



St John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 279
5520 Fremont Pike
Stony Ridge, OH 43463

Phone: 419-837-5115
Email: officeadmin@stjohnsstonyridge.net

Pastor Cindy Ritter
E-mail: pastorcindy@stjohnsstonyridge.net

Pastor Howard Abts
E-mail: pastorhoward@stjohnsstonyridge.net

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Stony Ridge, OH
Permit No. 1

2024 Memory Verse

*"So then, a sabbath rest still
remains for the people of God"*

~ Hebrews 4:9

May 2024





From the Pastor...

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Greetings! Happy Spring!

Psalm 100 is a favorite of mine. It is for giving grateful praise to the Lord. I am so very blessed and grateful and give praise to the Lord for being your "pastor between pastors" this past year at St. John's. We are in a time of transition and many AWESOME things continue to happen here in our midst...in worship, in fellowship, and in serving God and God's Children of every age.

"Let's Build Beds" is certainly worth giving Kudos to. This organization has been building beds for kids in need for over 5 years. WOW! We had over 110 volunteers from our congregation and many other volunteers from our neighboring community gathered on Saturday April 13th. 50 beds were built in less than 4 hours. THANK YOU! Also, many thanks to everyone who donated monies to support this ministry event in which people of all ages could participate. I am especially grateful for Rick Lees' and Tiffany Porter's leadership. Their teams organized this outstanding endeavor and provided delicious food for all the volunteers.

Worship here has been so spiritually fulfilling and I appreciate our lay leaders, musicians, altar guild, and all folks who serve here on Sundays to provide a service that is such a blessing for everyone who attends. We also have an excellent and devoted group of teachers providing

(continued on page 3)

Sunday School experiences for people of all ages. This is truly a blessing to spend this extraordinary time with God and each other.

Our church staff, church council and other areas of church ministries have all had dedicated folks sharing their time and joy of serving which is so appreciated by all. THANK YOU! You have all served and led ST. JOHN'S in AWESOME ways this past year and we are forever grateful.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT HAS TRULY BEEN LIVED OUT:

"SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE OTHERS"

As I begin my second year in interim ministry here at this place...I do so with great enthusiasm as Co-Pastor with a very fine pastor and colleague...Pr. Howard Abts. We were both officially installed on Sunday April 14th. In our "Litany of Welcome" for Interim Pastors, led by our Council President Kyle Henry we were asked, "Will you love and serve and pray for us (St. John's) with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and leading us forward during this important time in our congregational life?" Pr. Howard and I both responded, "I will and I ask God to help me." Kyle Henry also asked the congregation, "Will you receive these messengers of Christ? Will you regard them as your Pastors, sent to bring the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you work with them as a partner and shepherd in the ministry of our congregation?" Everyone responded, "We will."

Thank you to everyone who continues to pray together to support each other and strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ.

May God Bless You Today and Forever!

In Christ,

Pr. Cindy Ritter

Spring Work Day



SATURDAY, MAY 11 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Please join us!

Help us spruce up the church grounds!

From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, April 14th, Pastor Howard Abts and Pastor Cindy Ritter were installed as co-interim pastors at St. John's. They will work together in part-time roles to teach, preach, and guide us as we continue to work together to move St. John's forward through this time of transition. I encourage everyone to introduce themselves to Pastor Howard, and to warmly welcome him into the St. John's family and community of faith.

On the same weekend, St. John's hosted a Build-a-Bed event to build 50 beds for children in need in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. This event was very successful, as over 100 volunteers from St. John's, other local congregations, and local scout troops joined in to assist with this worthy service project. We were blessed with a beautiful day and finished assembling all of the beds in about half the time that it was expected to take. We will be looking at participating in similar family-oriented service projects in our community later on this year.

As we make our way through the season of spring and look ahead towards the coming summer, I encourage everyone to continue to consider how to build up our community of faith and find ways to reach out to and engage with our local community. We are all strengthened as we serve our neighbors and share the Goods News with those that we interact with.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry
Church Council President



Your Evangelical Lutheran neighbors invite you to join us for

Rogation Days

A celebration of agriculture during the planting season

May 6 - 8: Blessing of Farms

Area pastors will bless local fields, livestock and equipment.

To have your farm included, contact
Pastor Bob Noble at:

Joyfulnoise123456@gmail.com

Please include your name, phone number and preferred date and time of blessing.

May 9: Worship & Dinner

6:00 p.m. Worship Celebration

Following worship: Enjoy a FREE farm-style meal at:

Solomon Lutheran Church
305 W Main St.
Woodville, OH

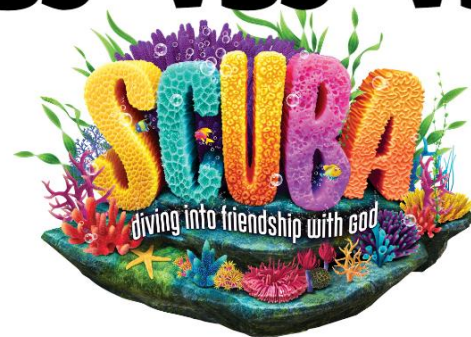
Prepared by Ole' Zimms Wagon Shed

Sponsored by:



Northwestern Ohio Synod
North-Central Conference
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

VBS VBS VBS



Coming to St. John's
June 24-28 9a.m. - 12p.m.

We will be recruiting volunteers to help as group leaders as well as with VBS activities. A Sign-up Genius will be created for collecting donations. Thanks in advance for your help!

Any questions??? See Kristy Williams

Build a bed. Change a Life.

**THANK
YOU!!**



Every child deserves a bed

A HUGE THANK YOU

to the more than 100 volunteers who came out to help us with our **Build-A-Bed** event. Thanks to the hard-working and generous members of our congregation and our community, we were able to put together materials for 50 beds for children in NW Ohio and SE Michigan!

We appreciate all who pitched in for this worthy cause.

Check out the pictures on pages 9 & 10!



Altar Flowers

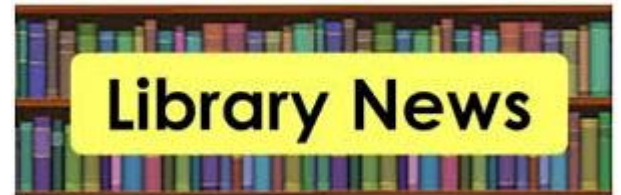


If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a Sunday service, please email or call the church office or visit our website to sign up. We use two bouquets each Sunday; the cost is \$20 per vase. When you sign up to place flowers, please ensure that they are paid for by the Sunday that they are on the altar so that we can pay the monthly bill. Write "altar flowers" on your check/offering envelope or visit our website and click on the "GIVE GENEROUSLY" link to make a one time payment. If no one signs up to place flowers, we use our church silk flowers.



Volunteers are ready to pray for the needs of others. Contact Clyde at 419-874-8175 or the Church office at 419-837-5115 or officeadmin@stjohnsstoneryidge.net for all of your prayer requests.

We have added books to the church library. Stop in and check out these books and see what else the library has to offer. The library is open whenever the church is open.



Come in for a visit. Check something out.

Children' Books

Daniel In the Lions' Den - James R Leninger
 Shh! We're Writing the Constitution - Jean Fritz
 Anna and Elsa - Erica David
 Doc McStuffins Snowman Surprise - Ed Valentine
 The Doctor Is In - Jonny Belt and Robert Scull
 Find the Dinosaurs - Brian L. Perkins and Jeff Borkin

Books for Adults

Promises- Prayers for Woman - Family Christian Stores
 Becoming a Woman of Worth Prayer Book - Karen Moore
 Be Still and Let Your Nail Polish Dry - Andrea Boeshaar

Music

Greatest Modern Hymns - Lifeway
 Proclaim the Glory of the Lord - Fairgreen Presbyterian Church
 Here I am to Worship - Various Artists

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Sunday Special...



Individual snack items for our summer boxes

The food pantry currently serves 58 families from the community.

The Social Ministries committee will meet as needed through the rest of the year.

We are still looking for a person(s)/family to take over the leadership of the food pantry. Please prayerfully consider this community service that lives out our mission statement.

Crafting Group

The Crafting Group will meet on Tuesday, May 21st from 10:00-11:30 in the lounge. Bring your latest craft project and join us for fellowship and conversation. We will suspend for the summer and start up again in September. If you have any questions, please see Lynda Lees.



Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, May 14th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House. Please consider joining us. We'd really like to grow our group. No experience necessary. This is such a wonderful mission project!

Pray for Special Concerns every Monday at noon. In May, pray for our graduating seniors.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, May 14th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)

Tuesday, May 21st-Crafting Group (Lounge)

Donations of filler for mission comforters are always welcome, including old blankets, sheets, bedspreads, tablecloths and mattress pads. These donations may be placed in the LWR box in the coatroom. Thank you in advance for your donations. If you have material you'd like to donate for the tops of comforters that are tied, donations would be greatly appreciated.



To our St. John's Family,

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers when Tim had his surgery and for everyone who helped me with usher duties with him home. Also, thank you to Pastor Cindy for your visits and prayers to help us through this scary time, and to Lynda Lees for our Prayer Shawl.

Thank you,
Patti & Tim Bihn

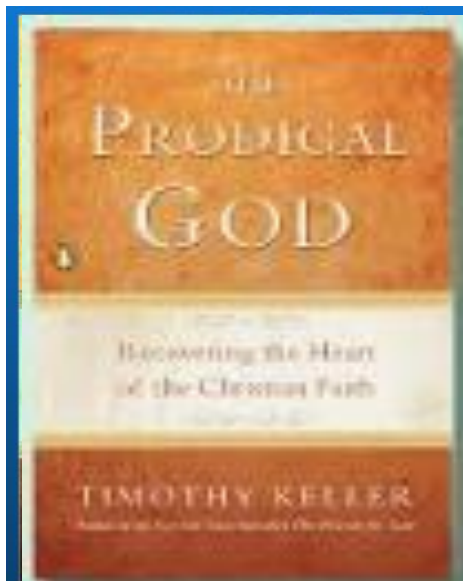
Dear St. John's family,

Donna and I would like to thank you all for your generosity for Baby Beckett (Hahn)! We can't bring his parents back, but we can show Beckett and his family we care about them in their time of need. Our community has gone above and beyond for them since their tragic loss. His grandma told me their family is so astonished and grateful by how amazing and generous the community has been. Please keep them in your prayers as they slowly heal and continue on without their loved ones. The offerings continued into March for this little guy's care. It warms my heart to see this outpouring of support. Thank you for your generosity and prayers!

*Your sisters in Christ,
Bobbi Henry and Donna Powers*

I would like to say thank you for your cards, kind words, and prayers during my recovery. A special thank you to Pastor Cindy for her many visits.

~ Kathleen Holzman

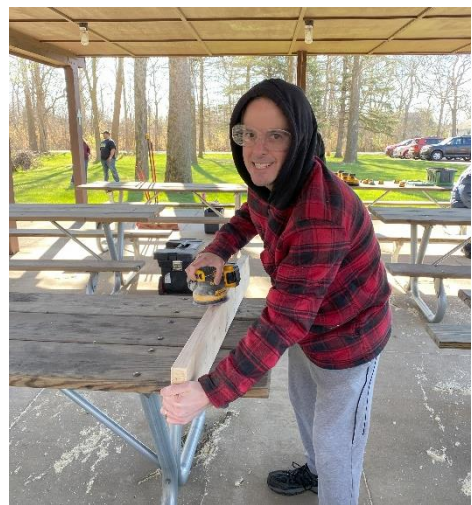


**New Book
Study
Opportunity!**

**for 6 weeks
beginning
April 29**

**Mondays @ 9:30 a.m. (Lounge)
Wednesdays @ 7:11 p.m. (ZOOM)**

BUILD-A-BED PHOTO ESSAY...





A great day of service and fellowship!
Check out the letsbuild.org website to see
two videos from the event.

In Loving Memory of...

Charles F. Kurfess



Pastor Robert Johnson, Bill & Carolyn Staib and family, LaVon Miller, Shirley Johnson, Rick & Lynda Lees, Michael & Kim Lees, Larry & Darlene Michel, Gerald & Belva Kallenbach, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Wellman, Michael Sibbersen, Margaret & Quinton St. John, Judy Trombly, Debra Opdycke, Janet Golightley, Steve Kurfess, Jeff & Marcia Bourdo, Nancy Oberdick, Janet Witker, Marilyn Baker, Pastor Cindy Ritter, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zimmerman, Maxine Haas, David & Linda Bockbrader, Cynthia Leffler, Karen & Larry Nicely, Donald Waters, Myrl & Sheri Bretz, Sharon & Ted Bitter, Phil & Mary Bodey, Jan Rucki, Mr. & Mrs. Matt Schwind, Megan Bockbrader, Ray & Debbie Goeckerman, Phyllis Bookenger, Mary Kurfess, Connie Johnson, Tim & Patti Bihn, Paul & Laurie Swartz, Tom & Cindy Walston, Alan & Carol Norris, Susan Cornell, Jeff & Marsha Mihalko, Karen & Daniel Brown, Virginia M. Baumer, James Cajka, Jeremy & Sandy Orth, David & Michelle Welling, Sandy Welling-Miller, Steve & Elaine Grolle, J. David & Janell Vickers, Kathleen Holzman, Paul & Pamela Brackney, Richard & Wendy Keppler, Gregory & Linda Boltman, Walter & Sharron Waclawski, Cathy Henry Campbell

Linda Griffith

Women of the ELCA



Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, May 25
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For more information,
see Ted Bitter

Prayers via ZOOM

Each Tuesday at noon, we gather (virtually on Zoom) for an hour of prayer together—"Noon Prayers by ZOOM." We typically begin with a reading from scripture or an excerpt from a prayer book before checking in with one another and collecting prayer requests. We conclude our hour together with a time of prayer, in which those who wish to do so offer aloud their petitions of supplication, thanks, and praise.

Here's the Zoom information (It is different from the Sunday morning worship info.): The meeting ID is 940 7347 7343. The meeting password is 595726

May Birthdays

(Those over 74 years young!)

Gwen Swartz	5/4/1942
Lee Lashaway	5/21/1934
Barbara Karam	5/21/1939
Tom Smiczek	5/24/1942
Bonnie Reitzel	5/30/1946



Join us Sunday Morning for

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ 4th & 5th Grade
- ◆ Catechism
- ◆ Adult Bible Study

GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 4/21/2024

General Fund Income *(Year-to-Date)*

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$84,375	\$77,857	(\$6,518)

Benevolence Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$8,438	\$5,757	(\$2,681)

Improvement Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

Actual
\$5,535

(Copies of most recently approved financial reports are available in the Narthex and by request)

IT'S TIME TO ORDER GERANIUMS!



We are taking orders for geraniums which will decorate the Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

They will then be planted around the church to beautify the property.

Each plant is \$6.00.

Order forms are located in the Narthex, or you can call the church office

~ 419-837-5115 ~

to place your order by May 12



Visit us online at www.stjohnstonyridge.net or scan the QR code to set up electronic giving. Click on the "Give Generously" tab to enter your information and offering. Financial gifts can, of course, be sent by mail too. We are grateful for your continued support of our ministry.

NWOS 2024 - The Year of Rest - REST CALENDAR

"So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God" ~ Hebrews 4:9



May '24

Year of Rest Calendar

Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Spiritual	Physical
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <i>Isaiah 58:11</i>			1 Spend time in one of your favorite places.	2 Visit some murals or art.	3 Spend a few minutes in prayer.	4 Do something you enjoy that requires movement.
Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. <i>Genesis 1:11</i>	5 Go outside and enjoy God's creation.	6 Take a moment to be in a peaceful place.	7 Share how you are doing with someone you trust.	8 Affirm a gift you see in another.	9 Visit a park or beach.	10 Take time to help another.
Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. <i>1 Corinthians 15:58</i>	12 Make a list of what you are grateful for.	13 Smell something delightful.	14 Ask someone else how they are doing.	15 Take 1 thing off your calendar	16 Tend to a space in your home.	17 Write a thank you note to someone.
He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." <i>Matthew 17:20</i>	19 Pause to listen to your favorite song.	20 Take a walk and leave your phone at home.	21 Take a break from screens.	22 Spend time with a loved one.	23 Cook something you love to eat.	24 Spend time looking at clouds or stars.
O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. <i>Psalms 104:24</i>	26 Meditate or sit in silence for 5 minutes.	27 Enjoy a favorite food.	28 Do something that rejuvenates your soul.	29 Meet with people who you share an interest with.	30 Plant something.	31 Reflect on where you saw God today.



Annual Card Party

First St. John Lutheran
2471 Seaman St. in Toledo

is holding their annual card party and luncheon on Tuesday, May 14th at noon in the gym. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch with homemade desserts. Door and raffle prizes are available.

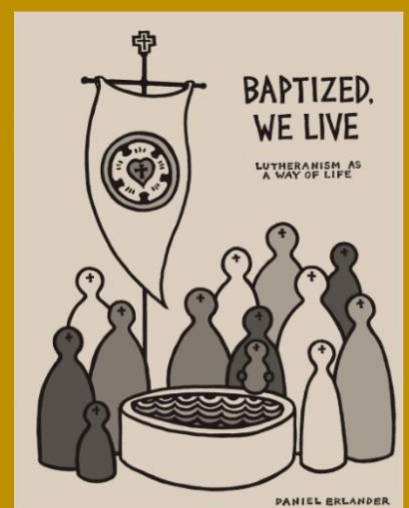
Call the church office
419-691-7222 for reservations



All are Welcome!

Adult Sunday School Class

"Lutheran Christianity 101" with Pastor Howard



Join us on Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Lounge.

May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 12p Memorial Lunch (PH)	4 10a-12p Shared Bounty (PH)
				8p AA		
5 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	6	7 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	8	9 9a Staff Meeting (L)	10 10a-11:30a St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon (Parking Lot)	11 9a-12p Outdoor Work Day
		7p Committee Mtg Night #1		8p AA		
12 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	13 JUNE/JULY VOICE ARTICLES DUE!	14 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p-2:30p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Mtg Night #2	15	16	17	18 7:30a Food Pantry (PH) 12p Private Event (PH)
				8p AA		
19 Pentecost 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship w/ Confirmation	20	21 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 10a-11:30a Crafting Group 6:30p Exec Comm 7:00p Church Council (L)	22	23 7:00p Mutual Ministry	24	25 8:30a-12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive (PH) 
				8p AA		
26 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	27	28 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7:00p Eastwood Baccalaureate	29	30	31 7:00a Dayschool Graduation (PH)	
				8p AA		

Committee Meetings: Please schedule all meetings with the office administrator so the proper room is reserved to accommodate all groups. Call 419-837-5115 or email officeadministrator@stjohnsstonryridge.net.