



St John's LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2024 Memory Verse

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

~ Hebrews 4:9

November 2024





From Pastor Howard...

Sisters and brothers,

Remember this, from the September Voice?

- To come to terms with its past
- To encourage new leadership to emerge
- To reconsider its identity
- To improve its relationship with the wider Church
- To prepare to welcome its next called pastor

These are five things that it's very good for a congregation to do during a time of transition. Thanks to Sandy Orth's rebuilding of our website, some comments about the first of them are available here in the September VOICE:

https://www.stjohnsstonyridge.net/files/ugd/33de69_513ac9681b75446981ae1656a918e252.pdf

(Thanks to whoever invented "Copy and Paste!" How would you like to type that out?)

This month, the second: "To encourage new leadership to emerge."

So, what's new leadership about, and why should we worry about it? Is there something wrong with the leadership we've got now?

Sometimes the leaders we've got now don't want to keep their roles indefinitely. They've been doing excellent work, and now they're ready to do something else. For instance, Jerri Reitzel would like to step away from coordinating our Food Pantry. She'll be offering a Temple Talk about it on November 17, and I urge you to come prepared to give her your careful attention.

Many of the leaders we have now are ready to continue, but with new insights, new ideas, new understandings. At the beginning of each meeting of the Congregation Council, the members discuss a chapter of a book they've been reading. One result is newness in existing leaders. Their reading and discussion are the opposite of their saying, "No need for anything new here. We know all we need to know!"

Another kind of new leadership has to do with the way leaders work together, the details of what they do. At our next congregational meeting, you will be asked to vote on a change in our Constitution. As it's written now, Council can adopt a Continuing Resolution by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, and not inform the congregation of its action. If the change that will be proposed is enacted, Council will still be able to adopt a Continuing Resolution in the same way, but will be required to make sure the members of the congregation are informed. Does that sound like a picky technicality? I don't think it is. A few years ago, a Continuing Resolution was adopted, most people in the church weren't aware of it, and that seems to have contributed to some serious misunderstandings.

(cont'd. on pg. 3)

And what's leadership for, anyway? Isn't it to help us live as faithful disciples of Jesus? Well, we do that with each other, and we do it in the world. And we are changing. And our neighborhood is changing. And the world beyond our neighborhood is changing. Should our leadership still be as it was in 2009, say, or 1979, or 1929?

You know the Seven Last Words of the Church, right? "We never did it that way before!"

One possible answer is at Revelation 21.5: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' "

From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we make our way through the autumn season, it is time to look ahead to 2025 and contemplate where God will be leading us in the new year. At St. John's, we will again see a change in our pastoral leadership structure next year. In order to spend more time with her dear family, Pastor Cindy has requested to reduce her hours for 2025 from half-time to one-quarter-time. In doing so, she will primarily focus on visitations while still preaching and leading the service one Sunday a month at St. John's. She will continue to closely coordinate with Pastor Howard and the church council to provide pastoral leadership and guidance in our ministry work.

In conjunction with this change, Pastor Howard has graciously agreed to reciprocally increase his hours from half-time to three-quarters-time for 2025. He will preach and lead the service three times per month and will also continue to provide his leadership and pastoral care in continued collaboration with Pastor Cindy and the church council. We thank both Pastor Cindy and Pastor Howard for their excellent service in working together to guide St. John's in Word and Service and to help us carry out God's work in our lives and community.

Continuing in these efforts, our transition team was formally installed in October and has begun meeting to review the work that it has been tasked with to help St. John's move forward and prepare for the pastoral call process. There is a great amount of work to be done, but this team is focused and prepared to work with the congregation through our next steps. We will continue to provide additional updates as the team's work progresses and prepares to directly engage the congregation for input. 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.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry
Church Council President

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Sunday Special...



Food Pantry ~ canned sweet potatoes,
white cake mix and canned
red or green frosting

Shared Bounty ~ 4-roll toilet paper

The food pantry currently serves 55 families from the community.

Operation Christmas Child boxes are out and ready for you to take home and fill with goodies and love for children around the globe!! Please have your filled boxes returned by Sunday, November 10th so that we can get a count and have them delivered to the collection site by the national collection date. If you are able to, please consider a donation of \$10.00 per shoebox to help us with the cost of shipping, a bible and other materials that Samaritans Purse includes in each box.



COMING SOON!!! The Christmas tree will be in the Narthex soon with tags for our families that we will adopt for Christmas. We will adopt 3 families this year.

Social Ministries is looking for a few shopping and wrapping elves to purchase and wrap gifts for one of the 3 families we will adopt. You will use the monies from the dessert auction!!! Please reach out to Jerri 419.297.7300 or Christy Schramm 419.466.5498 if you are interested in helping us brighten a family's Christmas morning. ☺

THANK YOU.....

Thank you to Susie & Clyde for applying for a grant from Thrivent Action Dollars! We will use this gift to help purchase turkeys for our Thanksgiving food parcel.

Our committee will meet as needed through the year.

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.

In Loving Memory of...

Helyn Kurfess

David & Michelle Welling



Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, November 12th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House. Please consider joining us for this very special mission project. These comforters are sent to those in need all over the world, including right here in the United States.

Pray for Special Concerns every Monday at noon. In November, pray for our veterans.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, November 12th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)

Tuesday, November 26th-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, November 26th from 10:00 to 11:30 in the lounge. Bring your latest project and join us for fellowship and conversation. We would love to grow our group. See Lynda Lees with any questions.





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!

Time to Order

\$8.00/plant

Order forms are on the desk in the Narthex.

Orders due **11/17**

or call the church office 419-837-5115

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!!



Sunday Morning Christian Education ~ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

3 years old – 3rd grade

Catechism

6th, 7th, & 8th grades

4th & 5th Grade

Adult Class

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



Cookie donations to support this event are appreciated. You can drop them off in the kitchen – labeled “Siberian Solstice!”



*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.

These are the books we have added to the church library for November.

Adult Books

Narrative Criticism of the New Testament - James L. Resseguie

The Apostolic Fathers - Michael W. Holmes

Time with God-The New Testament For Busy People - Word Publishing, Inc. c: 1991

Between Sundays - Karen - Kingsbury

Chasing Sunsets - Karen Kingsbury

Blessings - Anna Quindlen

Children's Books

Pets - Emily Skwish

If You're Happy - Emily Skwish

Wheels and Wings - Emily Skwish

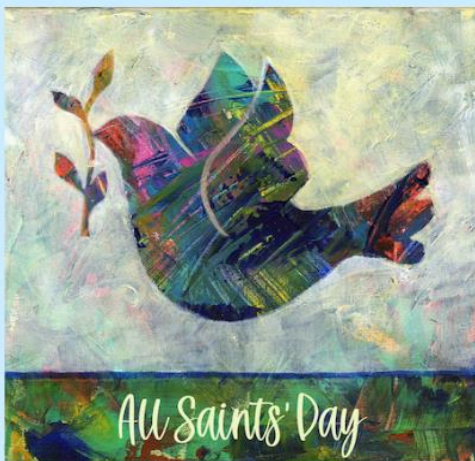
Zoo Colors - Emily Skwish



November Birthdays *(Those over 74 years young!)*

Steve Swartz	11/3	10765 S. Lakes Drive, Perrysburg, 43551
Duane Karam Sr.	11/6	441 N. River Road, Waterville, 43566-1456
Anita Nietz	11/8	7120 Lighthouse Way, Apt. 316 Perrysburg, 43551
Dave Knepper	11/13	1340 N. Somerset Rd., Hudson, MI 49247
Carolyn Burns	11/15	333 E. Boundary, Room 21, Perrysburg, 43551
John Baker	11/18	408 Bellaire Ave., Fort Washington, PA 19034
Barb Hersch	11/19	211 Three Meadows Ct., Perrysburg, 43551
Phyllis Bookenberger	11/27	30236 Lemoyne Rd. Walbridge, 43465-9600

Sunday, Nov. 3



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

GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 10/20/2024

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$219,375	\$183,365	(\$36,010)

Benevolence Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$21,938	\$13,116	(\$8,822)

Improvement Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

Actual
\$13,640

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



Visit us online at www.stjohnstonridge.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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Nov. 3	3:00 p.m.	Quiet Communion
Nov. 6	11:30 a.m.	Lunch Bunch @ Shawn's Irish Tavern, Waterville
Nov. 8	9:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast @ Panera on Rt. 20 in Perrysburg
Nov. 15	7:00 p.m.	Siberian Solstice
Nov 24	11:30 a.m.	Dessert Auction benefitting Angel Tree
Nov. 27	7:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Zion Latcha
Dec. 14	6:00 p.m.	Cookie Decorating w/ Pizza
Dec. 15	10:00 a.m.	Youth-led Worship Service & Children's Christmas Program
	3:00 p.m.	Dayschool Christmas Program
Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.	Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship Service w/ special music @ 5:30 p.m.
	9:00 p.m.	Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service w/ special music @ 8:40 p.m.

November 2024				Year of Rest Calendar			
Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Physical	Spiritual	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. - Psalm 136:1					1 Do something playful.	2 Offer a prayer of gratitude today.	
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. - Proverbs 27:17	3 Set everything aside and play a game with someone.	4 Eat something that reminds you of someone who loves you.	5 Silence your devices for one hour. Breathe.	6 Have a conversation with someone you don't agree with. Focus on listening.	7 Write a thoughtful note that affirms someone's gifts.	8 Exercise with someone else.	9 Donate your time or money to something you believe in.
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Heb. 10:24-25	10 Call to mind a compliment that affirmed your giftedness.	11 Listen to music that uplifts your spirit.	12 Seek advice from a trusted mentor.	13 Let someone teach you a new game.	14 Share a joke with someone. Ask the other if they have a joke for you.	15 Do something good for someone else that requires you to move your body.	16 Read a verse or story from the bible that strengthens your faith.
Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10	17 Practice one of your gifts. (ex. music, running, gaming, art)	18 Bake something for someone else.	19 Call or write someone who lives far away.	20 Connect with someone who brings out the best in you.	21 Use one of your gifts to do something kind for another.	22 Play with your pet(s) or pets in your community.	23 Notice and give thanks for the change of seasons.
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Col. 3:17	24 Recount what you are thankful for this month.	25 Get your hands dirty doing something good.	26 Breathe deeply for 5 minutes.	27 Do something joyful with someone older/ younger than you.	28 Cook something that you will share with others.	29 Take a walk. Give thanks for God's abundance.	30 Give to those in need.

Dessert Auction

DONATE YOUR SIGNATURE DESSERT! PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN THE NARTHEX!

TAKE HOME DELICIOUS DESSERTS FOR THANKSGIVING MADE BY OUR AMAZING ST. JOHN'S BAKERS!



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH
AFTER OUR 10:00 SERVICE

CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED! ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT OUR ANNUAL ANGEL TREE!

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 27
7:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran - Latcha
26535 Pemberville Road.

We are invited to join them for fellowship after the service.





November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10a-12p Shared Bounty (PH)
3 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship <i>All Saints Day</i> 3p Quiet Communion	4 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball (Home)	5 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7p Committee Mtg Night #1	6 11:30a Lunch Bunch @ Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville	7 8p AA	8 9a Men's Breakfast @ Panera Rt. 20 5:30p Boy Scouts Lock-in (PH)	9
10 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 4p Private Event (PH)	11 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball (Home)	12 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Mtg Night #2	13 10a Library 7p Festival Choir	14 9a Staff Meeting (L)	15 7p Siberian Solstice!	16 7:30a Food Pantry (PH)
17 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	18 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball (Away)	19 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 6:30p Exec Comm (L) 7p Church Council (L)	20 7p Festival Choir	21 6:30p Stephen Ministry (L) 8p AA	22	23
24 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11:30a Dessert Auction (PH)	25 6:30p JJJAAM Practice 7:30 Dartball (Home)	26 10a – 11:30 a Crafting Group (L) Noon Prayers via ZOOM	27 7p Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Zion Latcha	28  10a Private Event (PH)	29 10a Private Event (PH)	30

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@stjohnsstonyridge.net.