

JULY 5



# ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the 6th Sunday after Pentecost.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and one another. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**When we pray for each other, we demonstrate Christ's love for each of us**

For **Gary Mason**, husband for Sue Mason, will undergo exploratory tests next week  
For **Diane Farley Holbrook**, cousin of Sally Acton, just diagnosed with pancreatic cancer  
For **Sandy Mohler**, neighbor of Don & Neva, recently diagnosed with cancer, treatment plan being developed  
For **Laura Winkler**, a St. John visitor last week, recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer  
For **Donna Canini**, her heart valve surgery went well, recovering at home and gaining respiratory strength  
For **Kyle Jackson**, nephew of Deb Canini, still in a lot of pain, he goes back to the specialist this week to determine further changes or medications to improve his thyroid condition  
For **Jenna McGuire**, grandniece of Don & Neva Hornbeck, started breast cancer treatment  
For **Megan Schmitz**, a former student of Sally Acton, recovering from brain surgery and now treatments  
For **Eddie Ewing**, a local gospel singer who sings at our church gospel sings, for his upcoming treatments  
For **Linda Leist**, who is at home and on hospice care  
For **Scott Arnett**, son-in-law of Jonette Christy, his six-week course of cancer treatments completed, on chemo pills, new scans in 3 weeks  
For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, doing another new treatment in her cancer journey  
Continued prayers for **Charlotte Meyer, Jim Fogle, Jon & Linda Leist, and Linda Miller**

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Sue Mason, who will email our church members. She can be reached at: 614-260-1107 or at [susiemase3@hotmail.com](mailto:susiemase3@hotmail.com).

**OFFICE HOURS** Amy will be in the church office on Wednesday, **July 8 and July 15**, from **10 am - 2 pm**.

Feel free to stop by to chat - appointment not needed.

### UPCOMING

### BIRTHDAYS



|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Jay Bartos     | July 9  |
| Lynn Baumbusch | July 12 |
| Peggy Smith    | July 12 |

**COMMUNITY AWARENESS:** One of the ways to increase awareness of St. John in the community, is by posting our events on our Facebook page. If you know of any upcoming events (big or small), please send an email to our Social Activities Coordinator Briana Hart ([brc0789@gmail.com](mailto:brc0789@gmail.com)) so she can post it on our page.



THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON



Irving Berlin wrote “**God Bless America**” in 1918 while serving in the US Army at Camp Upton in New York, but shelved it as “too sticky”. In 1938 facing the threat of war he revised it for singer Kate Smith, who premiered it on Armistice Day, turning it into an instant patriotic classic.

**Guys & Gals Lunch Bunch** will dine at the **Pump House** on Tuesday, **July 14**, located at 17 E Columbus St, Lithopolis. Please RSVP to Charlotte Meyer, if possible.



The **Altar Flower** chart is in the Narthex where you may sign up to place flowers on the altar. Flowers are \$35. You may leave the money in the envelope under the chart for Linda Leist. Please be sure to indicate if the flowers are for a special occasion, and let Don Hornbeck know if you would like it posted in the Bulletin.

The **\$750 quarterly monetary donation that church council approved from the St John Memorial Endowment Fund (MEF)** was used again to shop for the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission. Shoppers and/or deliveries included Sue Mason, Gina Meyers, and Neva Hornbeck. Thank you to everyone who helped support this important ministry!



Wanda Mann, the Director of the BC Pantry Mission she started 18 years ago, was deeply grateful for the generous amount of food donated by St. John.



### A Couple You Ought to Know

Neil and I had the pleasure of getting to know **Tom and Taylor Henderson**. You know, the young couple with two young boys who sit in the back pew.

Tom loves the small town where he grew up: Bolivar, Ohio. As an older teen, he narrowed his sports participation down to soccer. Before Tom’s junior year of high school, his dad was promoted, and the family moved to Pickerington. However, the small town feel of Bloom-Carroll appealed more to Tom, so he finished high school there. Ohio State was next on his educational journey, where he majored in accounting.





Tom is a CPA at ARM, located at 2 Miranova in Columbus. The office view of the Scioto River was a big draw, along with the other benefits offered there. He left ARM for about 18 months to work for Rogue Fitness, a company that produces exercise equipment. The culture there wasn't the same as ARM, so he returned to his original employer. One benefit of that experience? He was able to purchase workout equipment at a good price.

Tom enjoys working out and still plays soccer. He's waiting for the Columbus Crew to call and invite him to join the team! He also enjoys Harry Potter and James Bond movies, along with eating at El Pedregal.

Tom's family has owned Henderson Farm since 1806, deeded by Thomas Jefferson. Tom's given name is Thomas Jefferson Henderson.



Taylor grew up in Buffalo. She was on the swim team and discovered during her senior year that she loved swimming the 500 freestyle. She was also a member of the Buffalo Yacht Club, where she learned to sail a two person sailboat.

One of Taylor's friend's parents attended Ohio State, and she was captivated by their Buckeye passion. She and her friend came to OSU to major in nursing. Taylor lasted one quarter in nursing—until she saw a cadaver! She switched her major to speech therapy and was accepted into the speech therapy master's program at the University at Buffalo. The plan was to move back home.

However, a few months before graduation, she met Tom at an OSU football party. Things didn't go as planned; Cupid's arrow had struck. Taylor remained in central Ohio and returned to OSU for her master's degree in human resources. Tom and Taylor tied the knot in Buffalo on Labor Day weekend in 2019.

Taylor works for the State of Ohio in HR, in an office across from the Statehouse. Her commute gives her time to listen to podcasts or call her mom in Buffalo during rush hour. Despite the five-hour distance, Taylor still feels close to her mom since her parents visit every other weekend.

Her mom influenced her to celebrate birthdays and holidays in a big way. Taylor enjoys browsing Pinterest for ideas. She also loves early-2000s rom-coms, Buffalo-style food, ice cream, Taylor Swift, and Justin Bieber. But more than anything, she loves being a mom to Everett, age 2½, and Graham, 10 months.

Tom and Taylor have a tradition that has lasted for the past 10 years. Every Sunday after 4:00 p.m. is sacred. They get a Dairy Queen Blizzard and watch *90 Day Fiancé*. They also participate in an NFL Fantasy League. A football trophy sits proudly on their fireplace mantel in their living room for winning a season. They prefer vacations on the beach, and are looking forward to Disney in September. The family also includes two dogs, a lab and a mutt.

Growing up in Bolivar, Tom's family attended a Baptist church. One of his goals has been to read through the Bible, and he is currently 252 days into listening to Father Mike Schmitz's podcast, Bible in a Year. When it came time to have their oldest son, Everett, baptized, the Dillons and the Caninis had a strong influence. They appreciate the traditional structure of worship, including hymnals and readings from the Bible. Taylor grew up Catholic, so St. John felt like a natural fit, and transitioning to a Lutheran church was an easy step. They find the congregation friendly. Who wouldn't? Their youngest son, Graham, will be baptized soon.

I enjoyed getting to know Tom and Taylor! They are an amazing couple you ought to know!

Pam Jarvis



**A SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 28, 2026**

**ATTENDEES:** Sally Acton, Deb Canini, Jerry Canini, Jonette Christy, Mike Drodofsky, Alan Fisher, Neil Jarvis, Diana Johnson, Jon Leist, Amy Lytle, Sue Mason, Charlotte Meyer - **ABSENT:** Briana Hart

Alan opened the meeting with a prayer; MINUTES of previous meeting were approved as presented. He reviewed current FINANCIALS which were in good standing.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Lithopolis Honeyfest – 9/12 (Sat) – to increase community awareness, we tentatively will distribute bottled water and possibly pens to the community; details will be worked out – Charlotte and Sue will research cost of pens, then Alan will coordinate the purchase
- Amy reported that she should complete her SAM classes soon; estimated time of mid-July
- Jon will compile his “to-do” list for members to help with projects around the church; will be a continuing feature in the Weekly Update
- 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Classes – Amy will follow up; to be held during Sunday School hour; tentatively scheduled for the fall
- Parking Lot replace/repair - Jon reported that he is looking into bids; he stated the cement walk also needs leveled
- Council will continue to monitor suggestions made at the May 31<sup>st</sup> Brainstorming Session for possible action
- Synod Co-Lab – it was decided that this program is not a good fit for our church at this time

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Vanguard is requesting that we update our administrative documents; Neva Hornbeck has agreed to be added to the MEF account; Alan & Mike will handle
- Leaking Roof – Jon reported that he’s reaching out to Durable Slate for repairs; he also reported a dent in the gutter that needs repaired
- Pine Trees – Jon reported 2 pine trees need trimmed; he asks for any member willing to do this to please reach out
- Alan suggested we once again ring our church bell at the beginning of our services; this will be another way to bring community awareness; Jon will reach out to possible members to see if they would be willing to handle this
- Sue reported that she, Gina Meyers and Neva Hornbeck will shop this week for the 2Q donation of \$750 (from MEF) for food items for the Bloom-Carroll Food Pantry Mission (previously approved by Council)
- During recent events held in the basement, several individuals commented that both sinks drain very slowly. A big thank you to Peggy Smith for reaching out to a plumber; sewer lines from the kitchen go from 1.5 inches into a 1-inch pipe. The pipes cannot be repaired and it’s too expensive to replace, therefore, it was decided that we will deal with it. Both sinks and faucets are old; council agreed to have these replaced. Deb and Jon will go with Peggy to shop for these and Peggy will reach out to the plumber for installation. Due to sink replacement, countertop will also need replaced. Jerry will look into that. Council voted to earmark \$5,000 from the CIF fund for this project, keeping the cost as low as possible.
- Several individuals also commented that there is not enough cupboard room for frequently used kitchen items. In looking through the cupboards located across from the sinks, we found that they only contain peach colored Fiesta dishes. Inventory took place and there is service for 100 plus serving pieces. Since these have not been used for such a long time, Council voted to sell them to make room for other kitchen items. A huge thank you to Neva Hornbeck, Monica Long and Linda Knicely who is researching how to find a buyer.

**PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

- Bibles for Sunday School – in progress (JONETTE)
- Lutheran Social Services – grocery cart – designate 2 items monthly for members’ contribution (COUNCIL)
- 2 administrators for online church directory (UCD) and church email account (SUE working with DON HORNBECK)
- Zoom church services when needed (SUE & DON HORNBECK will meet with AMY soon)
- Narthex Carpet Replacement – options need to be researched (JON)
- Church signage into Lithopolis – we need to check with the Village to see what we need to do (COUNCIL)
- Church Mission Statement-council to compile, then members to vote w/approval (COUNCIL)
- 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary / 2030 – “goal tree” (COUNCIL)

**WISH LIST:** Light up cross on top of church

With no further business, the meeting was closed with council members reciting the Lord’s Prayer  
Respectfully submitted by Sue Mason, Council Secretary