

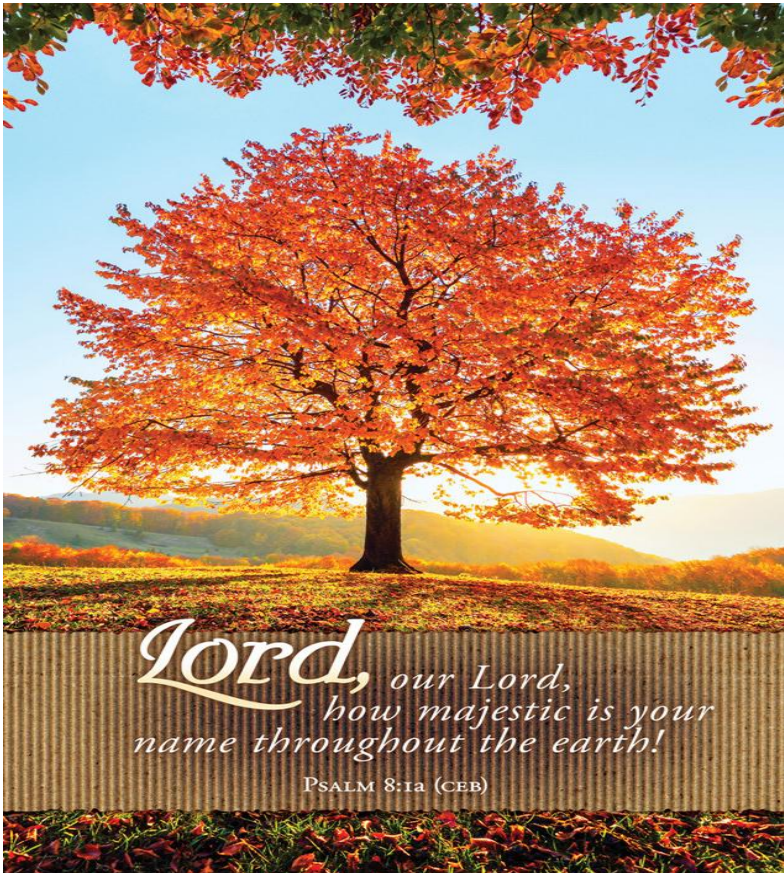
St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran
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October 2026 Newsletter



Shut-In

Sally Lemmon
09876 Co. Rd. 16, Apt. 418
Bryan, OH 43506

Serving in Worship during October

Acolytes:

4: Quinn Shoup
11: Braxton Smith
18: Kenley Smith
25: Cashe Thomas

Lesson Readers:

4: Jeanne Willson
11: Merlin Wright
18: open
25: Dave Jaessing

Greeters:

4: Sue Dewire, Deacons
11: open, Deacons
18: open, Deacon
25: open, Deacons





October Birthdays

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

- 10 - Jim Thompson
- 12 - Ryan O'Neal
- 14 - Ric 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 - Al & Joie Henry
- 15 - Craig & Gerry Dewire
- 16 - Dale & Susan Gearhart
- 31 - Lyle & Barbara Curry

From the Pastor's Desk

“Pumpkins and Miracles.”

As the temperatures begin to drop below freezing, the growth of the pumpkins used for our Thanksgiving festivities will also grind to a stop. As the leaves and vines are blackened and shrivelled by the cold temperatures the pumpkins which were lying hidden under the large green leaves are now revealed as the fruit which worked so hard to grow through the summer months is ripe and ready for harvesting.

Some pumpkins are small and fit in the palm of our hand. Others vary in weight depending on size. The largest pumpkin on record was grown in the United Kingdom and weighted a hefty 2,819.3 pounds (about weight of a female Hippo). The largest Ohio pumpkins have tipped the scales at about 2,500 pounds. Pumpkins make me think about the miracle of life that takes place in our world every day. Think about this miracle which began when one small seed, planted in the dirt last spring produced such a large fruit in the fall. Or consider the small individual apple seed which contains the miracle of thousands of apples. It stirs us to thanksgiving to see how God has designed things to multiply and grow. “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so (Genesis 1:11). We can still witness the divine design of nature and how God can make so much from so little.

But the pumpkin and apple seed can't do anything of themselves. The seed must die in order to bring forth life. When the pumpkin seed is planted into the ground – it is no more, its life is gone. The seed is dead but from its death comes life. A beautiful luxurious plant will grow and cover a large part of the earth where the seed was planted followed by the golden pumpkins which will color our fall season because of the death of one little seed.

The miracle of nature illustrates how God's plan for humanity is similar to His plan for nature. What happens in our hearts is not all that different from the world. Consider, how one small thought or idea from the human mind can grow and multiply into something large and beautiful? The Church began as a small following of disciples and today includes many millions of believers. Or consider your own past, when a small group of German settlers chose to gather in Montpelier, Ohio to study the Bible and worship God. Some of you are the great-grandchildren of those first believers who chose to build this church community.

The miracle of the pumpkin seed also reminds me of how Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Bringing life from death happens every year all around us in our gardens and farmer's fields, as the seeds that are planted die and many more come to life.

This same truth took place in the life of Jesus. His death however was more than the ending of his life; it was the beginning of the abundant life for thousands of people throughout history. Christ died for our sins so that we could have salvation, forgiveness of sins and eternal life. His death and resurrection promise that "whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). In the same way as the pumpkin seed dies resulting in life, Jesus Christ's death and burial results in life for all who trust in his promise.

As we move through the fall season and prepare for our thanksgiving celebrations, I want to encourage you to reflect on the miracles of the created world. The cycle of life and death are reminders of God's divine design and the working of the Holy Spirit who keeps us pointed and focusing on the greatest miracle of all miracles, in that Jesus died, was buried and rose to new life – for me.

In Sympathy

Marybelle Timbrook passed away Monday, September 21. Visitation will be held Monday, September 28 from 3 – 6 p.m. at Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, where the Rosary will be recited at 6 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 29 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 100 Antwerp Dr., Hicksville. She is the mother of our member, Mike Timbrook.

Prayers Needed

Mary Bates, NALC Disaster Response coordinator, shares that southern Ohio is still overwhelmed by flooding since even more rain has fallen there recently. The beautiful quilts will also be taken along with all the other kits collected this year very soon to the warehouse in Caldwell, Ohio to be distributed to the flood victims.

"Fall in Love with Jesus" Event... Again

This event will take place on Saturday, October 17, starting at 6:00 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 2 speakers. Special speaker, Eli Yoder, 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, He has written "Hope Dealer". Karen Flory is hosting this event in love and faith and can be reached at 419-966-7242 or kelaine726@yahoo.com if any questions.

**Dale Gearhart's Sunday School Class will start on
Sunday, October 11 at 9 a.m.**



The next WOTC Board Meeting
will be Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 9 a.m.



The next St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday,
October 11 at 11:30 a.m.

★ **GOOD FOOD. GREAT CAUSE.** ★
NO COMBAT BOOTS REQUIRED.

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DINE 2 DONATE

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Providing faith-based encouragement and support.
- 🗣️ **COUNSELLING SERVICES**
Confidential support for personal, family, and emotional well-being.
- 👟 **DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT**
Encouragement and practical help before, during, and after deployment.
- ❤️ **CARE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES**
Supporting spouses, children, and families through all seasons of service.
- 🎓 **TRAINING PROGRAMS**
Equipping veterans and families for personal growth and future success.
- 🗺️ **ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING RESOURCES AND SERVICES**
Connecting veterans and families with the help they need—near and far.

JOIN US ON:
WEDNESDAY,
21 OCTOBER 2026
 FROM 11-9PM

AT:
Granite City
 Food & Brewery
 3809 Coldwater Rd.
 Fort Wayne, IN 46805

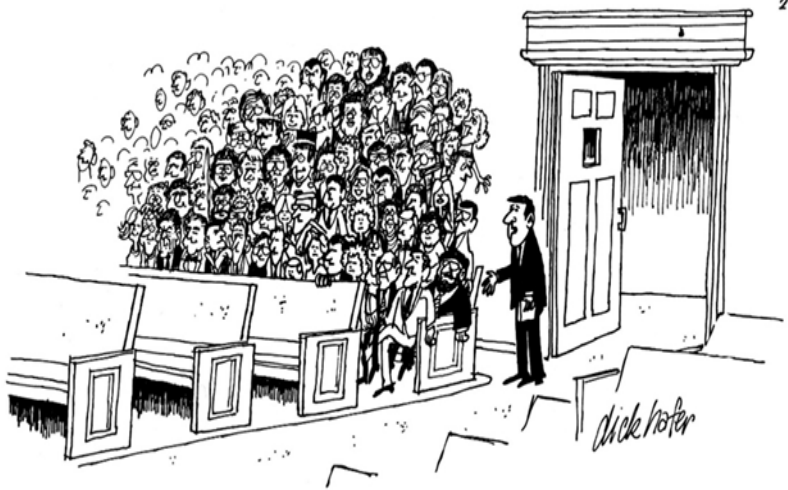
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THERE ARE PLENTY OF SEATS FARTHER UP FRONT.

