



# St John's LUTHERAN CHURCH

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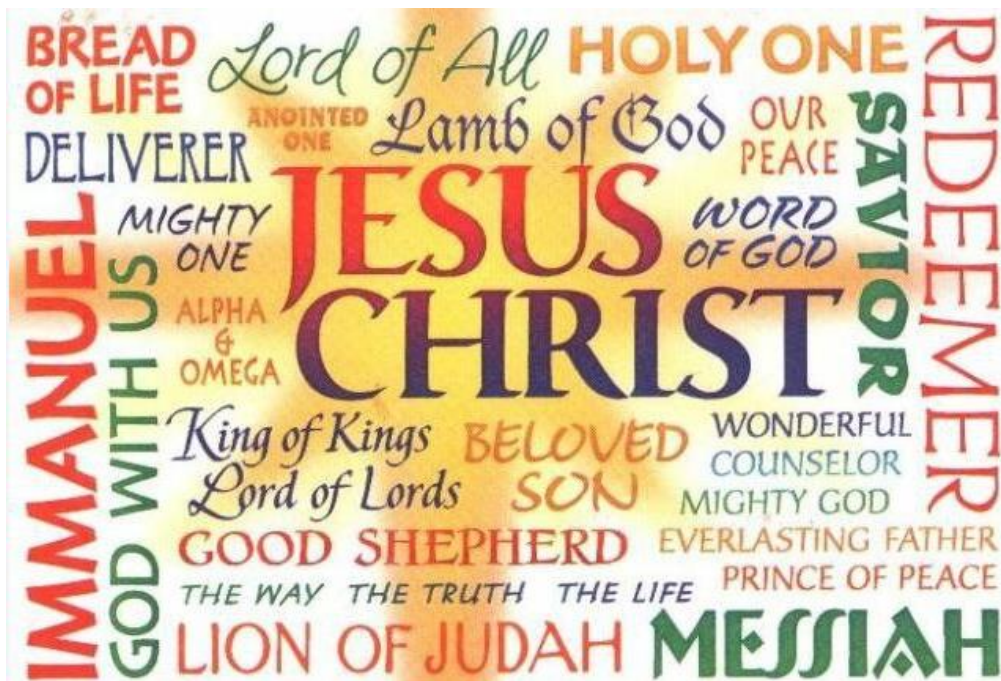
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## 2024 Memory Verse

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

~ Hebrews 4:9

# October 2024





## From Pastor Cindy...

*We will be an encouragement to each other.*

*(Romans 15:32)*

Hello! Today was a beautiful fall day. My husband and I went for a drive to an apple orchard and came home with Golden Delicious apples, donuts, caramel apples, acorn squash, and apple cider. The leaves on the trees are beginning to change color and the season of fall is in the air.

Are we ready for the changes that fall brings to our lives? Kids are back in school. Sunday school classes for all ages have begun along with Catechism classes too. Many folks have closed their pools, put their summer decorations & grills away, said good-bye to their beloved season of camping and they say hello to the raking of many leaves.

We thank and praise God for all the wonderful summer times we have had, and we pray with appreciation for the anticipation of what is to come, in our homes, at our jobs, in our church and with our families and friends as fall traditions begin again.

*"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."*

*( F. Scott Fitzgerald. SOUTHERN LIVING)*

Yes, we are starting some things all over again. At St. John's we are ready to focus on important conversations with the people in this congregation. On Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> we have a team of folks who will be installed as our transition team. This team leads our church through Bible studies, shared conversations of joys and concerns, as well as important decisions needed for a Ministry Site Profile which will then be created by the call committee.

The call committee will be selected and installed when this initial work by the Transition Team is completed. A common question asked is: *"How long will all of this take?"*

My answer to you is: *"We do not know...but we all need to participate and be patient and helpful and hopeful and encouraging to each other in the process."*

I am grateful for everyone in this place who is willing to serve and to take part in these conversations during this important time. Our church history will be reviewed. Our staff and leadership will be looked at. This team will invite everyone to revisit our mission and vision statements because they may need to be updated and even changed. Participation in the wider church and with our ecumenical partners will also be focused upon. (cont'd. on pg. 3)

We will have conversations on our welcoming ways and what this looks like in this church in these times. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we discuss and discern the future among us in this Holy place where so many people love and serve the Lord. A newly called pastor that we have prepared for carefully and diligently will be such a gift and blessing for us all.

*May we be an encouragement to each other in this process,  
as we trust God and know that God is among us always.*

*Blessings, Pr. Cindy Ritter*

P.S. There will be a new member class on Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.

P.P.S A Homebound Communion Team will be formed in November.

*Please call the church office if interested in participating in these things.\**

## From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our work to set up the transition team for St. John's has begun to bear fruit, as we prepare to begin the very important work that this committee will help to guide the congregation through. Serving on the team will be Joe Nycz, Cameron Schramm, Maggie Reed, Shawn Ochs, Jeremy Orth, Pastor Cindy Ritter, Pastor Howard Abts, and Kyle Henry. This team will be formally installed at a service in early October and will promptly dive into the work that has recently been outlined. We ask that everyone in the congregation continue to pray for this team and our congregation, as we work to listen to one another, build up our congregation and community, and to seek God's guidance as we strive to carry out His work in our communities and with each other.

I would also like to thank everyone for the support, both physical and financial, for the Rise Against Hunger event that was held on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. With the help of numerous volunteers, we packed 10,000 meals in just a few hours that morning. These meals will help to feed God's children who are in need throughout the world and will undoubtedly make a tremendous impact on their lives. Events like this are proof of the compassion and service by the people of St. John's. Closer to home, we continue to work to build up our congregation and one another through continued service and outreach. As we head into the fall and the quickly approaching seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, I ask everyone to continue to reach out to and engage our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who have become less involved in recent years. Invite them to attend a worship service or service event, as we always strive to be the light of Christ each and every day in all of our lives.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry  
Church Council President



## ST. JOHN'S TAKES A BITE OUT OF WORLD HUNGER!!

We had over 50 volunteers who packed 10,000 meals to be distributed to specific geographic regions where access to diverse and nutritious food is limited. Thanks to all who organized, donated to, and volunteered for this service project. We appreciate your generosity and willingness to serve!



## BOOK STUDIES!!

at St. John's in the Lounge

### A Study of Heaven

*Mondays at 9:30 a.m.* September 9, 16, 30, October 14, 21, 28, November 7

*or Wednesdays @ 7:11 p.m. on ZOOM*  
September 11, 18, October 2, 16, 23, 30, November 6

### Incarnation Study by Adam Hamilton

*Mondays at 9:30 a.m.* November 18, December 2, 9, 16

*or Wednesdays @ 7:11 p.m. on ZOOM*  
November 20, December 4, 11, 18

If you have questions or need the ZOOM link, see Pr. Cindy.

It is time for our annual update of our military care package program. Do you have a friend or family member that we can bless with a care package from our St. John's family during the holidays? If so, contact Pam Brackney (419) 287-3509 ([ppbrack@hotmail.com](mailto:ppbrack@hotmail.com)) or the church office before October 31 with the following information:

- Name/Rank /Family member that resides with them
- Address
- Likes/Interests/Sizes (for family member too)
- Favorite restaurants
- A close family contact phone number

If you have a friend or family member we are currently serving, please update as well! Thanks!

### Prayers via ZOOM

Each Tuesday at noon, we gather (virtually on Zoom) for an hour of prayer together—"Noon Prayers via 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**

## Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, October 8th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House. Please consider joining us for this very special mission project. No experience necessary. Pray for Special Concerns every Monday at noon. In October, pray for our farmers.

### *Dates to Remember:*

Tuesday, October 8th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)

Tuesday, October 22nd-Crafting Group (Lounge)

Donations of filler for mission comforters are always welcome, including old blankets, sheets, bedspreads, and tablecloths. 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, donations would be greatly appreciated.



## Crafting Group



The Crafting Group will meet on Tuesday, October 22nd from 10:00 to 11:30 in the lounge. Bring a project and join us for fellowship and conversation. See Lynda Lees with any questions.



# LABYRINTH WALK

Please join us on Sunday, October 20th at 1:30 at The Norma Stark Memory Garden & Labyrinth, located at 345 W. South Boundary, Perrysburg, OH. We will hear a short presentation on Norma's labyrinth and the gardens. There will be time afterward to walk the labyrinth and explore the beautiful gardens, which were created in memory of her parents.

Norma was a wonderful music educator, touching many lives in her years in education. I had the privilege of working with her on several music programs at Glenwood Elementary. She then spent many years teaching at Eastwood.

For more information on the gardens and labyrinth, check out the website. [www.normastarklabyrinth.com](http://www.normastarklabyrinth.com)

If you have any questions, please see Lynda Lees. Also, bring any questions you may have about the Memory Garden & Labyrinth with you on October 20th.

***A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.***

## PARKING

Driveway, across the street or  
side streets

### Operation Christmas Child



**Shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex beginning Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**

The poster for the Dessert Auction features a light beige background with several colorful illustrations of desserts, including ice cream cones, a cupcake, and cakes. The text "We need bakers!" is written in a black, slanted font in the top left corner, and "We need bidders!" is written in a black, slanted font in the top right corner. The words "DESSERT AUCTION" are written in large, bold, pink letters in the center. At the bottom, the text "Sunday, November 24" is written in pink, followed by "benefitting our Angel Tree project" in a smaller pink font.

# SOCIAL MINISTRIES

## *Sunday Special...*



**Food Pantry ~ canned sweet potatoes  
and  
jars or cans of turkey gravy**

**Shared Bounty ~ 4-roll toilet paper**

The food pantry currently serves 56 families from the community.

The Operation Christmas Child boxes will be in the narthex beginning October 13<sup>th</sup> for you to fill and give to a child around the globe. The national collection dates are November 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.



## THANK YOU...

Thank you once again to Jan Rucki for her abundance of vegetables for the food pantry!!

Thank you, Myrl & Sherri Bretz for the delicious tomatoes! Our families loved them!

Thank you to Christy Schramm, Linda, Emily & Stephany Bockbrader, Tiffany & Aubrey Porter and Pam & Rachel Brackney for once again leading our fall service projects this year! You are all very much appreciated!!

Our committee will meet as needed through the year.



## *In Loving Memory of...*

### **Helyn Kurfess**

- ◆ Scott & Laura Abke ◆ Bill & Carolyn Staib and family ◆ LaVon Miller ◆ Shirley Johnson
- ◆ Rick & Lynda Lees ◆ Ed, Diane, Lindsay, & Jacob Boelkens ◆ Jeremy & Sandy Orth
- ◆ Ed & Mary Anna Cochrane ◆ Michael Sibbersen ◆ Judy Trombly ◆ Margaret & Quinton St. John
- ◆ Debra Opdyke ◆ Janet Golightly ◆ Steve Kurfess ◆ Jeff & Marcia Bourdo ◆ Nancy Oberdick
- ◆ Arlene Baker ◆ Pr. Cynthia Ritter ◆ Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zimmerman ◆ Dick & Betty Bahnsen
- ◆ Bill & Beth Ault ◆ Maxine Haas ◆ Cynthia Leffler ◆ Karen & Larry Nicely ◆ Myrl & Sheri Bretz
- ◆ Dave & Cathy Lauck ◆ Sharon & Ted Bitter ◆ Miriam Morris ◆ Gregory & Linda Boltman
- ◆ Kathleen Holzman ◆ Ray & Debbie Goeckerman ◆ David & Janell Vickers ◆ Mary Kurfess
- ◆ Steve & Elaine Grolle ◆ Virginia M. Baumer ◆ Tim & Patti Bihn ◆ Paul & Laurie Swartz
- ◆ Tom & Cindy Walston ◆ Philip & Mary Rudolph ◆ Ben & Jean Waggoner ◆ Nadine Scott
- ◆ Heather Nissen ◆ Mary Deffley Kurfess ◆ James A. Hammer ◆ Iris & Gerald Szelagowski
- ◆ Mary Jane Reitzel and family ◆ Karen & Daniel Brown ◆ Sandy Welling-Miller
- ◆ Susan Cornell ◆ John & Barbara Wilch



*How do I begin to thank all the members of my St. John's church family who have been there for me over my five-month health journey. I feel so much love that it humbles me. Your consistent prayers were heard by our gracious Lord and brought me back home again.*

*Thank you for the many cards and get-well wishes. A special thank you to: Pastor Cindy for her many visits, prayers, and bringing me communion; Donna Rolf for the beautiful quilt; my SOAR sisters for their visits; Maggie Reed for bringing me church flowers and visiting; the Brackneys for their visits and continued caring; and a very meaningful visit from Joe and Nancy Nycz.*

*Bless all of you.*

*In Christ's Name,*

*Sandy Welling-Miller*



## ATTENTION!!

*The cost for an altar flower bouquet has changed. The new price is \$22.50 per vase.*

Please check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in placing flowers this month!

## WE NEED COOKIES!!!

The Fellowship Committee is asking for donations of cookies for our weekly after-service fellowship in the Narthex. You can drop them off in the kitchen with a note that says, "Cookie Hour". Thanks!!



Dartball season is about to begin, and we are always looking for new players! Men, women, and teens are welcome!!

**Season starts Monday, Oct. 7 @ 7:30 p.m.**

We are a part of the Wood County Dartball League along with 11 other churches. The season runs from October into April. If you are looking for some fun and fellowship with other Christian folks, this might just be the activity for you!! Please join us! If you have any questions, contact Earl Hagg at 419-348-8711.



# October Birthdays

*(Those over 74 years young!)*

Carolyn Staib	10/13	5474 Wagoner Road, Walbridge, OH 43465
Sharon Bitter	10/15	27609 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, OH 43447
James Goodman	10/17	514 Americas Way, #7784 Box Elder, SD 57719
Linda Polzin	10/20	26734 Thompson Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551
Mary Shook	10/23	23745 Bradner Road, Genoa, OH 43430
Pr. Bob Johnson	10/25	P. O. Box 248, 5925 Fremont Pike, Stony Ridge, 43463
Dave Polzin	10/29	26734 Thompson Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551
Doris Welling	10/31	P. O. Box 911, Luckey, OH 43443

## GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 9/22/2024

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$198,000	\$176,071	(\$21,929)

Benevolence Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

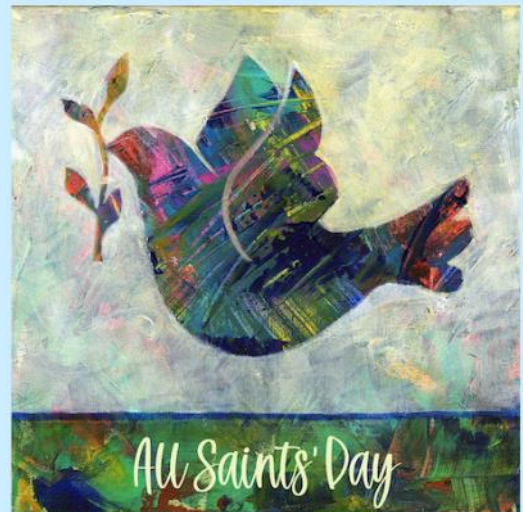
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$19,800	\$12,034	(\$7,766)

Improvement Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

<u>Actual</u>
\$12,800

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

*Sunday, Nov. 3*

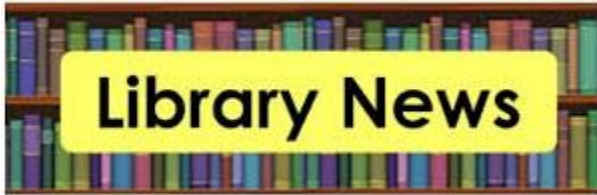


*All Saints' Day*

*Quiet Communion  
3:00 p.m. in the Chapel*



Visit us online at [www.stjohnstonyridge.net](http://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.



## Library News

*Come in for a visit.  
Check something out.*

Stop in and see the new books we have added to the church library. The church library is open whenever the church is open.

### Children's Books

Let's Go to the Farm - Lori C. Froeb  
 Make Way for Ducklings - Robert McCloskey  
 Hello Bird - Leslie Falconer  
 Peekaboo Pook - Michelle Rhodes  
 The Know-It- Alls Help Out - Peter Lippman  
 Backyard Ballet - Mary Tillworth  
 Llama Llama Nighty-Night - Anna Dewdney  
 The Little Engine That Could - Watty Piper  
 The Very Bumpy Bus Ride - Michaela Muntean  
 Curious George Goes to the Zoo - Cynthia Platt  
 Frog's Lunch - Dee Lillegard

### Adult Books

Kneeling in Bethlehem - Ann Winters  
 The Lutheran Handbook - Augsburg  
 Fortress

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

*A Trans-Siberian Orchestra Tribute by*

## *Siberian Solstice!*

St. John's Lutheran Church

Stony Ridge, OH

Friday, November 15, 2024

7:00 PM

No tickets needed, Free-will donation



**SIBERIAN SOLSTICE**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Oct. 4	9:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast @ Panera on Rt. 20 in Perrysburg
Oct. 7	7:30 p.m.	Dartball League begins
Oct. 11-13		Camping @ Sauder Village
Oct. 13	2:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat
Oct. 13		Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child will be available in the Narthex
Oct. 20	1:30 p.m.	Labyrinth Walk
Oct. 25	11:00 a.m.	Dayschool Trick or Treat in the church!
Oct. 28	6:00 p.m.	New Members Class
Nov. 1	9:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast @ Panera on Rt. 20 in Perrysburg
Nov. 3	3:00 p.m.	Quiet Communion
Nov. 15	7:00 p.m.	Siberian Solstice
Nov 24		Dessert Auction benefitting Angel Tree
Nov. 27		Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Zion Latcha



### It's Not Too Late!!!...

You are welcome to come out on Saturday afternoon/evening for fun, fellowship, and food. We will be making several different kinds of soup with sides. We would love for you to come out and spend some time with us! Just let us know that you are coming so we know to look for you! You can call the church office at (419) 837-5115 and let Sandy know or sign up on the sheet hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

October 2024		Year of Rest Calendar					
Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Physical	Spiritual	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4:11		1 Journal or list how you experience God's love.	2 Connect with a group of people you value.	3 Make something for someone else.	4 Take a walk. Silently pray for the places and people you meet.	5 Offer a note of gratitude to someone.	
But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26	6 Begin your day with five minutes of silence.	7 Eat something you associate with Fall. Give thanks for this gift.	8 Ask someone for help today. Do not apologize for needing it.	9 Offer a prayer of petition asking God for what you need.	10 Take time to marvel at something created by another.	11 Take a bike ride or a stroll outside. Enjoy your surroundings.	
Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. - Deuteronomy 28:6	13 Notice your pace while walking and driving today. Slow down.	14 Use your senses to experience signs of the changing season.	15 Spend time remembering the Saints of old.	16 Intentionally greet others as they come and go.	17 Prepare your home for the change of seasons.	18 Stretch for 5 minutes.	
...and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. - Matt 28:20	20 Meditate or sit in silence for 5 minutes.	21 Smell something delightful.	22 Call or write someone who lives far away.	23 Listen to a song from a different culture.	24 Carve or decorate a pumpkin.	25 Travel to a place that is new to you.	
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. - Psalm 136:1	27 Recount what you are thankful for this month.	28 Get your hands dirty doing something good.	29 Breathe deeply for 3 minutes.	30 Close your eyes. Be mindful of what you notice.	31 Sing a song you love loudly and joyfully.	31 Do something playful.	
						12 Donate your time or money to something you believe in.	
						19 Find a blessing that speaks to you. Carry it with you this week.	
						26 Enjoy a sunrise or sunset.	



# St. John's Hilltop Dayschool



## TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 13, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

in the East & North Parking Lots

Come and decorate your trunk and spread some Halloween cheer to our Dayschool and community children!!

Sign up in the Narthex!

## TRICK OR TREAT

Friday, October 25, 11:00 a.m.

in the church building

Come and be a part of treating our little ones to some Halloween fun!

Plan on a max of 50 children



# October 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Noon Prayers via ZOOM  7p Committee Mtg Night #1	2	3  8p AA	4 9a Men's Breakfast @ Panera ~ Rt. 20	5 10a-12p Shared Bounty (PH)
6 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship  11:30a New Acolyte Training	7 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball	8 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Mtg Night #2	9 11:30a Lunch Bunch @ Ralphie's on Navarre 7p Festival Choir	10 9a Staff Meeting (L)  8p AA	11	12 Fun, Fellowship, & Food @ Sauder Campground
13 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship  2p-4p Trunk or Treat in East & North Parking Lots	14 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball	15 Noon Prayers via ZOOM  6:30p Exec Comm (L) 7p Church Council (L)	16	17 6:30p Stephen Ministry (L)	18 9a – 12p Dayschool Pumpkin Patch	19 7:30a Food Pantry (PH)
20 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship  1:30p Labyrinth Walk @ Norma Stark Memory Garden...	21 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball	22 Noon Prayers via ZOOM  10a – 11:30 a Crafting Group (L)	23 7p Festival Choir	24 8p AA	25 11:00a Dayschool Trick or Treat in the church	26
27 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship Reformation Sunday	28 6-8p New Members Class (L) 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball	29 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	30 7p Festival Choir	31 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@stjohnsstonnyridge.net](mailto:officeadministrator@stjohnsstonnyridge.net).