



# The GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

October 2025

315-986-3045

Office M-FRI 8:30am-12:30pm

[www.pumpkinhook.org](http://www.pumpkinhook.org)

**Worship:**

Sundays 9:45AM live & streaming

Wednesdays 7PM live & streaming



*'Jesus Loves me, this I know !'*

## Encouragement in Prayer for October

Martha Barmaster

Let us talk a little bit about offensive weapons and defensive weapons in the bible.

Back in the time of the Israelites, offensive weapons were used for conquest. Here are a few of them:

1. Arrows
2. Battle-Axe
3. Bow
4. Chariots- We remember the Egyptian Pharaoh using chariots crossing the Red Sea.
5. Dart- They were clubs with a long spike at the end, & Joab killed Absalom, David's son, with a dart, (2 Samuel 18:14)
6. Engine- King Uzziah of Judah used engines, arrows, stones, shields, spears, helmets, bows, and slings to fight the Philistines, Arabians and Ammonites. (2 Chronicles 26:1-15)
7. Javelin- Saul sought to kill David with a javelin. (1 Samuel 18:10-11)
8. Sling- Remember David and Goliath with a sling and 5 stones – 4 for his brothers. (1 Samuel 17)
9. Spear
10. Sword- Used to destroy the enemy and bring his surrender. Peter cut off Malchus's ear with a sword. (John 18:10)
11. Stones- Stephen was stoned. (Acts 7:59)
12. Lance (the weapon, not our Pastoral Assistant 😊)

Defensive Weapons were used for protection. Here are a few of them:

1. Helmet- For the head.
2. Girdle- For the loins to brace the armor tight against the body and support daggers and swords.
3. Breastplate- In two parts – one to cover the breast and the other in the back to protect the vital organs of the body. It extended down to the legs.
4. Shield- To protect the body from blows and cuts.
5. Brazen Boots- For the feet to cover the front of the legs.

I am sure this is not an all-inclusive list. There are more, but you get the idea 😊

Next month we will talk about our Christian armor of God which we are to wear every day for our protection. God bless us all!

# Monthly Ladies Luncheon

Vicky Payne



Please remember ladies, the second Wednesday of each month (October 8th) is our monthly ladies luncheon at 12:30 PM @ Flaherty's. Please join us! Thank you!

## Board for Worship, Music & the Arts

Linda Braun



*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” – (Romans 12:4-5)*

Thank you to everyone who has taken an active role in our worship services and opening/closing of the church on Sundays. Reminder that we have a schedule posted on in our entryway. We are happy to provide training to anyone who might be interested. Everyone is welcome to take a part.  
If you have a desire to become more involved in our services, please don't hesitate to contact us.  
*Chairperson – Linda Braun, frau11braun@gmail.com*

## Financial Secretary

Max Hogenes

### Our Financial Health as of August 31, 2025

#### **YTD Giving Comparison**

Giving = \$147,696  
Prior Year = \$125,079  
**\$22,617**

#### **YTD Giving Vs. Expenses**

Giving = \$147,696  
Expenses = \$141,446  
**\$6,250**

*We give Thanks*

	YTD	Weekly
2025 YTD Giving	\$147,696	\$4,103
2025 Approved Expense Budget	\$239,484	\$4,605
		<b>\$(502)</b>

a caring congregation reaching out to all

Kim Baxter

## TBD - Soup Cookoff!

Octoberr- Euchre/ Family Games TBD

October 08<sup>th</sup>- Ladies Luncheon @ Flaherty's 12:30PM

October 19<sup>th</sup>- 1PM -2:30PM Trunk or Treat!

**Sign up sheets with price information are available at church.**



## Stewardship

Howard G. Barnes



## Harmonious Stewardship

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base

focused on growing families in faith

line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

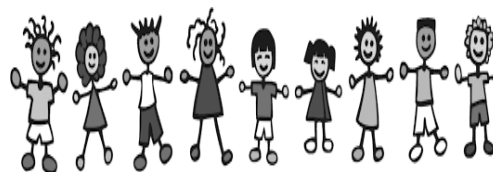
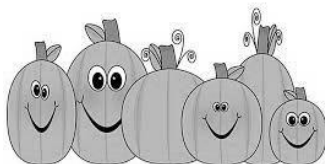
The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to “carry the tune” for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn’t rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn’t rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn’t always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow’s mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

## Pre School News

Cheryl Power



We are off to a great start at preschool. Our students are adjusting nicely to their new routines at school. We’ve had lots of fun together! We are blessed with such wonderful children and preschool families!

Our threes are learning school rules- be safe, have fun and show kindness. They made applesauce learned about the color red and orange and the shapes circles and ovals. It’s nice to watch some friendships emerge.

Our fours have reviewed colors and shapes, and began practicing their letter of the week with the letters A, E & I. They have read many great books together . You will soon see leaves on their “Giving Tree” in the hallway. They’ve been talking about friends and God’s love. This group is so eager to learn.

We do have openings in both classes, but our grateful that we can spend so much one-on-one time with the students we have.

God’s blessings, Cheryl Power, Director, St. John’s Christian Preschool

a caring congregation reaching out to all

## SELF STUDY SURVEY

As you have heard Steve and I (Jen) speak the last few weeks, we have mentioned the self study survey. You can fill it out by clicking on the QR Code which will take you directly to the Google form document where you can fill it out or if you have issues with that, please take one of the paper copies that are on the welcome center and fill it out. Please bring it back and put in the elders mail box next to the church office. Thank you



## Trunk and Treat



Event will be held in St. John's parking lot on Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup> from 1PM to 2:30PM.

Please come & join the fun! If you are interested in having a trunk please contact Cheryl Power.

## President's Message

Steve Maier



As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, we find ourselves in a season of transition—both in nature and in our congregation. With the recent departure of our beloved Pastor, we have entered a time of discernment and prayerful planning as we begin the search for new pastoral leadership.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who has stepped forward during this time. Your willingness to serve—especially in our lay-led services—has been a beautiful testament to the strength and faithfulness of our church family. Whether you've led prayers, read Scripture, helped with music, or simply offered a warm welcome to others, your contributions have not gone unnoticed. You are the hands and feet of Christ in our midst.

We are actively in conversation with the Eastern District to ensure we follow the proper steps as we move forward. Their guidance has been encouraging, and we are committed to a thoughtful and Spirit-led process in seeking our next pastor.

Even as we navigate this transition, we are also looking ahead with hope. Advent and Christmas are just around the corner, and preparations are already underway. These seasons remind us that light shines in the darkness, and that God is always doing a new thing among us.

Let us continue to walk together in faith, supporting one another, and trusting in God's provision. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

focused on growing families in faith

## Adult Choir

Linda Braun

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music!” – (Psalm 98:4)*

St. John's Adult Choir meets on Thursdays at 7pm. We will be sharing our voices on the following dates:

**10/5** LSB 895 – Now Thank We All Our God  
**10/19** LSB 846 – Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old  
**10/26** LSB 655 – Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word  
**11/2** LSB 728 -- How Firm a Foundation



Please contact Linda Braun for more information [frau11braun@gmail.com](mailto:frau11braun@gmail.com)

## Board For Christian Education

Linda Braun

Our Teen class is active again and welcomes any teen to join them. They have begun this year with some service projects around our church.

Our Elementary class is enjoying their bible studies. Using the Simply Loved Curriculum. This month's unit is called: *Prophets Speak for God*

**Bible Point:** God is powerful.

**Bible Memory Verse:** A final word: *“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”* (Ephesians 6:10)

### **Bible Lessons:**

\*Week 1: God Shows He's the One True God (1 Kings 18:16-45)

\*Week 2: God Speaks to Elijah (1 Kings 19:1-18)

\*Week 3: Elisha Takes Over for Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-14)

\*Week 4: God Heals Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-19)



# October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service P.	29 6p Bears Ed bldg	30 6p Bears Ed bldg	1 WOW 10/1/25 7p WOW Worship Led by V	2 7p Adult Choir Practice	3 12p Phoebe Lockman Baby	4
5 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service	6 6p Tigers meeting	7 6p Arrw of lght in LL5 6p Weblos LL1	8 Ladies Luncheon 12:30PM 7p WOW Worship Led by V	9 7p Adult Choir Practice	10	11
12 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service	13 Council 7PM	14 6p Bears Ed bldg 6p wolves LL1	15 7p WOW Worship Led by V	16 7p Adult Choir Practice	17	18
19 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service 1p Trunk or treat	20 6p Tigers meeting	21 6p Arrw of lght in LL5 6p Weblos LL1	22 7p WOW Worship Led by V	23 7p Adult Choir Practice	24 pastor gone - daughter wedding len using room	25
26 pastor gone - daughter wed. 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service	27 6p Bears Ed bldg	28 6p Bears Ed bldg	29 7p WOW Worship Led by V	30 7p Adult Choir Practice	31 10a Stamping Event	1
2 8:45a Sunday School 9:45a 9:45 Church service	3 6p Tigers meeting	4 6p Wolves LL1	5 7p WOW Worship Led by V	6 7p Adult Choir Practice	7	8

**Founded 1968**

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**Director:** Cheryl Power

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# Long Term Prayer List- October 2025

## **Members of St. John's**

Gordon Hill	Doug Snyder	
Karen Carey	Mia Howie	Chuck Thomas
Helen Schwartz	Kay Minwell	Emily Vokes
Richard Scofield	Heidi VanAken	Sandy Bastian

## **Family & Friends**

Nadine Printup & Blaise Readon (Mary Meade)  
David & Debbie Kuehnert (Don Kuehner's siblings)  
Don Nugent (Chuck Thomas' father)  
Wayne Grewe (brother of the Buckinghams & Sharon Jenkins)  
Jane Barmaster, Autumn, Emily, Charlene, & Katie (Martha Barmaster)  
The Cole family (family of Vicky Cole)  
Kathleen Goodberlet (granddaughter of Jack & Maryann Bauer)  
Joe Davenport (friend of Sharon Green & Candy Aldrich)  
Bob & Lynn Steamer (sister & brother-in-law of Roger Carpenter)  
Jeff, Peggy & the Coons children (family of Pat Coons)  
Jo Donahue (Shawn Patience)  
Pete Poulakis (family of the Plumbs)  
Keshap grandchildren (Bob & Barb Leisten)  
Dan Bauer (Luann Holtz & Jack Bauer)  
Carl Ellerman (Candy Aldrich)  
Jack Torrence (Karen Meyer)  
Amy Klino (Lisa Maier's friend)  
Erik (David Heckman's friend)  
Stephen Fredrickson (Candy Aldrich)  
Sharon Evans (friends of Barnes and Smiths)  
Karen Butler (Candy Aldrich's sister-in-law)  
Minister to Family (Betty & Rick Carr)  
Bob Lundquist (Deb Savage's dad)  
Gary & Carol (friends of Mary Ballou)

## **Military and their Families**

ET3 Adam Hopseeker (the Barnes family)  
SS Brian Heckman (the Heckman family)  
LT Paul Kuehnert (Don Kuehnert)  
LC Mercedes Buckingham (Sharon Jenkins)

**For additions or changes please call the church office (315) 986-3045.**



St John's Lutheran Church

153 Church Ave. Farmington, NY 14425

*"Walking together in **faith** "*

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St. John's Lutheran Church

The Good News Gazette—October 2025

*"Growing God's **family** through Jesus "*



Jesus Loves Me This I Know!