

St. John's Lutheran Church

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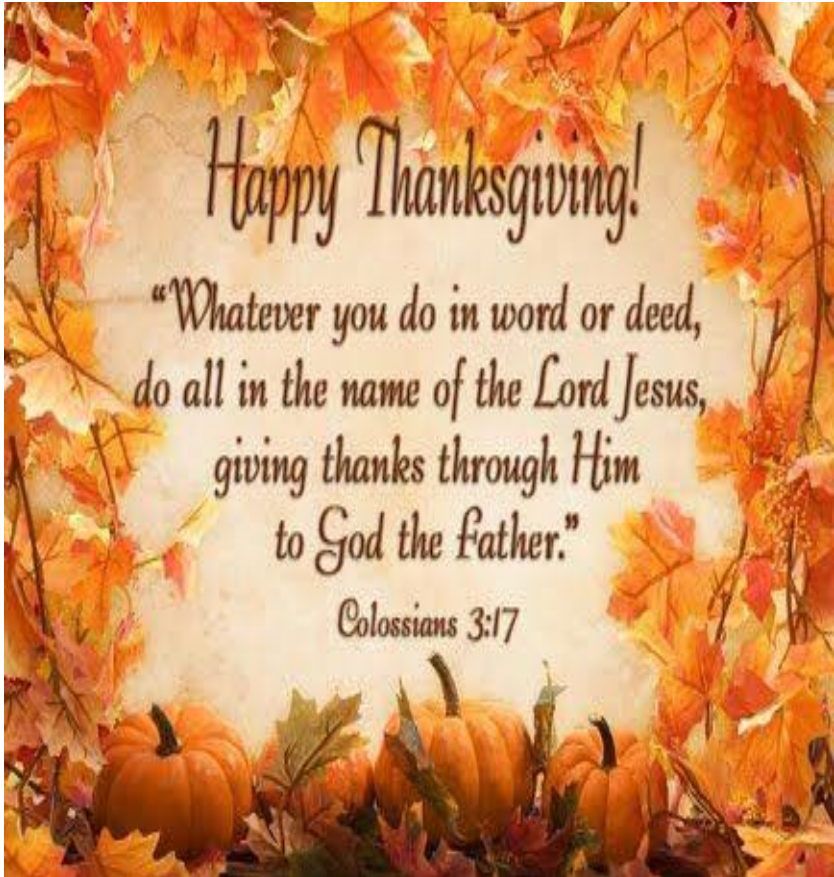
stjohnmontpelier.org

Pastor Marc Lapointe

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November 2025 Newsletter



Shut-Ins

Serving in Worship during October

Acolytes:

2: Emmi Burt
9: Gia Fiser
16: Addy Hendricks
23: Charlotte Johnston
30: Harrison Rose

Lesson Readers:

2: Dave Jaessing
9: Ryan Burt
16: Merlin Wright
23: Vonda Henry
30: Michael Kidston

Greeters:

2: Deacons
9: Burt family
16: Shoup family
23: Dale Gearhart & Grace Saneholtz
30: Thomas family

Sue Dewire
Burt family
Deacons
Deacons
Michael, McCrae,
& Ziva Kidston





November Birthdays

1 – Ruby Hendricks
1 – Matt Fredericks
2 – Jon Willson
4 – Charlie Rose Wright
5 – Sharon Deetz
5 – Lonnie Gillen
8 – Steve Bumb
9 – Katie Taylor
10 – Carol Eriksen
10 – Ashley Vogel

11 – Merlin Wright
12 – Dick Beck
12 – Bill Hill
12 – Terra Kidston
13 – Nate Thompson
13 – Carter Psurny
15 – Brayson Henry
15 – Cashe Thomas
17 – Adrianna Martin
18 – Brady Wright
19 – Seth Thompson
20 – McCrae Kidston
21 – Evan Whitis
21 – Megan Mercer
30 – Jim Rockey
30 – Jim Hulisz



November Anniversaries

7 – Bill & Bev Psurny
9 – Tim & Vonda Henry

From the Pastor's Desk

“Should I Point out Another Person's Error?”

If you see someone doing something wrong, should you correct them? Both the Old and New Testament appear to say that you should. “Correct me, O Lord, but in just measure; not in your anger, or you will bring me to nothing” (Jeremiah 10:24). Jesus speaking on behaviour says “If another member of the [Christian community] sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone” (Matthew 18:15). If they listen to you, you have regained that believer.

How do you feel about pointing out their sins and failings to those people? I suggest that most of us don't like it, and the very idea of doing it smacks of being the most objectionable characteristic about Christianity. But it doesn't need to be, if it is done lovingly and correctly. The intention of correction is never about faulting or expelling the believer, but restoring them to the communal fellowship in Christ. For you see, if we take seriously our being members of the ‘one Body of Christ’ (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12) we share in each other's blessings and curses as a community of saints who is called to be ‘holy and blameless’ (Ephesians 1).

So then, before you correct a brother or sister in Christ, meditate on scripture and pray for divine wisdom. Before you point out another's failings, for their own good, let's first read John 8:1-11. Jesus said to those who would stone a woman caught in the act of adultery, “let those without sin cast the first stone.” None of us can proudly proclaim to be without sin; which is why we have the injunction to speak of others' faults when “the two of you alone.” Such action must be done in the proper spirit, acknowledging that I am not myself perfect, that I know my own failings and weaknesses as well. Correction of the other must be always be done in the spirit of respect and humility. It's only for the grace of God that a sinner can correct another sinner's error.

If I am going to point out another brother or sister in Christ's failing, I must always be ready to concede that I may be wrong in my perceptions! While we may observe the wrongful actions of others, we know little of the motivation that make that person act in this way.

When we don't know their motive, we usually assume, or make up in our own mind, a motivation only to discover in the end that we know little about the real circumstance.

While waiting at the airport terminal for her plane to begin boarding, a woman sat reading a newspaper. Earlier, she had purchased a package of cookies at the airport snack shop to eat after she got on her plane. But then, out of the corner of her eye, she noticed that the man sitting next to her was eating a cookie. She looked down and noticed that her package of cookies had been opened and the man was eating them. The woman couldn't believe that the man would have such nerve as to eat her cookies. So that she wouldn't lose all her cookies to the man, she slowly reached over, took a cookie, and ate one herself. To her amazement, the man continued to eat more cookies. Getting more and more irritated, the woman removed all but one cookie from the package and ate them. The man reached down and took the last cookie, but before eating it, he broke it in half and left half of the cookie for the woman. This made her so angry that she grabbed the empty package with the half cookie and crammed them into her purse, at which point, to her shock, noticed that there, in her purse, was her unopened package of cookies.

Finally, there is a reward to correction which often only comes long after the confrontation. Many parents will attest to this after seeing the fruit of correction in their children, at some future date, after they have become adults and parents themselves.

In conclusion, think about a time when you failed to stand up for what is right or true? In your attempts to correct others, have you been humble, open to hear the other's motives? And, finally, do you accept gracefully the stinging truth that others tell you about yourself?

Results of the Heartbeat Survey

Thirteen responses were received.

Although the Vision of the NALC is to make disciples and grow the church, there was no interest expressed in planting new churches.

About half of the people who responded expressed an interest in having a new member/refresher course on Lutheranism. Although all

people are welcomed to worship and learning at St John's, being an active member opens the door to serving on council and voting at congregational meetings. While this is often included as an annual learning opportunity, we will look at the possibility of having a class in November 2025.

Most of the respondents indicated a desire for having pastor-led Bible study with a monthly movie night with discussion. Sunday youth and adult Catechesis are being well directed by our capable lay leaders which allows me the opportunity to visit with the students, meet with people as they leave and arrive at church and properly prepare for the 10 am worship.

While the proposed day for these discussions varied greatly, most felt that Monday or Thursday would be good choices. I have decided to begin with a movie night on Monday, October 27 at 6:30 and see how things work themselves out from there.

Many respondents highlighted a desire for prayer ministry which can encompass many different things from leading the prayers during worship to being a contact point for a telephone prayer chain. Receiving about half the positive responses was having local mid-week house fellowships (no more than 12 people) whose focus is on gathering to sing and pray together. We will have a follow up meeting to explore these at a later date.

Thank you for taking time to respond.

Ratification of Amendments to the NALC Constitution

As a requirement of our National Church, changes that have been approved at a Convocation must be approved by the member churches before being implemented.

At the Pittsburgh, PA, NALC Mission Convocation (August 6-8, 2025), 457 delegates voted to approve three amendments to the National Constitution. At the upcoming congregational meeting on November 16, the voting members of St John's will be asked to ratify (to agree with) the affirmative vote of the Convocation using a single ballot.

The proposed changes to the Constitution are available from Pastor Marc if you want to read them. Please note, we are voting on accepting the three amendments and not the individual changes in the document. A simple majority is required to pass.

Amendment #1 – The movement of some items to Bylaws and clean up Scrivener's errors.

Amendment # 2 – Addition of an article on North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS).

Amendment # 3 – Addition of an article (renamed) "Legal and Financial Matters.

In Celebration

Baptism

Sunday, November 2, we celebrate the Baptism of Mattalyn Sue Riegsecker during the 10 a.m. service. Her parents are Michael and Michie (Shilling) Riegsecker and grandparents are Mike and Melinda Shilling.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, November 2. We will remember the saints of God in our congregation who have died since last year and previous years. We will also welcome Mattalyn Sue Reigsecker into the fellowship of the living saints through Holy Baptism.

1st Communion

1st Communion for our 5th and 6th graders will be celebrated November 9th at the 10 a.m. service. They are currently attending classes with Merlin Wright. We will be having an extra communion that Sunday as they have their 1st communion with their families and then the rest of the congregation members that are left will then have communion.

Our visiting World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) missionaries, Neeraj and Nijhar Ekka visited October 26. Our members gave them an offering of \$618. They sent us the following thank you email:

Be sure to check out their newsletter posted near the office bulletin board.



Greetings to you in Jesus name.

Thank you so much for your gracious hospitality to us over the weekend. We are so thankful to the Lord for giving us opportunity to meet you and be able to worship with St. John's family. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to come and share about the work of World Mission Prayer League and invite you to pray for the Hui People of China. We were so blessed to be prayed over in the second service. Thank you, Pastor Marc, for your thoughtfulness. Thank you again and May God keep you both and all brothers and sisters in His grace.

With Prayers

Nijhar and Neeraj

It's Christmas Program Rehearsal Time!

Starting Sunday, November 2 (that's next Sunday already) PreK – 6th graders rehearsals for the Christmas Program will take place every Sunday during Sunday School time at 9:00 a.m. and will also continue practicing every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. till Wednesday, December 17 (but no class for Thanksgiving break November 26). Try to have your kids here so they can learn their parts and the songs for the Program on December 21 at the 10 a.m. service.

WOTC Info

Brenda Athy, WOTC President, will be selling raffle tickets after the 10 a.m. service next Sunday, November 2nd and also on the 9th for a chance to win the Michigan and or Ohio State quilts. Tickets will also be available at the Old Tyme Gathering Craft Fair, Saturday, November 22.



St John's Lutheran Church Montpelier
WOTC 2025

*Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering
Craft Fair November 22nd*

**What's better than our
Homemade BUCKEYES!
Winning a Game Day Quilt!**



**Come support our NALC Disaster
Response as we raffle off these 2 Beautiful
Handmade Quilts**

Minimum donation of \$1.00 per ticket

**Tickets sold at the fair / Winners drawn that day
Winners posted on our FACEBOOK page**

WOTC Thank Offering Service is Sunday, November 9

Ladies, bring your offering boxes or envelopes on that Sunday during both services. Praises to our heavenly Father for all the blessings he has graciously given during this past year. You can then pick up your new offering holders. Fill them as you feel thankful and blessed. There are many mission projects we can contribute to, so your offering will be a blessing to someone in need.

Informational Mailing for November 16

Congregational Meeting After 10 a.m. Service

Watch for a mailing which was sent out Oct. 29. This includes a letter from Pastor Marc, the 2026 Proposed Budget, 2026 Slate of Officers ballot with Information about the 3 amendments for NALC Constitution and a colorful "Give Thanks" envelope "for celebrating Harvest Fest on November 23 as we thank God for his blessings. Church Council has decided not to have a meal this year.

St. John's Is Invited to Meet Trinity Lutheran Church
Members for a Fall Harvest Dinner



Jr and Sr Youth Pizza and Game
Get Together



The Youth from Trinity Lutheran Church, Delta (our newest NALC member church) have invited the youth from St. John's Montpelier to a get-to-know each other event on Sunday, November 16, at 5:00 pm. Pastor Marc has sent home flyers with the Catechism and High School kids. We will need drivers for this event so let Megan know and let Pastor Marc know if you are coming or not.

Special Thanksgiving Community Service and Choir

Our Montpelier Community Thanksgiving Service will be on Sunday, November 23 at 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church with a community meal afterwards. Churches are providing a meal like we have during Bean Days. If you would like to sing for special music at the Thanksgiving Community Service, contact Carol Carr at 419-633-2000.

Movie Night

Pastor Marc is offering another movie night on November 24 starting at 6 p.m. downstairs in the Fellowship Hall/Social Room. There will be popcorn again!



WOTC Board Meeting October 12, 2025

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

Treasurer's Balances: Checking \$5,039.24 Funeral Fund \$2,333.58
\$650 was received in donations for Blanket Sunday.

President – Brenda said she felt the General Meeting went very well. Brenda suggested that the Women's Group purchase tags to sew on the quilts that are being made to donate to the NALC Disaster Relief.

Vice President – Janice will bring the quilts that are being raffled to the church to be displayed next Sunday. Janice will be getting the supplies for the buckeyes.

Secretary of Mission –

Lexy & Janice are taking the kits to Jackson Center on Friday. They will be taking 53 quilts, 4 kitchen kits, 24.7# soap, 9 health kits, 17 cleaning buckets, 13 school bags, 6 Bibles & the \$650 that was received on Blanket Sunday. There were also 34 containers of bleach donated from the Church of Christ in Bryan.

Secretary of Community –

Bev spoke more with Shirley Fry about speaking at the Women's Thank Offering service. Shirley will only be able to speak at the 10:00 service.

Old Business

Discussion was held on what everyone is bringing for the November 5th Pastor's luncheon. We also talked about the Women's Thank Offering service.

New Business

Buckeyes will be made on November 19th & 20th starting at 9:00 for the Olde Tyme Gathering on November 22nd.

Next meeting will be November 9, 2025. Lexy will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara



St. John's Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting October 12, 2025

Present: Nate Thompson, Ryan Burt, Tiffany Thomas, Mike Timbrook, Andy Carlson, Matthew Luke, Marilyn Parrish, Jeanne Willson, Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Lisa Baker, Robin Willson, Nathan Baker, Dale Gearhart, Bill Hill, Pastor Marc Lapointe, and Brenda Athy.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** President Nate Thompson called the meeting to order.
2. **Approve the Agenda:** Pastor Marc wanted to add Harvest Fest Sunday Congregational Meeting information. With that addition to the agenda, motion to approve the amended agenda made by Ryan and seconded by Bill. Motion approved.
3. **Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.
4. **Devotions:** Given by Pastor Marc.
5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The September 14, 2025 Church Council meeting minutes previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the September 14, 2025 Church Council meeting minutes made by Mike and seconded by Dale. Motions approved.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Given by Tiffany. Copies of the September Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in a yellow/orange folder by the front door entrance.)
Treasurer's Notes – September
 - Clearing Account increased by \$36.00 for more Altar Flowers throughout the year. It decreased by \$18.00 to pay for one of the Altar Flower invoices. Still has a balance of \$72.00 to pay for the remaining Altar Flowers at \$18.00 each.
7. **Board Reports:**
 - **Deacons** – given by Mike. Present was Mike.
 - There were 4 Sundays in September. The attendance for 8 a.m. services had an average of 23.5 and the 10 a.m. had an average of 65.5 for a Sunday total of 89.
 - **Elders** – given by Jeanne. Present were Andy, Matthew, Marilyn and Jeanne.
 - Jeanne opened with prayer.
 - We discussed who would be on the voting ballot and who was not. Matthew and Jeanne are looking for replacements.

- Discussed and finished the October and November Worship Schedule for assisting at communion. We worked on December's schedule.
- We looked over Pastor Marc's pamphlet about our church that could be available to give out to other people or business places and will discuss it next meeting. Nate suggested the Montpelier Chamber packet for new move in people. Jeanne passed out some copies for council members to read over and discuss next meeting.
- **Parish Ed.** – Given by Megan. Present were Lisa, Kati, Megan, and Robin.
 - Started our Wednesday night activities.
 - An email will be sent out this week to let families know about Pastor's Marc's Movie Night coming up.
 - A schedule will also be sent out to ask an adult to sit in with the Catechism students to help Pastor Marc keep order with the 13 students.
 - Information will also be sent out by email to let parents know about the new NALC Trinity Lutheran Church in Delta who has invited our youth to a Fun Night with their youth.
 - Students will be taking 1st Communion classes on Wednesdays and Sundays with Merlin Wright beginning Wednesday, October 15 for 5 sessions and 2 extra make-up days. Thinking about doing their first Communion on November 9.
 - October 29 will be the Reformation Party and planning to ask Jim and Janice Thompson if we can go out to their house again this year, but needs confirming.
- **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Nathan, Ryan, Dale, Bill, Matt, and Tiffany.
 - Got an estimate on repairing the front steps of \$5000. He is hoping it might be lower depending on time and material.
 - Talked about the new computer and will discuss it under New Business.

- Talked about door locks on Wednesday night activities. We want to have only one door that is used so we can keep an eye on it and the kids can only come in and out the west door. Before the activity starts it is unlocked and then locked after activities start so no surprise visitors can just come in without our knowledge. All parents will pick them up at the west door. Megan mentioned sometimes some of the kids do come in late and suggested having a doorbell or buzzer or something. Dale said that was discussed. Nathan mentioned they are looking into some kind of an electronic lock.
- Megan added that maybe Ann Kidston and Robin can kind of keep an eye on things as a floater so no one is meandering around the halls. Dale suggested having a male figure available. Discussion was had about how to have people to volunteer for this. A note will be put in the bulletin

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

- Pastor Marc stated he did some research into Lutheran Social Services and found they do not support abortion and do support adoption and taking care of your own kids.
- He shared that World Mission Prayer League missionaries, Nijhar and Neeraj Ekka will be coming on Saturday, October 25 and will have a meet and greet that evening at 6:30 p.m. which the Men's Group will provide refreshments. On Sunday, October 26, one will speak to the Catechism students and the other one will speak to the adult Sunday School classes. Then will speak during the 10 a.m. service.
- The heartbeat of St. John's survey resulted in 13 responses. Seemed to have a demand for Bible Studies and Movie Night discussions, and prayer meetings were some of the things people were interested in.
- Had a meeting with Pastor Matt from Trinity Lutheran Church in Delta, our newest NALC member church, and their youth are inviting our youth to a Fun Night November 16 for a Pizza Party Night activity. We are trying to do more activities together. Trinity Lutheran is planning to send some of their youth to the NALC

Youth National Gathering coming up in July 2026 and maybe some of our kids can go with them.

- We do have a Baptism coming up on November 2 and First Communion coming up on November 9 and the Congregational Meeting on November 16 with Harvest Fest offerings on November 23. Advent will begin on Sunday, November 30.
- He mentioned more NALC meetings in the future.

9. Other Report:

WOTC – given by President, Brenda Athy.

- The General meeting in September was awesome with Lisa Baker having a presentation about quilts.
- She talked with Lisa about all the quilts that were on display today for Blanket Sunday and when they are sent to the NALC Disaster Response people, we could put something on each of the quilt that tells our church's name and maybe get a response back about the quilts. The WOTC women are going to purchase something that the ladies can either iron on or stitch on during Sewing Day.
- Discussed about the lunch menu they are providing for the NALC N.W. Ohio District meeting on November 5 when the pastors meet here at St. John's.
- Also discussed the WOTC Thank Offering Sunday service on November 9. Shirley Fry will be speaking at the 10 a.m. service. Council members discussed adding communion to that service for First Communion.
- She shared about having a potential trip to visit the NALC Disaster Response main building in Calwell, Ohio and some more ideas on how to get the youth involved in helping to get items for the different kits.
- The women are making Buckeyes with Matthew and Rozetta Luke on November 19 and 20 starting at 9 a.m.

Missions Group -

- Matthew shared that his wife, Rozetta Luke, co-coordinator, decided the Mission Group would provide financing to fill in any extras that were needed to finish any NALC Disaster Response kits and any gas

money for Lexi Robson to take them to Caldwell, Ohio for a total of \$262. 95. Brenda thanked Rozetta.

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

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

12. Old Business:

- President Nathan shared the outdoor sign is finally done. Lights are on now.
- Bill shared about attendance figures. He did some research from 2019 till now and equated that to our financials. He talked about the increases and decreases. Once he finalizes this information, he will present this to the congregation.

13. New Business:

- President Nate decided to skip the item about the computer and table it for next month.
- President Nathan asked for someone to run the Congregational Meeting, November 16 since he won't be able to be here. Vice President Ryan also said he would not be here for the meeting either. Nate will find someone to run the meeting. Harvest Fest Sunday will be November 23 when we give a special offering.
- Pastor talked about getting people to understand the ratification from NALC 's 3 amendments for the voting ballot. Council members agreed to have the vote on all 3 amendments as 1 vote. Pastor will explain more at the meeting if needed.
- Jeanne requested any 2026 board member changes be given to her by Monday, October 27. Deacons will let Jeanne know about any changes later. Trustees and Parish Ed. will stay the same.
- Discussion was had about changes on the proposed 2026 budget. Motion to make an increase for the organist pay made by Ryan and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.
- Motion to accept the 2026 proposed budget as amended to be presented to the congregational meeting made by Andy and seconded by Bill. Motion approved.

- Mike inquired about gift giving.
- Megan suggested having Pastor Marc and Mary invite first the people who are not attending church to dinner or some welcome activity to find out why they are not coming and then second invite members who regularly attend and get to know them better and welcome them to church. It could be considered a business expense. Bill also suggested handing out our new and revised pamphlets about the church.
- Discussion was held about who was a member of St. John's.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike and seconded by Ryan. Motion approved.

15. Lord's Prayer: The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is November 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



BUT IT WORKED FOR MARTIN LUTHER....

FIRST PLACE WINNERS FOR THE OCTOBER 29, 2025
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH REFORMATION
PARTY SCAVENGER HUNT





Thanksgiving Observance

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God instead of yourself.

-Author Unknown