



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

June/July 2024





From the Pastor...

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves:
be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

-Jesus, quoted in Matthew 10.16, KJV

(Why am I quoting from the King James Version? Wouldn't the New Revised Standard Version, or some other modern translation, be more appropriate for 21st Century people? Well, it's like this: I have an ax to grind, and I want a Biblical text that supports my point of view. [Did you think I have more integrity than that? If only!] The Greek word "*akeraioi*", translated "harmless" in the KJVs, is rendered "innocent" in the NRSV. And I don't want to write about innocence here, but harmlessness.)

People sometimes say to me when we're about to part, "Be safe!" What do you suppose they mean? Do they mean, "Don't harm anyone"? Or do they mean, "Don't suffer any harm yourself"?

One clue to what they mean is that, often, they say it when I'm about to go somewhere on a bicycle, and they're pretty sure that riding a bike in traffic is not safe. I think I'm *very* safe riding a bike: it's hard for me to imagine how I could do anyone serious harm. Once or twice a year, maybe, a bicyclist kills a pedestrian in the US, but it isn't easy. It takes a lot of carelessness and a lot of luck. When I drive a car, though, I'm not nearly so safe. A moment's inattention, or a little drowsiness, or a fit of anger, and I could kill half a dozen people. Not hard to imagine at all. It happens all the time.

I think that's what Jesus would mean if he said, "Be safe!" I think that's what he meant when he said to his disciples, "be ye therefore ... harmless as doves."

But I don't think "Don't harm anyone" is what people usually mean. I think they mean, "Don't let anyone harm you." In that respect, too, bicycling is safe. Give me a call sometime, and I'll be happy to bore your socks off with statistics about that. But it's hard to believe. We're supposed to believe that the bigger the vehicle you're using, the safer you are, even though the bigger vehicle is more likely to do serious harm to other people. (And, often, its own occupants.) When cars and pickups and SUVs are sold as "Bigger, therefore safer," many agree that that makes sense, and they buy bigger vehicles.

(continued on page 3)

Is that the kind of life, the kind of thinking, to which Jesus invites us? A life of "I'm going to do what I think is safer for me, even if it's more dangerous for the people around me"?

Jesus says to us, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10.16, KJV) I don't know a lot about sheep, but I'm pretty sure they rarely do serious harm to wolves.

So, dear friends: Be safe! Don't harm anyone! Also, I hope no one will harm you!

Pr. H.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Back in 2019, St. John's sent Nancy and me off to Florida to go to training to become Stephen Leaders. Pastor Cindy rode along with us as she was going for training too, for St. Marks. We had no idea what to expect but we knew it was a program to help people going through difficult times. The first day was interesting. We met in a large ballroom with about 600-800 people from all over the United States, Canada, and multiple foreign countries. They were all there for the same reason, wanting to learn how to help those back home. We were in classes all day for about 10 hours a day, Monday through Friday, and a half day on Saturday. We learned how to listen and respond to individuals grieving, struggling with relationships, loss of jobs, and multiple other scenarios. After completing close to 70 hours of in-classroom learning, we were sent home to train Stephen Ministers in our congregation. We started with 10 candidates. It would require 50 hours of training to get through the material we had brought back. So, for roughly 26 weeks at 2 hours a week we worked through the books and did role playing to learn how to be "Christ Caring for People Through People". Ask any of the Stephen Ministers in our church and they will tell you it wasn't easy. Once completed we commissioned 9 Stephen Ministers in the Fall of 2019. These Stephen Ministers are more than qualified and ready to care for anyone going through a crisis. All information is kept strictly confidential. If you or someone you know is hurting or struggling and could use someone to listen and care for them or have any questions, please contact Pastor Cindy, Pastor Howard, or Nancy or Joe Nycz.

Submitted by Joe Nycz

From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spring is fading into summer, and with it the Easter season concludes and Pentecost and the time after is upon us. As summer begins, we are often inundated by tasks to complete, activities to participate in, and the lure of vacations and time away from the bustle of our days. In the midst of all of this, we remain steadfast in our faith and anchored to Christ in all that we do. Among the demands for our time and attention, how do we each set aside time for worship, devotion, and service to others? The needs of our congregation and community remain great, and I ask that we all continue to devote time and energy this summer for worship and service to others.

At St. John's this summer, the church council is continuing to take steps to launch a transition team later this year, which will lay out the foundational groundwork for a future call committee to eventually call the next pastor for St. John's. Both parts of this will take time and effort, and we continue to ask for prayers and patience as we diligently work towards completing these tasks. We will be working on a physical inventory of the church's property for insurance purposes as well, to better update our records and coverage.

As always, please reach out to me, Pastor Howard and Pastor Cindy, or any other church council member if there are any questions or thoughts to be shared on the life of St. John's.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry
Church Council President

SUMMER STUDY OF RELIGION

You are invited this summer to gather at various homes and restaurants to spend time together in fellowship and to learn about different religions.

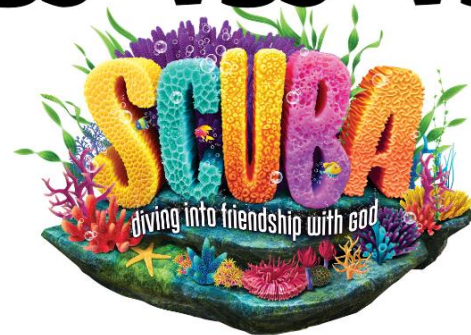
The group will gather at 9:30 a.m. on
Mondays:

June 17, July 8 & 22, and August 5 & 19

Please contact Pr. Cindy Ritter
for more information at:

pastorcindy@stjohnsstonyridge.net

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



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@stjohnsstoneridge.net for all of your prayer requests.



Thank you to the funeral luncheon workers and those that donated food for the funeral luncheon for Mary Lou Welling held at the church. She would have been honored that you took the time to make it so special for our family and friends. Also, a thank you to all that made contributions to the church and food bank in memory of Mary Lou Welling. ~ Family of Mary Lou Welling

Dear St. John's Scholarship Committee,
Thank you for this generous \$1500 scholarship. I appreciate it very much!

I will be attending Siena Heights University majoring in Biology with a pre-dental track as well as playing softball and bowling. My career goal is to become an Orthodontist which will require 4-6 more years of dental school following my time at Siena Heights University.

Thank you for your gift!

Sincerely,

Cassandra Kieper

Dear St. John's Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for this generous \$1500 scholarship. I appreciate it very much and will put it to good use.

I will be attending Purdue Northwest University in Hammond, Indiana to major in Mechanical Engineering Technologies. I will use this scholarship to help pay my tuition. While at Purdue Northwest I will be interning at Morrison Container Handling Solutions in Glenwood, Illinois.

Thank you for your gift! Sincerely, Jordan Kieper

St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry,

Thank you so much this school year 23-24 for all your help with donated food for our snack pack program at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We enjoyed working with you and greatly appreciated all the food donations. Looking forward to next school year.

~ The Committee at Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Snack Pack Program

A big thank you to the Fellowship Committee and to Sandra for all their help working on the JJJAAM event! Also, thanks to all that donated food and drink! We are looking forward to the next time! ~JJJAAM



Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, June 11th and Tuesday, July 9th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House. If you are free this summer, we would really appreciate your help. We'd like to complete as many comforters as possible before October. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Pray for Special Concerns every Monday at noon. In June, pray for our VBS teachers, volunteers, and students. In July, pray for safety in summer activities.

Dates to Remember:

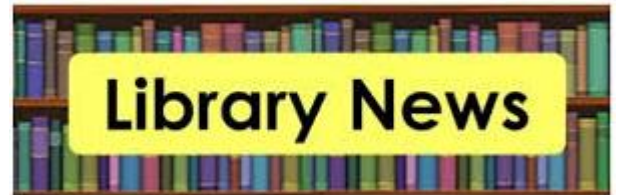
Tuesday, June 11th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)

Tuesday, July 9th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)

**The Crafting Group will suspend for the summer and begin again in September.*

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, donations would be greatly appreciated.

These are the new books we have added to the church library. Stop in and check out these new books and all of the other books, videos, and CD's we have the library. The library is open whenever the church is open.



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

Children' Books

All By Myself - Mercer Meyer

The Bernstein Bears and the Missing Dinosaur Bone - - Stan and Jan Bernstein

The Baby is Here - Angela C. Santomereio

Sofia the First (Welcome To Royal Prep) - Lisa Ann Marsoli

Itsy Bitsy Spider - Experience Early Learning Co.

Clifford's ABC - Norman Bridwell

Skyfire - Frank Asch

The Night Before Preschool - Natasha Wing

Meet the Neighbors! - Natalie Shaw

Big Book of Disney Junior

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Sunday Special...



canisters of lemonade and Kool-Aid

The food pantry currently serves 56 families from the community.

THANK YOU.....

A big thank you once again to Clyde & Susie Bame for their Thrivent Action dollars for the summer boxes at the food pantry. There will be 19 families that will receive an extra box of breakfast, lunch and snack items for our families that have children home this summer.

Thank you to the special person that gave alter flowers anonymously to me! I was able to have Pastor Cindy deliver them to Mary Jane so she could enjoy them.

Thank you to Ted Bitter for organizing the American Red Cross blood drive on May 25th . We appreciated the time and organization it took for this event.

The Social Ministries committee will meet as needed throughout 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.

Shared Bounty will be collecting 4-roll toilet paper.

Mark your Calendar

Stony Ridge Civic Association

Rally Day ~ Saturday, July 27
7 p.m. Community Worship Service
and Ice Cream Social

Car Show ~ Sunday, July 28
Stony Ridge Community Park



In Loving Memory of...

Mary Lou Welling

Kathleen Holzman, Grace M. Baker, Dianne & Tom Waldock & family, The Downey Family, Larry and Darlene Michel, Jill Ward, Jennie Quinn, Joyce Sandwisch, Jerry Sandwisch, Renee & Thomas Cassidy, Donna Sandwisch, Donna Sandwisch, Lois Padgett, John Schramm, Judy Sandwisch Linse, Dudley C. McLaughlin, Maxine Haas, Donald Waters, Tim & Patti Bihn, Pastor Cindy Ritter, Cindy Leffler, Harper & Pearson Co., Bob & Gay Winters, Bruce, Lisa Winters Hammond,

Charles F. Kurfess

Phillip & Mary Rudolph, Iris Szelagowski, Daniel & Connie Artz

Fred Grosse

Joan L. Staib

A donation has been made to St. John's Hilltop Dayschool in memory of Nancy McDonald, Terri Schaller's mother, given by

Mark & Jill Engle, Matt & Leslie Oestreich and family, Mark & Jenny Wensink and family

Prayers via ZOOM

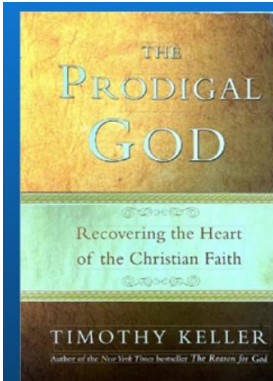
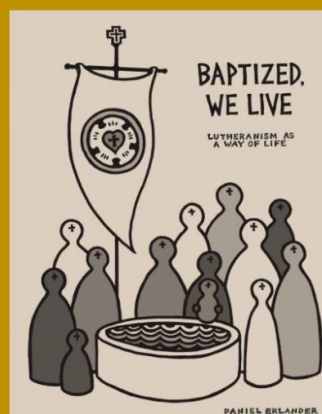
Each Tuesday at noon, we gather (virtually on Zoom) for an hour of prayer together—"Noon Prayers by ZOOM." We typically begin with a reading from scripture or an excerpt from a prayer book before checking in with one another and collecting prayer requests. We conclude our hour together with a time of 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

**Adult
Sunday
School Class**

**"Lutheran
Christianity 101"
with
Pastor Howard**

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



**Book Study
Opportunity!**

**Mondays @ 9:30
a.m. (Lounge)**

**May 6 - June 10
or**

**Wednesdays @ 7:11 p.m.
(ZOOM)**

NWOS 2024 - The Year of Rest - REST CALENDAR

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

June '24		Year of Rest Calendar					
Mental	Sensory	Emotional	Social	Creative	Spiritual	Physical	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16						1 Do something that relaxes your body.	
I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13	2 Pause to listen to your favorite song.	3 Close your eyes & center yourself.	4 Do something that rejuvenates your soul.	5 Affirm a gift you see in another.	6 Visit a park or body of water.	7 Learn something new today.	8 Notice where you are holding tension in your body.
...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. - Isaiah: 40:43	9 Make a list of what you are grateful for.	10 Enjoy the taste of a fresh fruit or vegetable.	11 Ask someone else how they are doing.	12 Take 1 thing off your calendar	13 Play a game or read something you enjoy.	14 Tell someone how thankful you are for them.	15 Do something that requires movement outside.
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1	16 Go outside and listen to creation.	17 Take a picture of something small that brings you joy.	18 Call or write someone you connect with.	19 Spend time with a loved one.	20 Make something.	21 Watch the sun rise or set.	22 Lower your shoulders & take a deep breath.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10	23/30 Notice 5 things of beauty around you.	24 Smell something delightful.	25 Take a break from screens and read something.	26 Do something that gives you time alone.	27 Begin and end your day with music.	28 Spend time giving thanks to God.	29 Spend time in one of your favorite outdoor places.



CHECK OUT THIS
FELLOWSHIP
EVENT!



Join us
for a fun-filled
evening with
the Mud
Hens!

Saturday,
August 24
7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$14
each ~
Due by June 9

Sign-up Sheet is
in the Narthex or
call the Office
419-837-5115



June-July Birthdays

(Those over 74 years young!)

Judy Hannan 6/5/1949
 Roger Jascob 6/17/1948
 Tom Walston 6/26/1946
 Larry Minarik 6/29/1944
 Carolyn Warns 6/30/1935

Danny Biniker 7/8/1942
 Richard Henzler 7/11/1944
 Becky Warns 7/13/1942

Ken Swartz 7/15/1946
 Frank Reed 7/18/1937
 Ted Bitter 7/21/1946
 Donna Rolf 7/24/1935
 Mary Anna Cochran 7/26/1936
 Donna Dixon 7/30/1946



GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 5/19/2024

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

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$106,875	\$95,678	(\$11,197)

Benevolence Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$10,688	\$6,830	(\$3,858)

Improvement Fund *(Year-to-Date)*

Actual
\$6,380

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

*Hats Off to
Our Graduates*



Congratulations
on a job well-done!
Best wishes for the
future!



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.



June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10a-12p Shared Bounty (PH)
2 9a Adult SS 10a Worship <i>Honor Graduates</i> 12p Private Event (PH)	3 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	4 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7p Committee Mtg Night #1	5	6 8p AA	7	8 10a Private Event (PH)
9 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	10 Dayschool Summer Camp begins 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	11 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p-2:30p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Mtg Night #2	12	13 9a Staff Meeting (L) 8p AA	14	15 7:30a Food Pantry (PH)
16 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	17 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	18 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 6:30p Exec Comm 7:00p Church Council (L)	19	20 8p AA	21	22 1p Private Event (PH)
23 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	9-12 VBS 24 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	9-12 VBS 25 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	9-12 VBS 26	9-12 VBS 27 8p AA	9-12 VBS 28	29 11a Private Event (PH)
30 9a Adult SS 10a Worship 4p Private Event (PH)						

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.



July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	2 7p Committee Mtg Night #1	3	4 8p AA	5	6 10a-12p Shared Bounty (PH)
7 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	8 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	9 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p-2:30p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Mtg Night #2	10	11 9a Staff Meeting (L) 8p AA	12	13
14 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	15 AUGUST VOICE ARTICLES DUE! 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	16 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 6:30p Exec Comm (L) 7:00p Church Council	17	18 8p AA	19	20 7:30a Food Pantry (PH)
21 9a Adult SS 10a Worship	22 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	23 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	24	25 8p AA	26	27 Stony Ridge Civic Assn. Community Rally Day 7p Worship & Ice Cream Social
28 9a Adult SS 10a Worship Stony Ridge Civic Assn. Car Show	29 6:30p JJJAAM Practice	30 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	31			

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