INGOMAR'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

October 2026

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others, and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.



John 3:16 The Best Gift.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

I already hear people talking about Christmas gifts. We really put ourselves into the gifts we give. That special someone must get a gift that is just right. But this gift must be used and appreciated or the giver may be offended. This is getting complicated, receiving a gift bears great responsibility!

God so loved that He gave Jesus, but what if He is not accepted or used? The gift is still the gift and Jesus is still Lord. Sadly, some people will never accept Jesus as their savior. Those of us who have chosen Him as our savior are accountable to God for how we appreciate the gift. Along with the gift of salvation comes gifts of the Spirit that we all have received. We are not all gifted in the same areas but we all have freely received from God.

God first revealed the gift to humble shepherds who were never the same after that night. The long thankless hours and cold nights were no longer such a burden. They now have fully realized the gift of their calling and why they tended lambs.

God has given gifts to all of us who abide in Him. Gifts we apply in this realm as we work out our salvation. The Teacher. The Farmer. The Nurse. The Caregiver. The Carpenter. The Homemaker. The Skilled Trades. The Office Workers. The list is almost endless. The goal is to use our gifts to the glory of God and betterment of our fellow man.

We all need encouragement and refreshing at times as the years may seem long. 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul says to stir up the gift that is in us. Grow in your gifts and calling, mature in the faith and be open to where the gift may lead you. As you take this faith journey you will bear fruit to Gods glory!

We must use our gifts to get the full benefit from them. Someday God wants to reward us for our faithfulness. Who we are is God's gift to us and who we become is our gift to God. Peace. PB

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES RETURNING TO ST. JOHN

Beginning the first Wednesday in Advent, December 2, at 7:00 pm.

Advent is a time of waiting and active preparation for Christ's coming. Holden Evening Prayer incorporates biblical images of light and darkness, fitting for the season in the Northern Hemisphere. The Annunciation, and Mary's response in the song of the Magnificat, point us to the central focus of our Advent Hope. the coming of Jesus, in whom God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with wondrous things.





"**Something Good"** will present the Third Sunday in Advent at St. John with a service in song on December 13, 2026, at 10:00 am. After the service, we will host an Advent carry-in for our guests and anyone who wishes to join.



You are invited to St. Andrew Lutheran Church's Fall Dinner! Saturday, 11/7, 4:30 - 6:30 P.M.
Menu includes:
Turkey or Ham
Mashed Potatoes, green beans, cranberry salad, roll.
Pie or Cake
Mac and Cheese for Kids
Drink Included
$14 for Adults, $7 for Children 12 and Under.
Children Under 5 Free
Reservations are preferred - Please RSVP to Tom Izor at (937) 696-2226

MaryLea Pfenninger, Chair
marylea.pfenninger.wnalc@gmail.com

The Journey of the Acorn: From Seed to Sacred Symbol

The acorn, a small yet resilient seed, evolves into the majestic oak, often celebrated as the "king of the forest." This remarkable transformation lends the acorn profound spiritual significance, symbolizing God's promise and divine presence. In biblical scripture, important figures frequently encounter covenants, visions, and holy burials beneath prominent oak trees.

The acorn represents the untapped potential within each of us, illustrating how significant achievements, dreams, and spiritual growth often emerge from humble beginnings. It serves as a powerful reminder that with time and nurturing, small efforts can lead to monumental outcomes. Acorns exemplify the patience and time required to reach one's fullest potential. Notably, oak trees do not produce acorns until they are between 20 and 50 years old, symbolizing the enduring effort and perseverance necessary to achieve mastery and lasting success. Recognized as the "luckiest nut in the world," acorns are traditionally believed to attract prosperity, good health, and protection. Keeping an acorn at home or carrying one is thought to invite these positive influences into your life. Furthermore, acorns embody fertility, renewal, and eternal youth. As the seed survives harsh winters to sprout anew in spring, it represents life's continuous cycle and the promise of rejuvenation.

The synergy between the acorn and the oak tree highlights unrealized potential and timeless strength. While the acorn embodies future possibilities, the oak stands as a steadfast anchor.

Here in Texas, one of the most iconic examples is the "Big Tree" near Rockport, believed to be one of the oldest live oaks in the world. It is estimated that it could be as old as two thousand year old. That is mindboggling. Just think in 26 AD a tiny acorn began its journey to becoming one of the oldest trees around. Renowned for its impressive size and rich history, this tree serves as a living testament to the enduring power and spiritual resonance of the oak and its humble beginnings as an acorn.

Women of the NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The September, 2026 meeting of the St. John Church Women was held on Sept. 17 with 5 members present.
Stephanie presented the topic. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report shows a balance of $1970.77. Kathy reported 19 cards were sent.
Carolyn reported that changes have been made at Women's Council and that it will not meet until November for wrapping.
Due to health issues, Judy Erbaugh is being replaced as treasurer of St. John Church Women by Rhonda Haynes.
During September we served 32 lunches to retired teachers.
Due to losing some of our volunteers who provide homeless meals each month, we could use additional volunteers.
Earla and Kathy will provide this month's homeless meal.
Meeting closed with the Missionary Benediction.
Refreshments were served by LaVerne and Darlene.

WNALC meets on the second Thursday of each month. All women are invited and encouraged to attend and become involved.

ST. JOHN WILLING WORKERS 2027 HOMELESS SHELTER MEALS DATES begin on Tuesday, February 23, 2027.

Meal Drop-Off Location: 2009 State Route 127 North, Eaton, Ohio 937-472-0500

Preferred Drop-Off Time: 6:00 p.m. for dinner

How many are eating? 10 Adults.

During the cold weather months of November through March – 15 adults

Don't want to cook? Be the first to give a gift card.
Provide support with a gift card to a local pizza joint, like Domino's or Little Caesars.
Please call 937-472-0500 ext 422 for more information.

ST. JOHN, INGOMAR HOSTING WACOCA THANKSGIVING SERVICE
NOVEMBER 22, 6:00 PM
OFFERING TO BENEFIT WEST ALEXANDRIA FOODBANK
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WHAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR USING YOUR GIFTS. LET CHRIS KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE A TESTIMONY, SING, OR DO A SKIT.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
10/1 Lucas Erbaugh
10/13 Henry Cotterman
10/25 Jim Robsion
10/29 Betty Peters



HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING COMING UP!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, FOLLOWING WORSHIP.
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS BY OCTOBER 23



"Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." — 1 John 3:18

Dear St. John,
Thank you for your check! It is greatly appreciated!
Mary Bates, Disaster Response Coordinator

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) announces that Mary Bates will retire as Disaster Response Coordinator effective October 31, 2026, concluding more than 16 years of faithful service with the NALC.

Mary joined the NALC staff in 2010 and has helped shape the church's disaster response ministry from its earliest days. Throughout her tenure, she has worked alongside the NALC Disaster Response Task Force, volunteers, congregations, and ministry partners to ensure that the church is prepared to respond when disasters strike. Under her leadership, volunteers have been equipped, leaders have been trained, disaster response warehouses have remained stocked and ready, and countless families have experienced Christ's love through the compassionate service of NALC volunteers.

Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home that provides comfort, support, and resources to families under care at Children's Hospital. These are some ideas of what is needed: anything nonperishable. No need to let Stephanie know; just drop your donation at church by **October 18.**

Disinfectant wipes and spray - Lysol or generic

Individually wrapped Fruit Snacks

Poptarts

Mac/cheese

granola bars

canned chicken/tuna

Dreft

plastic spoons & forks

Cheese and Peanut Butter crackers

individually packaged chips,

pretzels, crackers, cereal

Paper bowls & plates

Paper Towels, plastic wrap

ravioli, spaghetti

baggies

hot chocolate

canned soup

assorted fruit cups, applesauce

Swiffer wet jet cleaning liquid

Ramen noodles

Crystal Light - generic ok



Fellowship Meal

On October 21, we will dine with St. Andrew of Farmersville at Rob's in Brookville at 6:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the sanctuary for seating.



Bible Study in October takes place on Tuesdays, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP

Craft Night – 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. Takes place at St. John Church, 20 E. South St.
Women's Bible Study – 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am. Takes place at Community Christian Church, 11 Dorsey Akers Drive.
Game Day – 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am. Takes place at First Baptist Church, 6062 Ivy Lane. Meal provided.

St. John Church Council* Minutes - September 9, 2026 – 6:30 pm

Present: Mark McKinley, president (*2026), Fred Boebel, vice president (*2027), Janette Hittle (*2027), June Souleyrette (2026), David Weaver (2027), Steve Dafler (2026), Pastor Bill Schilling, Stephanie Cotterman, treasurer, and Chris Ingram, secretary. (*** denotes second term**)

Not present: Lorey Collins

Pastor Bill shared a devotion using Psalm 91 to describe the Bible as spiritual food.

The Council minutes from July 8, 2026 were emailed to council members before the meeting to be reviewed. Mark asked it there were any corrections needed.

Treasurer's Report: Stephanie noted the CDs were renewed in August.

Committees: Mark commented on his concern about the Willing Workers being able to serve the retired teachers at the luncheon the day before without the guidance of our dear Judy Erbaugh. He said, "We made it. I thought everyone did a good job!". Stephanie noted that the luncheons, which occur 4 times a year, at one time were served by multiple churches in Preble County. Currently, only St. John serves them. Stephanie also noted the need for others to step up and into roles of organizing the luncheon menus, as Judy is no longer able.

Steve made council aware that Chad's final charge on upgrading the lights was lower than his original quote. The quote on upgrading sanctuary fluorescents was $1000, yet only charged $650, for example. Around 30% less. It was noted that Steve and Dave helped in the upgrading the lights project while Chad was here, so the labor portion was lower. In following up on the fire inspection report, Dave said Chad agreed to install conduit on the boiler room wall and sump pump where current improper wiring failed inspection. Chris said she is in the process of moving combustible items from the janitor's closet and rearranging items so they are properly distanced from the breaker boxes and water heater. June told Chris there is a shelving unit in the basement that can be utilized for items from the janitor's closet too.

Fred reported he and Randy are planning to meet and see how many acoustical ceiling tiles need to be replaced.

Pastor Bill reported that, besides regular worship services, he has not officiated any funerals or weddings. Pastor also mentioned he is trying to keep track of St. John's parishioners who have had surgeries and illnesses. Pastor said he is getting ready for Bible study and getting things together for the social.

Old Business: Mark stated the fire-resistant filing cabinet is in place in the pastor's office. Steve said he and Dave moved the old, disassembled altar to the basement to make room for it. Fred said Steve and Cindy Dafler donated the cabinet. June suggested council have another work night to sort through the documents and record books stored in the basement and get them moved to the new cabinet.

Chris announced she received the correct keys to operate the new inclined platform lift. She thought that evening would be a good time to test it and become familiar with how it works.

New Business: 2027 Budget was presented. Fred commented that with inflation and the increased cost of doing business, he was not surprised to see the total budget increase to over $12,000. Steve gave an example that in 2025 the church budgeted $113,872 for 2026. He went on to say that the actual amount used was $94,997. Steve said the forecasted total budget for 2027 is a rough number given to reflect what St. John might spend in 2027. Fred moved to accept the 2027 budget. Dave seconded. All were in favor.

Stephanie reminded all the Annual Congregational Meeting is November 8 after worship. All committees need to submit their reports in advance for Chris to make a packet for the meeting. Stephanie also said we have four council members who are nearing the end of their terms and might need their spots filled unless they agree to serve a second term. Steve said he would like to step down.

Stephanie said the back parking lot needs restriped. She knows a former student who performs this service and can call him for an estimate.

Chris asked if it was ok to get the carpet in the sanctuary and pastor's office professionally cleaned. June recommended Cleen Carpet out of Greenville.

Stephanie suggested next year if the missionaries, Jonathan and Michelle, visit that the service be done traditionally and we have our guests speak during a dedicated time after the service and perhaps have a carry-in.

Stephanie is also looking into an entertainer/magician called "Uncle Geebo" for Family Night 2027. Chris discovered him at Rob's when leaving the fellowship meal. They were parked right next to his business van.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Chris Ingram, Secretary

FINANCIAL	REPORT	JULY		2026
	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, INGOMAR			
CURRENT EXPENSE FUND				
BALANCE ON HAND 7.1.2026		**1638.95**		
RECEIPTS	JULY	**10908.31**		
TOTAL IN CURRENT FUND		**12547.26**		
CURRENT EXPENSES				
JANITOR		359.14	TV BANK CD	3.75%
SERV KEEP/MY COMP		107.44	1-27=$10,597.47	organ
AES	5/17-6/17	311.33	8-25= 33,954.78	
KNOX ENERGY	5/11-6/15	43.34	8-25= 11,318.26	
SPECTRUM		193.38	8-25= 22,647.59	
RUMPKE		106.90		
RICKY'S LAWN CARE	June	320.00		
MANDY ARNETT-PIANIST		90.00	AMERIPRISE-$268,792	
WILLIAM SCHILLING		4014.00	7.31.26 -3113	
CHRIS INGRAM. P WORKER		982.50		
WORD/SEASON		92.60		
BROOKVILLE FLOWER SHOP	July	120.00		
LIFT INSPECTION		246.25		
USPS-NEW KEY		20.00		
ERIE INSURANCE		1757.00		
WELLS FARGO-NEW PRINTER		163.00		
LOUDY-MAINT AGREEMENT		700.01		
KOORSEN		334.70		
TOTAL EXPENSES		9961.59		
BALANCE IN CURRENT FUND		**2585.67**		

	BENEVOLENCE	MEMORIAL	LIGHTS	W/HUNGER	STEPHEN
BEG. BAL	0	2670	1581.55	0	1242.49
RECEIPTS	1850	400	230.00	50	0
PAID OUT	0	0	0	0	0
END. BAL	1850	3070	1811.55	50	1242.49
	Disaster -520				
	S.SCHOOL	LIFT	ACCRUED	MISSIONARY	ORGAN
BEG BAL	167.43	11200.87	17515	148	4675.33
RECEIPTS	0	0	0	200	180
PAID OUT	0	0	3000	200	0
END. BAL	167.43	11200.87	14515	148	4855.33
	CHECKBOOK BALANCE		**7.31.26**	**41496.34**	

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers-Dave Weaver & Buzz Wright AG-Earla Donaldson CA-Chris Ingram				**1**	**2**	**3**
4 M-Mandy Arnett G-Bill & Julie Dafler LR-Kathy Boebel Pentecost 19 Communion	**5** Choir Practice 6:00 pm	**6** Bible Study 6:30 pm	**7**	**8** WNALC 7:00 pm	**9**	**10**
11 M-Carol McKinley G-Barb & Stephanie LR-Chris I. Pentecost 20 Healing	**12** Choir Practice 6:00 pm	**13** Bible Study 6:30 pm	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**
18 M-Mandy A. G-Rhonda & Becky LR-Barb Schilling Pentecost 21 Communion	**19** Choir Practice 6:00 pm	**20** Bible Study 6:30 pm	**21** Fellowship w/St. Andrew @ Rob's 6:00 pm	**22**	**23**	**24**
24 M-Carol M. G-Keith & Linda P. LR-Carolyn Reformation Communion	**26** Choir Practice 6:00 pm	**27** Bible Study 6:30 pm	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**

West Alexandria Food Bank
St. John Church 20 E. South St.
West Alexandria, 937-839-1615
Mons & Weds: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Also open on the 2nd & Last Wednesday each month, 6 – 7:30pm. The Food Bank's current needs are toothpaste, shampoo, egg noodles, and ramen noodles, and canned vegetables



Mailing Address

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 32

West Alexandria, OH 45381

937-839-5321

Email & Website

stjohningomar@swhohio.twcbc.com

www.stjohningomar.org

Church Office Hours
Mondays & Fridays
10:00 am-3:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

Pastor Schilling
Invites anyone with pastoral needs
to reach out to him at 937-477-6502

Thanksgiving Planning Begins in Preble

Published On: September 15th, 2026

Fund-raising for MVCAP's Preble County Thanksgiving dinner is off to a quick start thanks to a donation from a local roofing company.

Pennsylvania-based Everlast Roofing is celebrating 30 years in business by recognizing 30 non-profits in its service area. Preble County partner Progressive Processing nominated MVCAP for recognition that seeds this year's Thanksgiving dinner funds.

"This donation is tangible recognition of our impact in the community," said Preble County Director Janelle Caron. "We are grateful for the support as we begin planning for Thanksgiving."

Volunteers and sponsors are needed to feed nearly 800 people for the holiday in a celebration at Bruner Arena on the Preble County Fairgrounds.

"We greatly appreciate all contributions – of funding or time – to create a truly memorable community-building event," Caron added.

The meal will be prepared at Bruner Arena on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2026. Dinner will be served from noon to 2 p.m. Dinners can also be delivered to residents' homes. Delivery reservations, volunteers, sponsors and donations are all needed by Nov. 15.

Donations can be made by check payable to Miami Valley Community Action Partnership: Preble County with "Community Thanksgiving Day" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at the secure drop box at MVCAP's Preble County office at 308 Eaton-Lewisburg Road, Eaton.

To request a delivered meal, volunteer or for more information, contact Caron or Josie at 937-456-2800.

Those in Our Prayers

Diane Harry, Bill & Samantha Riffel, Jenny Etherington, Chris Shelton, Ann Cooper, Kenton Tubesing, Tammy Wombold, Judy Jones, Trent Ray, Sue Johnson, Andrew Obst, and Eric Walker.
Grieving family & friends of Louise Agardy and Clint Cochran.
Missionaries: Jonathan & Michelle Voge & Family.
Our St. John Family: Pastor Bill, LaVerne Weaver, Becky Lentz, Tony Reynolds, Becky Stockslager, Mark McKinley, Paula Schiml, Becky Vickers, Nancy Wright, June Souleyrette, Lorey Collins, Judy Erbaugh, Kathy Boebel, Terry Bundy, Ellie Arnett, Marlene Neff, Buzz Wright, Jenny Dawson, Bill Dafler, Lynn Voge.