

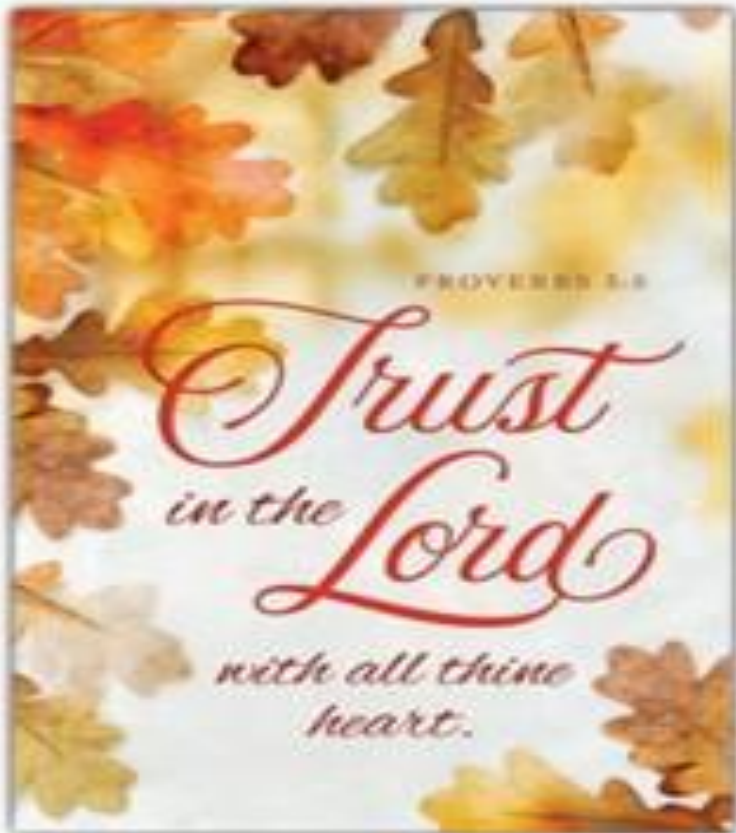
St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran
209 Broad St., Box 203
Montpelier, OH 43543
419-485-3736

Pastor Marc Lapointe
613-513-7347
revlapointe@gmail.com

stjohnsmontpeliers@gmail.com
stjohnmontpelier.org

October 2025 Newsletter



Shut-Ins

Serving in Worship during October

Acolytes:

5: Charlene Johnston
12: Grace Saneholtz
19: LoDena Woods
26 Jaxton Brancheau

Lesson Readers:

5: Jeanne Willson
12: Grace Saneholtz
19: open
26: Lonnie Gillen

Greeters:

5: Brancheau family,	Ed & Ann Kidston
12: open	Robin Willson
19: Shoup family,	open
26: Joan Becker & Lexy Robson,	Lonnie Gillen



October Birthdays

1 - Connie Coswell
1 - Jarret Beck
2 - Susan Gearhart
2 - Addi Thompson
4 - Braden Saneholtz
5 - Clayton Long
6 - Avery Thompson
7 - Shane Psurny
8 - Keith Martin
9 - Alan Henry

10 - Jim Thompson
12 - Ryan O'Neal
12 - Bill Hill
14 - RJC Clark
14 - Louis Houser
17 - Linda Vogel
20 - Mary Wright
22 - Megan Hill
23 - Mike Shilling
23 - Joey Burt
26 - Emma Nailor
30 - Dawn Smith
30 - Trent Gillen
31 - Elijah O'Guinn



October Anniversaries

1 - Steve & Laura Rings
2 - Ryan & Heather O'Neal
8 - Alan & Joie Henry

15 - Craig & Gerry Dewire
16 - Dale & Susan Gearhart
31 - Lyle & Barbara Curry

From the Pastor's Desk

“Five Questions that Might Change your Life”

The Apostle Paul had not yet visited the church in Rome, but he was concerned about the growing schism that existed there. All Jews had been expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius around AD41 leaving only Gentiles Christians to build the church. Around AD53, Jews were allowed to return only to discover that Roman Christians were not very welcoming to them. This created a tension that Paul addresses in his letter to the Romans.

Within this letter Paul asks five questions which might easily fill his readers with a sense of hopelessness, although these are being asked by God to His church in order to give real hope. These questions are put forth as arguments so that we can overcome doubt and fear, and experience peace and comfort in a world turned upside down and inside out.

1. If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
2. If God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all – how will not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:32)
3. Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? (Romans 8:31)
4. Who is he that condemns? (Romans 8:34)
5. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Romans 8:35)

All five questions demand negative answers. **No one** can be against us to undermine God's purposes to do good to us and not harm. Who can be against us? Throughout eternity God is for us at all times and in all situations causing all things to work together for our good. Our greatest good is not our health, wealth, or success, but our life in Christ.

Next, let's follow Paul's logic. His argument is from the greater to the lesser. If God did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up to suffer damnation on the cross for our sin, then God will most

certainly freely give us everything we need for life in the here and now.

Who can bring a charge against us in God's courtroom and make it stick? Our conscience accuses us and we feel the guilt and shame of our sins. Satan is ever active to rub our noses in our sins and accuse us before God. But it is God who justifies. He has acquitted and pardoned us of all our crimes against heaven through Christ's obedience.

No one can bring any charge against us because we are righteous in Christ. Before the Law we are all worthy of condemnation for our sins. But because Christ died – more than that, who was raised to life – he is now at the right hand of God interceding for us. The One, who has the moral and legal right to punish us, is the One who now defends us before God. Death has lost its sting and God's judgement has lost its terror for there is **no condemnation** to those who belong to Jesus. Absolutely **no one** can condemn us.

Finally, **no one** can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. While it is true we may experience trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or violence - nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ. "Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, not anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

All five questions now demand a positive answer. In Christ, God is for us. In Christ, God graciously gives us every thing we need. In Christ, we now stand righteous before God's law. In Christ, our condemnation has been swallowed up. In Christ, God's love is invincible. In Christ, we have peace and comfort as we face the reality of death.

North West Ohio Mission District Gathering – NWOMD

First English Lutheran Church, Wapakoneta – host

Beginning at 9:15 a.m. we enjoyed fellowship and a light breakfast.

At 10 a.m. we gathered in the sanctuary for Worship, singing a number of hymns and enjoying some videos from our NALC mission partners in Tanzania.

While intended to begin at 10:30, at 10:50 we participated in an icebreaker – Lutheran People Bingo.

At 11:10 the Pastors and Congregational representatives introduced themselves and highlighted some of their congregation's outreach and service ministries.

At 11:30 Dean Bert Schultz shared with us some opportunities for involvement in the Mission District and national Church.

- All congregations were encouraged to invite one another to their various activities (fish fries, concerts, community days etc.)
- NALC Youth and Family ministry has materials available online for congregational use.
- Adopt a seminarian program through the NALS... and congregations can be creative in their participation.
- There are many ways to be involved with disaster relief, many listed online and other opportunities a phone call away.
- Information on joining support for Tanzanian missions is available through Dean Bert or Grace Lutheran Church, Jackson Center.
- Reminders regarding the upcoming constitutional amendment ratification process. The NALC Convocation passes constitutional amendments this summer and they will be coming to all congregations for ratification. This usually occurs at a congregation's annual meeting.
- Online Confirmation is available for congregations without Pastors or very small numbers of confirmands through the NALC.
- The Ohio Mission Region needs a lay representative to help in the planning of the annual Ohio Convocation.
- Dean Bert asked for any questions of the Dean. There were none.

The gathering decided that we would like to have another such gathering in the future. No dates were set.

Dean Bert concluded the meeting with a blessing for the lunch that was provided by First English and those gathered enjoyed a meal together.

At the conclusion of lunch some of those gathered enjoyed some time playing 9 Square.

Pastor Adam Poe

St. John Lutheran, Hopewell Township and Zion Lutheran, Chattanooga
NWOMD Secretary

World Mission Prayer League (WMPL)

The World Mission Prayer League is one of the approved NALC global partners who work with us towards the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, locally and internationally. We are pleased to have Neeraj and Nijhar Ekka come to St John's Lutheran Church on October 25-26, 2025 to share with us the work and ministry of WMPL. Neeraj and Nijhar have a deep spiritual passion for praying for the "unreached people group in mission" (UPGs).

We are a Lutheran community committed to know Christ, pray for the advance of his kingdom, share the gospel and ourselves with those who do not know him; and encourage Christians everywhere in this global task (mission statement of WMPL).

Details surrounding their weekend visit are still being worked out. We are hoping to have a meet and greet event, and have them speak at both of our worship services. Any suggestions are appreciated. Please let Pastor Marc know how you can help.

"Together with the Church and its partners in mission, the World Mission Prayer League seeks to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's fresh initiative in our world today. Prayer League members continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth workers, and that the Lord himself would sustain and uphold them."

West Parking Lot Closed

You probably have noticed that the west end of the west parking lot is not available for parking. The company that poured it 2 years ago is finally making it right by tearing it up and has poured new cement. It will still be out of commission for a week or so longer so it can cure properly.

Budget Committee Meeting

2 representatives from each of the Deacons, Elders, Parish Ed., and Trustees plus President Nate Thompson, Vice President Ryan Burt, and Treasurer Tiffany Thomas will meet on Wednesday, October 1 at 6 p.m. to work on the proposed 2026 budget.

**Dale Gearhart's Sunday School Class
begins again Oct. 5 at 9 a.m. in the library.**

Invitation to "Fall in Love with Jesus" Event

This event will take place on Saturday, October 18, starting at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. at Special Grounds Event Center, 845 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, Ohio. There is no admission charge and just come as you are. A free will Love offering will be accepted and shared with the speakers. Special speaker, Eli Yoder, is from Amish tradition to Christ's redemption, is an evangelical preaching truck driver and author of "Undeceived". The other special speaker, Justin Fahrenbruch, is from Kingdom Fire Ministries, an evangelist and public speaker of "Hope Dealer". Karen Flory is hosting this event in love and faith and can be reached at 419-966-7242 if any questions.



WOTC Board Meeting September 10, 2025

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

Devotions were done by Stacy.

Treasurer's Balances: Checking \$4,988.24 Funeral Fund \$2,333.58

President – Brenda checked & there are 5 root beer & 2 orange 2 Liters of pop left in the fridge. Jeanne is going to put it in the bulletin. Brenda has purchased some candy to pass out for Rally Sunday. She also showed us the invitations she has made for the Women's General meeting & ads to hang for the quilt raffle. Discussion was held on where to hang the ads for the quilt raffle. The quilts will be raffled after the Olde Tyme Gathering.

Vice President – Janice will bring the quilts to the church for Blanket Sunday October 19th so that the congregation can see the quilts that will be raffled. Tickets will be sold at the church & at the Olde Tyme Gathering.

Secretary of Mission – Lexy asked if the women's board would give \$200 toward finishing up the flood buckets & other kits.

Secretary of Community – Shirley Fry will be speaking at the Women's Thankoffering service on November 9th.

Old Business

Discussion was held on what is being made by the board members for the Women's General Meeting.

New Business

Discussion was held on how we can scale back what the Women's Board does next year. This will be discussed again at another meeting.

Pastor asked if the Women's Board would be will to serve breakfast & lunch for the regional NALC Pastor's meeting being held December 12th. Pastor also asked if the Women's Board would want to assist with a meal in April or May with the Lutheran Church in Delta.

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

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Stacy DeMara

WOTC Annual Board Meeting September 20, 2025

Present: Brenda Athy, Bev Psurny, Lexy Robson, Julie Carlson, Stacy DeMara, Ann Perkey, Jill Beck, Marilyn Parrish, Jeanne Willson, Lisa Baker, Mary Lapointe & Joie Henry.

Brenda opened the meeting with a prayer. Brunch was served.

Following brunch Lisa Baker & Ann Perkey spoke to us about making the quilts that are made & sent to the NALC Disaster Relief. There is a lot of work that goes into making the quilts. They had us help tie on the quilt they have been working on.

No election was held as the present board will be staying on in 2026.

Brenda spoke about the items that we collect to send down to the NALC warehouse for disaster relief. Lexy spoke about going down to the warehouse & delivering the items with had collected earlier In the year. The board is trying to get new ideas on how to collect more for the NALC Disaster Relief.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Stacy DeMara



St. John's Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting September 14, 2025

Present: Ryan Burt, Tiffany Thomas, Ric Clark, Mike Timbrook, Marilyn Parrish, Jeanne Willson, Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Robin Willson, Dale Gearhart, Matt Sloan, Pastor Marc Lapointe, Brenda Athy, and Mary Lapointe.

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** Vice President Ryan Burt called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.
- 2. Approve the Agenda:** Pastor Marc questioned the use of the wording under New Business: "New Verbiage for resolution for St. John's constitution" and stated it should be "New Verbiage for the NALC Constitution and ratification of the amendments" to be discussed and voted on at the congregational meeting. Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Dale and seconded by Matt. Motion approved.
- 3. Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Marc.
- 4. Devotions:** Given by Pastor Marc. He also shared his recent 2025 NALC Convention in Pittsburgh notes with council members about the past 15 years, present, and the future of NALC. Pastor Marc passed out some papers about the NALC Constitutional Amendments that will

require each congregation to hold a meeting and vote yes or no on the proposed amendments. He also talked about the “renewing of the congregations, equipping churches for discipleship, and transforming communities.

5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The August 10, 2025 Church Council meeting minutes previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the August 10, 2025 Church Council meeting minutes made by Matt and seconded by Dale. Motions approved.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** Given by Tiffany. Copies of the August 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 – August

- Clearing Account is still holding \$54 for Altar flowers for the Vogel’s. They gave cash for the invoices that would be billed to us throughout the year. The balance is what is left to be invoiced to us yet this year.

7. **Board Reports:**

- **Deacons** – given by Mike. Present were Ric and Mike.
 - There were 5 Sundays in August. The attendance for 8 a.m. services had an average of 25 and the 10 a.m. had an average of 60.
- **Elders** – given by Jeanne. Present were Marilyn and Jeanne.
 - Jeanne opened with prayer.
 - Pastor Marc stopped in the meeting and confirmed that McCrae Kidston will be starting to work on the new directory. He has prepared a form for congregation members to fill out with their updated information.
 - Discussed September and October Worship schedule for Elders assisting with communion.
- **Parish Ed.** – Given by Megan. Present were Kati, Megan, and Robin.
 - Had Blessing of the Bookbags in August.
 - Rally Sunday occurred today with an outside nature scavenger hunt using Bible verse clues.
 - Megan stated she ordered Bibles¹² and materials for fall classes.

- She sent updates to parents.
- Catechism teachers are looking for new Bibles for their catechism kids.
- Merlin Wright is set up to lead First Communion classes for the 5th and 6th graders in October.
- Looking into making more rooms for more classrooms.
- Did make changes for Confirmation requirements and held a meeting with parents and mentors.
- The high school kids are starting to paint their room.
- Next Sunday, September 21, will be Bible Sunday, due to Bibles not arriving on time for today.
- **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Dale, Tiffany, Ryan, and Matt.
 - Discussed the list sent by the secretary of 10 different items that needed to be taken care of.
 - The concrete has been replaced and have done a great job. It didn't cost us anything. All companies and people involved stepped up, were easy to work with, and made everything right. The council members thanked Dale for his persistence.

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

- Pastor Marc shared that he had a meeting with parents, mentors, and catechism kids and have restructured requirements for the kids to be confirmed.
- He stated he was able to do 3 adult Bible studies during Sunday School time during the summer.
- Rick Buehrer of Williams County Gideons is a guest speaker on September 21.
- Neeraj and Nijhar Ekka from World Mission Prayer League will be guest speakers October 28 for a meet and greet and then speak on the 29 during the church service.
- Pastor Marc has put out the first Heartbeat of our Church Survey for our church to help with a vision for next few years to determine our future.

- Pastor, Mary and Jeanne Willson attended the NW Ohio Mission District gathering in Wapakoneta on September 6th. Two Missionary women from Tanzania were supposed to attend, but instead a video was shown due to their visas being refused. Tanzania is the fastest growing Lutheran Church in the world and the spirit is moving in very powerful ways. They are from The World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) and part of NALC Global Partners.
- The next N. W. Ohio Mission District Gathering will be in Delta in 6 months and hosting will be shared between Delta and Montpelier (St. John's).
- A meeting of Montpelier Ministerial Association (MMA) will be starting up again this fall to assist families in the Montpelier area.

9. Women's Group Report: Given by WOTC President, Brenda Athy.

- This Saturday, September 20 will be the annual general meeting. More info in WOTC October newsletter.

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

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

12. Old Business:

- Vice President Ryan asked if there were any updates about a music director. No one had heard anything.
- Chris Kannel is working on an alternate plan for the Building Fund project, but no updates as of today.
- Matt shared that LED lights will be put back on the sign. Once this is updated, Nate will put it all together.
- A new window air conditioner for the Treasurer's office will be postponed till next year.
- Since Bill Hill did not attend today, the attendance since 2020 is tabled till next month.

13. New Business:

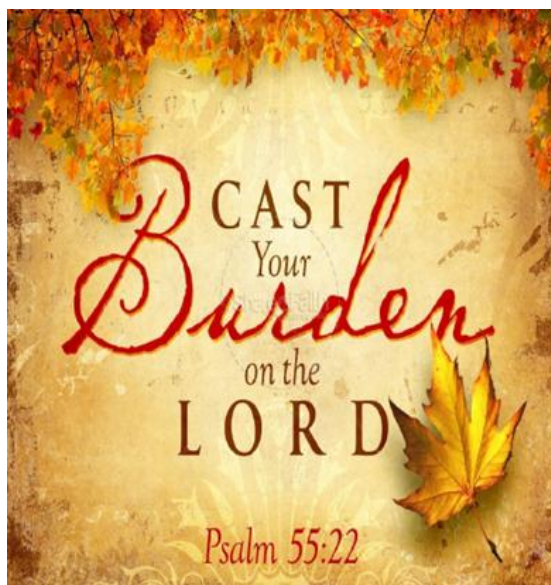
- Discussion on the list of 10 items sent to council members from the secretary. Matt shared that the trustees decided to hire someone to take care of some of the items on the list. Dale will contact someone.

Another suggestion was made that some of the items could be a potential catechism project.

- A budget meeting was discussed for Wednesday October 1 at 6 p.m. The congregational meeting should be Sunday, November 16 with the mailing sent out October 29. Motion to have the budget meeting on October 1 at 6 p.m. and the congregational meeting on November 16 made by Dale and seconded by Ric. Motion approved.
- If board members need to either find your replacement or choose to run again let the secretary know by next meeting.
- Pastor shared the 3 amendments that need to be changed on the NALC Constitution. The wording will be included on the proposed ballot sent out in the November mailing and then we vote on at the congregational meeting.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kati and seconded by Robin. Motion approved.

15. Lord's Prayer: The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is October 12, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.



If you haven't filled out
the Heartbeat of our Church survey,
there is still time
to get it in by
October 6th.

Those of you who cannot
get to church,
see the back pages of the
September 28 Sunday bulletin.
You can tear it off, copy it, stop in
the office or call the office
at 419-485-3736
and I can send it to you.