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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.18, No. 3

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

March 24, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5

SERVICES:

HOLY WEEK:

- Maundy Thursday,
Thursday, April 2-7:00PM
(with Holy Communion)

EASTER SUNDAY:

- Easter Sunrise Service with
Breakfast at 7:00AM

If you plan to attend breakfast, please bring your own eggs for your family already scrambled. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for other items needed for the breakfast.

- Regular Sunday School
9:00AM

- Worship (Holy Communion)
10:00AM

In today's culture of attention-grabbing headlines and the common social media practice of "doom scrolling" feelings of hopelessness can permeate the spirit of many. Here is a list of Bible verses to help you find **HOPE:**

- Romans 15:13
- 2 Corinthians 4:18
- Psalm 62:5-6
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Isaiah 40:31
- Philippians 1:6
- Lamentations 3:21-23
- Revelations 21:4

-Lancaster Bible College

Our Biblical **HOPE** is a confident, secure expectation in God's promises and future grace, rather than a mere wish. Rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and God's faithfulness, this hope serves as an anchor for the soul, providing encouragement, joy, and strength during trials.

Key themes include trusting God as the source of **HOPE**, and looking forward to eternal life.

-Al Overview

Here is a list of Good Reasons to have **HOPE**

3. **God is wise**-He knows what He's doing and His wisdom and ways are far beyond our comprehension.
4. **God Keeps His promises**- He is trustworthy do to what He says He will do.
5. **God is Faithful**- He is totally reliable and utterly dependable
6. **God provides** -He is **with you** and he is **for you**. He will take care of you.

SOME INTERESTING FASTS ABOUT THE OTHER CELEBRATIONS OF EASTER THAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN:

Easter Eggs- symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ with the hardshell representing his sealed tomb and the cracking representing his emergence from death. Historically, eggs were forbidden during Lent, making them a festive, celebratory treat to eat on Easter. They also represent new life, and fertility, stemming from ancient traditions.

Easter Bunny also symbolized fertility, rebirth, and new life rooted in preChristian spring festivals (English Heritage) Rabbits represent spring fertility due to high reproduction rates. The German traditions introduced "Easter Hare" who brought colored eggs to children, which, evolved into modern egg hunts.

-Al Overview

OUR SYMPATIES.....

To the family of Donna Miller who passed on Saturday, March 7.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST.....

Our last pancake breakfast for the year will be held on Sunday, April 26. These will resume in the Fall.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL.....

Birthdays:

- April 5—Cale Miller
- 10--Vicky Thomas
- 22--
Don Wickham
- 23—Jessica Fabiny
- 27—Robert Deitrick
- 30—Shannon Davis

Anniversaries:

- April 13—Denny & Stacy
Tompkins

WELCA NEWS.....

Will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 2:00PM at the church. Hostess will be Leslie Williams and Joy Pletcher will lead the Topic.

COUNCIL.....

Will meet on **Thursday, April 9**, instead of regular scheduled, due to Maundy Thursday Service. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME OF MEETING.** Council will now meet at

**St John's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**

February 5, 2026

Bill Thomas opened meeting at 7:06 pm. Council Vice President, Bob Pletcher, was unable to attend. Members present: Pastor Al Laese, Nate Atkins, Carol Cramer, Brian Miller, Joe Pletcher, Bill Thomas, and Steve Wolfe. Bill Thomas confirmed a quorum.

Devotion Bill Thomas opened the meeting with a prayer.

Joe Pletcher read the unapproved minutes from the January 8 meeting. [Approved by vote of 5-1: S. Wolfe/C. Cramer].

PASTOR'S REPORT – January 2026 - 3 Sunday worship services & Sunday School; 1 Church Council meeting; 1 Cluster meeting; mandatory Synod training in Columbus; 242 miles. Pastor asked if hosting cluster meeting on March 4 will be possible. Alternate date for April can be arranged, if necessary. [Accept: S. Wolfe/N. Atkins].

TREASURER'S REPORT – reviewed by council [Accept by vote of 4-2: S. Wolfe/J. Pletcher]. Council has asked for itemized lists of deposits and withdrawals with the monthly report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (7:32 pm)

CEMETERY – no report

EDUCATION – no report

FINANCE – Finance Chair, Joe Pletcher, reported the updated medical insurance premium amount for 2026. Council approved.

PRAYER CO. – PRAYER Committee Chair, Steve Wolfe, reported that the committee reached out to community member to replace personal cold weather gear that had been stolen.

PRODUCE – There was no report for January as the produce market was cancelled due to inclement weather. Produce Committee plans to ask volunteers for inputs concerning markets in January and February in the future.

PROPERTY – Property Chair, Nate Atkins, reported the project to level the sidewalks has been completed. Nate would like to ask the company for an estimate for levelling the steps to the basement. Nate also provided update to the congregation's approval to add the nursery carpet to the project.

WORSHIP/MUSIC- no report (Bill Thomas reminded Council that Ash Wednesday service with Communion is at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.)

NEW BUSINESS

There were no motions for the meeting. Bill Thomas asked Council to consider raising the salaries for the custodian, organist, and secretary. Council will discuss within next 1-2 months.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:19 pm [N. Atkins/B. Miller]

Meeting followed by The Lord's Prayer

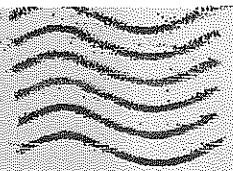
J. Pletcher - for Council Secretary, Frank Dietz

April 2026

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AI 1-2823		1 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE-7PM Holy Communion	2	3
6	7	8 Council 8PM	9	10
13	14 WELCA-2:00PM at church	15	16	17
20	21 Produce Give-A-Way 9AM	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	Vicky Thomas Secretary (H) 740-674-6814 (C)-740-252-1890 cabinintheorchard@yahoo.com

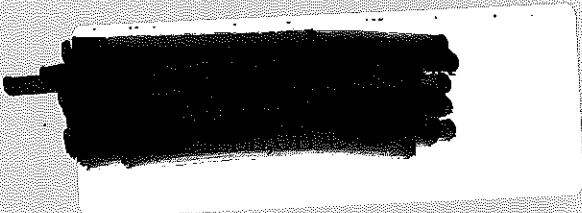
COLUMBUS OH 430

24 MAR 2026 PM 2 L



RETURN

TO: ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,
STOVERTOWN
P.O. BOX 361
PHILO, OH 43771



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MISSION STATEMENT FOR ST. JOHN'S, LUTHERAN CHURCH,
OF STOVERTOWN**

"We, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church of Stovertown, being children of God, would like to invite all to share in the good news of Jesus Christ. As witnesses of God's love and forgiveness we reach out to you".

PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY

Will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 9:00AM.
Volunteers will need to arrive by 8:00AM.
