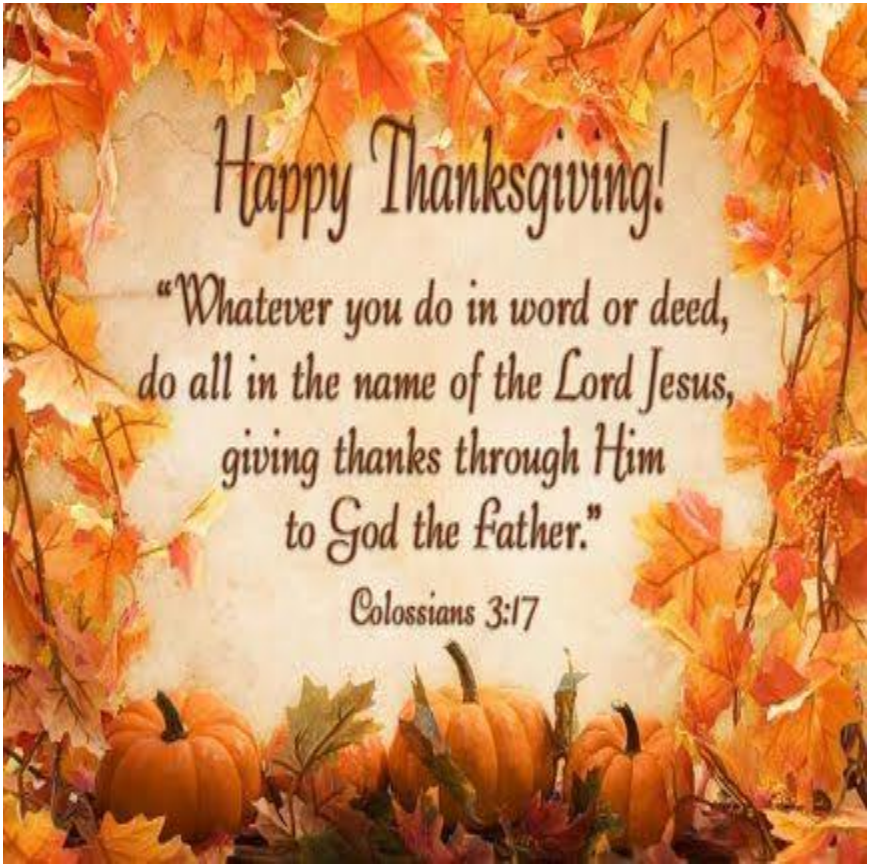
St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastor Marc Lapointe
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November 2026 Newsletter



Shut-Ins

Sally Lemmon
09876 Co. Rd. Apt. 418
Bryan, OH 43506

Serving in Worship during November

Acolytes:	**Lesson Readers**:
1: Nevaeh Woods	1: Marilyn Parrish
8: Jaxton Brancheau	8: Jeanne Willson
15: Emmi Burt	15: open
22: Brayson Henry	22: open
29: Ziva Kidston	29: open

Greeters:

1: Deacons	Sue Dewire
8: Jeanne Willson	Deacons
15: open	Deacons
22: open	Deacons
29 open	Deacons





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
13 – Nate Thompson
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

"You Shall not Steal."

Taking something that does not belong to us should be obviously wrong. But is it really that simplistic? I sat in court one day as a young mother was on trial for stealing formula for her newborn, while a young man was charged with stealing a Bible. Is taking something that once belonged to us stealing? Most wars are about the rights of possession of land that once belonged to the aggressor. Can taking something be not stealing – in the same way as a little white lie is not a lie? I once had a verbal contract to install siding on our house. The contractor refused to finish the job for the amount we had agreed on. I ended up buying and finishing the siding myself! Even the value of a written contract today is suspect when an employer changes the terms and salary after a contract has been signed and agreed to.

Twice during my ministry, I have worked in a retail store. It still amazes me today the amount of theft that takes place. Ten of millions of dollars are stolen each year from an individual retail store, from people eating and drinking as they shop, to brazen thieves who will quickly exit through the main doors with televisions - while all the alarms are ringing.

As the season of giving (Christmas) approaches, taking will increase, including stealing personal items. Be warned – I have seen this happen - as a woman shopping in our store had her purse stolen from her unattended grocery cart while she was looking at Christmas toys!

The first accusations of stealing occur when Rachel has stolen her father Laban's household idols. Taking/stealing were common at that time in history. But God gave Israel the Commandments in order to stand apart from other nations. We have this command today to stand apart in our world. Does this mean that Christians don't take things that don't belong to them? How should we judge

stealing in light of King Solomon's Proverb "people do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving" (Pr. 6:30). But the fact remains that stealing is stealing and the end-result is the same.

But theft wears many different masks and we often work hard to explain something away as not being theft. If we get too much money back from a cashier or refund, we justify it saying that it was their error, even when we know it's not ours to have. In many work places we use their pens, photocopier, tools or vehicles for personal reasons and in many places, workers steal time from an employer by calling in sick (when not sick). We justify ourselves saying 'it won't be missed' or 'I'm deserving of it' or 'they have more than enough money.'

But "You shall not steal" is clear in that we should not take anything that does not belong to us. There is no justification that can be used to say that it is okay to take something that does not belong to us. If anything, the opposite can be justified and supported by scripture. It's with this in mind, that I want to challenge you to rephrase the command from a negative directive to a positive affirmation. Try it before reading on.

For you see, from birth we have learned to not like to hear words like "no" or "don't". In the first chapter of the book of Genesis, God freely gives all things to us. Our life, our health, our salary … everything is a gift from God. The greatest gift of all is His Son Jesus – through whom we have salvation and eternal life. And notice, God doesn't differentiate, sending his sunshine and rain upon the righteous and the un-righteous. And so, when I re-write this command in a positive context, I might say something like "freely give what you have received from God". We rejoice in what God has freely given us, counting our blessings as we give away what has been given to us; forgiveness, love, grace, etc. God wants us to receive and not take as Jesus says "freely you have received; freely give".

While it is not my intention to tell anyone how to use their money, I write this note to the members of our church with humility and great difficulty. We are regularly approached by person who want or need assistance. Your pastor and the Montpelier Ministerial handle these requests with care and caution. We maintain a spreadsheet with the names of those we assist. We have rules regarding what we will help the needy with and we also forward (with permission) repeat requests to "Store House for Hope" in Bryan for financial and social coaching. We assist mainly those who live in Montpelier. We do not disperse cash and neither should you if approached. If you are approached in the church building or property for cash, please bring the person to the pastor or to a member of council.
Thank you. Pastor Marc.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, November 1 at the 10 a.m. service. We will remember the saints of God in our congregation who have died since last year and previous years.

It's Christmas Program Rehearsal Time!

Starting Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 pm we will continue practicing every Wednesday till Wednesday, December 16 (but no class for Thanksgiving break November 25). Try to have your kids here so they can learn their parts and the songs for the Program on December 20 at the 10 a.m. service.

WOTC Info

The WOTC are offering Buckeyes to eat and necklaces to wear for purchase from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Old Tyme Gathering Craft Fair, Saturday, November 21 at Montpelier School.
More crafts from other people (like Robin Willson) are also available at the Venue 401 W. Brown Road, Montpelier (the old Nazarene Church) that same day.

WOTC Thank Offering Service is Sunday, November 8

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 holder boxes or envelopes. 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. 20. This includes a letter from Pastor Marc, the 2027 Proposed Budget, 2027 Slate of Officers ballot, and a colorful "Give Thanks" envelope for celebrating Harvest Fest on November 22 as we thank God for his blessings. Church Council has decided not to have a meal this year.

Special Thanksgiving Community Service

Our Montpelier Ministerial Association is planning a Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22 at 4 p.m. with a community meal following the service. It will be sponsored by Ignite Ministry which is currently meeting at Venue 401 W. Brown Road, Montpelier. (The old Nazarene Church).



WOTC Board Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2026

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

Devotions were done by Lexy.

Treasurer's Balances: Checking $5,823.79 Funeral Fund $2,478.80
$345.00 was received in donations for the flood buckets items

President – Brenda brought in a copy of the ad that was placed in the Village Report asking for donations for the flood buckets.
Vice President – Janice contacted Patty Clark to see if she would be willing to make another Ohio State & Michigan quilt to raffle off at the Old Thyme Gathering.

Secretary of Mission – Lexy told us about the facility in Napoleon where they were able to take the quilts, flood buckets & kits. Due to the monetary donations Lexy & Stacy were able to pick up items to fill 12 more flood buckets. Discussion was held on the donated items for the kits.

Secretary of Community –

Old Business

Discussion was held on trying to find a more heavy-duty tent for the root beer float stand.

New Business

Discussion was held on sending flowers to Mary Bates for her retirement effective October 31st. Lexy will get an address where the flowers can be sent.

Brenda asked when Filling Home Sunday will be scheduled. This was tabled for now.

We will be selling buckeye necklaces along with buckeyes at the Old Thyme Gathering. Megan & Bill Hill's boys have been collecting buckeyes for these necklaces. The Old Thyme Gathering is November 21st. Janice will pick up the supplies for the buckeyes. Tentatively buckeye making will be November 18th & 19th.

Next meeting will be November 8, 2026. Julie will do devotions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara



St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
October 11, 2026

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** President Ryan called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.
2. **Approve the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Bill and seconded by Mike T. Motion approved.
3. **Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.
4. **Devotions:** Given by Bill from Trustees. (Deacons in January 2027)
5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The July 12, 2026 Church Council meeting minutes, previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the July 12, 2026 Church Council meeting minutes made by Dale and seconded by Mike T. Motion approved.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Tiffany. (Copies of the September 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 September

   - Clearing Account increased by $18 for money deposited to pay for altar flowers. Invoice will be paid in October.
   - Tiffany shared she is going to send Jeanne information on how we compare to the budget and wants it in the bulletin insert.
7. **Board Reports:**

   - **Deacons –** given by Mike T. Present was Mike T.
   - There were 4 Sundays in September. The attendance for the 8 a.m. service had an average of 22 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 55 which makes a total Sunday average of 77. There were 5 Sundays in August. The attendance for the 8 a.m. service had an average of 21 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 48 which makes a total Sunday average of 78 for August. There were 4 Sundays in July, but 3 for St. John's as Bean Days Community service Sunday attendance was 200. The attendance for the 8 a.m.

service had an average of 23 and the 10 a.m. service had an average of 49 which makes a total Sunday average of 71.

- The deacons assisted with chairs and drinks for the Bean Days Community meal.
- They helped the WOTC box up the quilts and also load them with the cleaning buckets and all collected kits to send to NALC Disaster Response warehouse.

• **Elders** – given by Matthew. Present Andy, Mathew, and Marilyn.

- They discussed the new proposed marriage policy from Pastor Marc.
- They discussed doing the Passing of the Peace at the early service.

• **Parish Ed.** – Given by Megan. Present were Lisa, Kati, and Megan

- Wednesday, October 28 is going to be our Reformation party at 6:30-7:30 p.m. and open to the whole congregation. The place is still being determined.
- There is a confirmation mentor's meeting this Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- We have VBS planned for June 21-25, 2027, the last full week of June and the program will be on Sunday, June 27, 2027.
- We would like to have Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday like last year. On Shrove Tuesday, the kids will make pancakes and play games downstairs. People can eat here at the church from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Then Ash Wednesday Service will be from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and no Wednesday youth classes that evening so everyone can worship together at that earlier time like last year.
- It has been a really good start to the year. We have some new curriculum on Wednesdays and Sundays and things seem to be going well.

• **Trustees –** Given by Dale. Present were Nathan, Dale, and Matt.

- Dale is stepping down for mowing, trimming, shrubs, weeding, and picking up sticks for the church lawn about once a week outside for 2027.
- The window that was damaged has been repaired.

- Nathan reminded council that an announcement should be put in the bulletin that there is going to be openings for 2 more trustees next year.

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

- Since July has done hospital and home visits with communion given. Had 2 marriage requests for June and August 2027, applied and received a marriage license from the Ohio Secretary of State, officiated for Riki Timbrook funeral, planning for Advent and Christmas Eve services, began September – December Confirmation with 10 kids, and planning the 2027 curriculum for that.
- Attended 2 Montpelier Ministerial Association meetings, felt the Community Bean Days service was well attended, sent pictures and videos to be included in the 2026 Time Capsule for Montpelier, Since the Montpelier Ministerial phone is out of commission currently, helped many gasoline requests that have come to the church, and have started planning for Thanksgiving Community Service.
- Attended One Mission Ohio District meeting, participated online for the NALC Convocation August 7, attended along with Jeanne Willson and Mary Lapointe, the Fall Ohio Northwest Mission District live event – Walk thru the Bible.
- On a personal note, received receipt of payment from ICE on June 11, but still waiting for Visa, submitted taxes to IRS – all checks have been cashed, hoping to plan for a holiday for December 25 – January, 5 (not here for December 27) and planning to attend NALC Clergy Retreat for January 17-23, 2027.
- Officiating Non-Member marriage of Estrel/Castle August 7, 2027 and Member marriage of Vogel/Buckner for June 12, 2027.

9. Other Reports:

WOTC - given by Brenda, WOTC president.

- WOTC Board met today and going to be working the program book for next year.
- Need people to volunteer for Altar Guild as we have lost several people who have volunteered in the past.

- We will not be in charge of planning the Thank Offering Service, but will still have our baskets out to collect offering boxes and envelopes.
- Planning to change our 5 funeral dinner teams down to 3 as we have lost several members on each team.
- We are still planning on doing the Buckeyes and an ad has been put on our Facebook page.
- We were able to fill 12 cleaning buckets for NALC Disaster Response and thank you for are awesome congregation for stepping up and contributing for that.

10. <u>Approve All Reports:</u> Motion to approve all reports made by Mike T. and seconded by Matt. Motion approved.

11. <u>Half-Time Prayer:</u> Given by Pastor Marc.

12. <u>Old Business:</u>

– President Ryan inquired about Venmo, but Tiffany had not looked into it yet.

- President Ryan asked about combining services during the summer months and Jeanne and Matthew felt the 8 am service would not want to combine with the 10 a.m. and would like to keep it as it is.
- President Ryan shared an update for the Building Committee. They have been told we should be seeing something very soon. They are hoping to have it available for the Congregational Meeting on November 8.

13. <u>New Business:</u>

- President Ryan explained the changes that were decided on at the Budget Committee meeting.
  They worked on some additions and mostly cuts from the 2026 budget and ended up adding only $105. The total proposed 2027 budget will be $270,625. Motion to approve the proposed 2027 budget of $270,625 made by Dale and seconded by Bill. Motion approved.
- An update to the Wedding Policies for members and non-members were discussed at length and used for any future weddings after the current two 2027 weddings that have already been planned and

approved. Ryan will type up the changes and pass it out at the January 2027 meeting where they will be approved. Motion to approve the Ashley Vogel/ Thomas Buckner wedding June 12, 2027 made by Nathan and seconded by Bill. Motion approved.

- Motion to approve Pastor Marc's holiday December 25 – January 5 made by Dale and seconded by Matt. Motion approved. This depends if he receives his visa by then.
- Motion to approve Pastor Marc's NALC Clergy Retreat in San Antonio, TX January 17-23, 2027 made by Matt and Nathan. Motion approved.
- Discussion about approving our north parking lot for Sunday, November 22 for Montpelier's Old Tyme Gathering to leave their tent up from Saturday November 21. Motion to approve the use of our parking lot for the Old Tyme Gathering's tent to remain up for November 22 made by Matt and seconded by Megan. Motion approved.
- Motion to approve January 31 for the Congregational Meeting after the 10 a.m. made by Dale and seconded by Lisa. Motion approved. Jeanne requested all board reports need to be turned into the office no later than January 24th.
- Pastor Marc reminded council that Harvest Sunday is November 22and the first Sunday in Advent is December 29 so the Advent wreath needs to be up by then. Megan said the confirmation students can help with decorating also.
- Advent worship services time and Wednesday activities times was discussed. It was decided to have classes on Wednesday be 6:30 – 7 p.m. and then Advent Services would start at 7 p.m. so the students can attend services with their parents. Confirmation students are expected to be there. Motion to approve Advent services be changed to start at 7 p.m. made by Nathan and seconded by Megan. Motion approved.
- Ash Wednesday service on February 10, 2027 will start at 6:30 p.m. and there will be no youth classes that Wednesday.

- Mike T. spoke for the Men's Group. They would like to build or move a prebuild garage/shed to store Christmas items on our extra south empty lot at a cost of $12 Grand and the cost and upkeep would be covered by the Men's Group. Motion to approve placing a storage building on the extra south parking lot for the Men's Group who would cover the cost made by Nathan and seconded by Bill. Motion approved.
- President Ryan thanked everyone for all the work that everyone has done on council this past year.

14. <u>Adjournment:</u> Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bill and seconded by Nathan. Motion approved.

15. <u>Lord's Prayer:</u> The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is January 10, 2027 at 11:30 a.m.

Some Pictures from St. John's Reformation Party at Dave & Sharon Deetz's house on October 28, 2027









