Fall Mission District event – Walk Thru The Bible - live and free event on September 19 with registrations due by September 5th.

- On a personal note, the June holiday has been cancelled, have received a receipt of payment from ICE on June 11 and waiting on Visa extension, waiting on reply from IRS to submit for 2025 tax season as an extension was submitted in April, planning a holiday August 14-21 with Sunday August 16 message covered, and if able planning to take an October holiday in Canada for Canadian Thanksgiving October 12.

9. Other Reports:

WOTC - given by Brenda, WOTC president.

- Getting ready for Root Beer Floats sales during Bean Days, July 17 and 18.
- Thinking of changing funeral teams from 5 to 3.
- There will be no General Meeting or a Thank Offering service.
- Brenda went to NALC Disaster Response warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio to help organize the warehouse. She plans to go to again in the Fall to help Mary Bates. There are bunk beds available for overnight stays that can accommodate about 30 people. There are pictures on NALC Disaster Response of warehouse workers.
- Helped provide snacks during VBS.

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

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

12. Old Business:

- Lisa inquired about the status of getting a Venmo account for offerings. After much discussion, President Ryan will contact Tiffany.
- President Ryan shared that Mike Shilling was added to the new Building Committee along with the other following people: Ryan Burt, Matt Sloan, Dale Gearhart, and Andy Carlson.

- Discussion was held about getting the server rack placed on the wall in the Boiler Room.

13. New Business:

- After much discussion, Council members decided to set Sunday, October 11 as the next council meeting, the Budget meeting September 30 at 7 p.m. (2 people going off from each board, all Trustees, Treasurer, and Pastor), the week of October 25, Jeanne will send out the mailing for the Congregational meeting on November 8, and Harvest Fest will be on November 22.
- Pastor requested vacation August 14-21 and Jeanne is getting someone to cover for Sunday August 16. Motion to approve Pastor's vacation for August 14-21 made by Matt and seconded by Nathan. Motion approved.
- Lisa inquired about having an update on the Building Fund project. President Ryan stated he needs to come before the congregation and give an update. The trustees are still waiting on plans. Jeanne will take out the announcement in the bulletin.
- Nathan reminded those who are leaving their council position should find their own replacement.
- Kati brought up that next year we should think about combining our early and late service for only the summer months as attendance is down.
- Jeanne explained the upstairs women's bathroom toilets need to be looked at. The regular toilet refills about every 6-8 minutes and loses about an inch of water in the tank and the handicap toilet seems to have continuous running water somewhere although it doesn't show in the tank, but you can hear it. Vice President Mike stated he would look about replacing the inside flapper valves.
- Jeanne also brought up the sink in the Sacristy seems to have an occasional drip every now and then and would need a new gasket perhaps. Pastor Marc stated he could look at the sink.
- Nathan stated he is replacing the lights in the office.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dale and seconded by Matt. Motion approved.

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

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

BLESSING

GOD OF LOVE



Thank you for the gift of learning,
and the people who join us along the way -
for our teachers, support staff, family and whānau.
Thank you for the people who mow the lawns,
who care for our school buildings,
and make our school community a place of welcome.



GOD OF WISDOM,



Thank you for words that create worlds in our imaginations.
Thank you for mathematical equations, coding and pixels,
creative art and learning different languages.
Help us to discern between fiction and fact,
to use the gift of technology wisely,
as you inspire and enlarge our heart to dream,
and find ways to express ourselves.

GOD OF THE PLAYGROUND



of singing, pump tracks and scooter rides,
of sports competitions and games,
of shared lunches and packed lunchboxes.
We thank you that for our classmates and friends.



GOD OF THIS YEAR,



give us courage to care deeply,
a heart to see how we can make a difference in the world,
loyal friends for the journey,
and the knowledge that we are deeply loved by You.

≡ **AMEN** ≡

