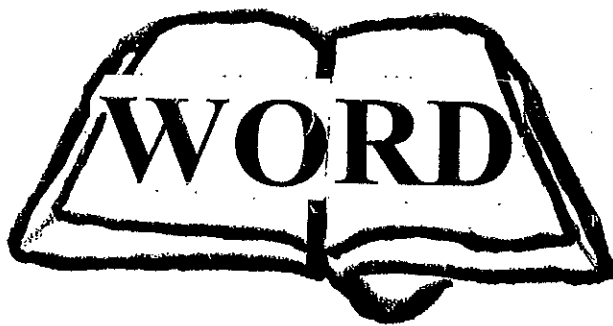


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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.16, No. 3

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

March 24, 2024

OUR DAFFODILS ARE BLOOMING!!!!

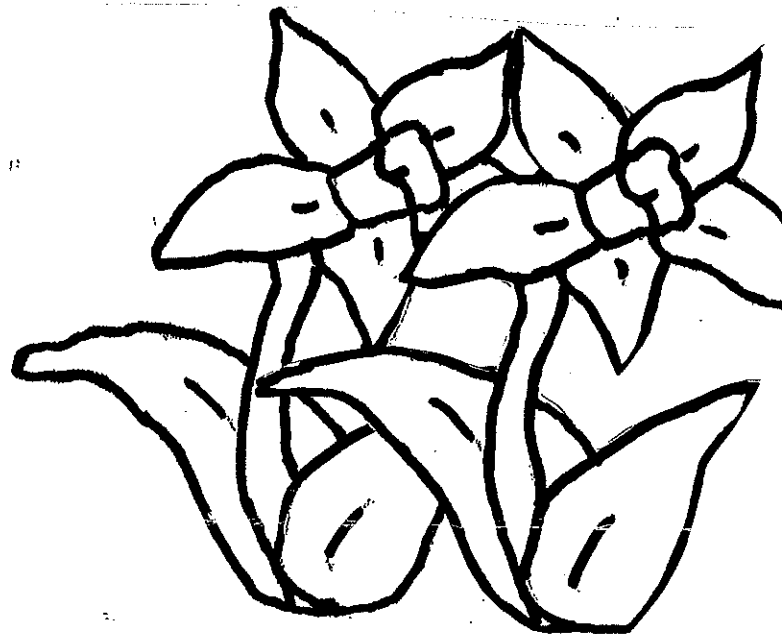
I hope you have noticed the "Cross of Daffodils" on Memorial Daffodil Hill. These were planted last Fall in memory of our loved ones.

Bless the individuals and families who have made this garden possible by donating bulbs or giving monetary donations. May this beautiful daffodil garden bring some comfort and healing to our hearts and minds and beauty to all.

Thanks to David Swingle for suggesting we plant the bulbs in the shape of a cross.

Bless those whom memorials were given for.

(See attached sheet for a list of those who donated daffodils for their loved ones.)



"TRUST IN THE LORD....."

The God of Comfort, Zondervan

The longer we walk with God, the more aware we become of our limitations. That awareness is not intended to discourage us; instead it should motivate us to shift our confidence to God, who has no limitations. The prophet Jeremiah taught that those who trust in the Lord and place their confidence in Him will be blessed. He compares those who trust God to a tree with deep roots that is planted by a stream of water. Even during seasons of drought, when the conditions are unfavorable, those who trust continue to be productive because they rely on God's provision rather than their own limited resources. When we trust God, rather than ourselves, we have no

reason to fear our weaknesses because they are no longer relevant. The Bible teaches that God's people are to trust Him for their every need. Regardless of what we lack, we can live with confidence because the God we serve lacks nothing.

**"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
And whose hope is the Lord,
For he shall be like trees planted by the waters,
Which spreads out its roots by the river,
And will not fear when heat comes;
But its leaf will be green,
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,
Nor will cease from yielding fruit"**

-Jeremiah 17:7-8

Proverbs is known as the book of wisdom. Naturally we all want to make wise decisions, but there are times in life when it's difficult to know how to proceed. When we encounter a season when we can't see a clear path forward, we often attempt to figure things out on our own. Usually this leads to a dead-end road of frustration. King Solomon, the author of much of all the books of Proverbs, offers a solution. He instructs us not to try to figure things out on our own but to trust God with a whole heart and obey Him in every area of our lives. God's ways are often beyond our understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9). However He invites us into a relationship where we know Him so ultimately that even when we don't understand what the next step is, we trust that He will lead us on the right path.

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.”**

-Proverbs 3:5-6

Father, even when I don't understand what is happening I will have confidence in Your goodness. Help me to trust that every outcome will be for my ultimate good and Your glory.

Amen

“TRUST GOD” By Helen Steiner Rice

Take heart and meet each minute
With faith in God's great love,
Aware that every day of life
Is controlled by God above.....
And never dread tomorrow
Of what the future brings---
Just pray for strength and courage
And trust God in all things.

OUR MONTHLY PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY.....

Will be held on Tuesday, April 16 from 9-11AM.

Volunteers are needed and asked to arrive by 8AM.

WELCA NEWS.....

Will meet on Tuesday, April 9, at 2:00PM at the home of hostess Karen Showers. (Please note change in location). Topic leader will be Joy Pletcher.

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

- Birthdays:** April 5--Cale Miller
10-Vicky Thomas
22-Mary Jean Cassady
Don Wickham
23-Jessica Fabiny
27-Robert Lee Deitrick
30-Shannon Davis

Anniversaries: April 13-Stacy & Denny
Tompkins

DONORS

IN MEMORY OF:

1. Brian & Carol Cramer In memory of the Cramer & Beil Families
2. Lindsey Cramer In memory of Uncle Beil
3. Frank & Susan Dietz In memory of John Wolfe, Fred & Louise Dietz, Pete and Donna Fisher
4. David & Mandi Fisher In memory of Don & Jeannie Fisher & Mike Swingle
5. Shirley Kessler In memory of Albert & Eva Fauley and Wanda Spencer
6. Andrea Laese In memory of Kay and Rudy Suter
7. Brian & Susan Miller In memory of Bill & Lucille Thomas & Carl & Ellen Milner
8. Janet Novaria & Family In memory of Gary Novaria and David Work
9. Bob, Joy & Joe Pletcher In memory of Linda Pletcher and Dale Tom
10. Janet Pletcher Slack & Family In memory of Jackie Stauffer, Bob Seyerle, Charles & Ruth Seyerle and Bill Pletcher
11. Karen Showers, Sara & Rich Linhart In memory of Jeff Showers, Bill & Lucille Thomas, Amy Mann & Families Bennett & Jean Swingle, & Earl Showers
12. Susan Showers In memory of Jean & Bennett Swingle, Earl Showers, and Jeff Showers
13. Vince & Linda Showers In memory of Jean & Bennett Swingle, Earl Showers, Rod Plimpton, Jr., & Jeff Showers
14. Jim & Gail Swingle In memory of Bennett & Jean Swingle, Mary Swingle, Blossom Miller, & Jeff Showers
15. Gary & Leslie Williams In memory of Jeff Showers, Bennett & Jean Swingle, Earl Showers, Russell & Betty Williams, and Grandparents
16. Delores Wolfe In memory of John Wolfe, Roy & Hazel Swingle
17. Steve Wolfe In memory of John Wolfe & Emma Bell Wolfe

Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

March 12, 2024

The women of the ELCA met at the church. Seven members were present.

We began the meeting with prayer. President Kathy Jenkins thanked our hostess, Joy Pletcher, for the festive St. Patrick's Day decorations and the delicious peach kuchen and berry cobbler. She also thanked Susan West and the Mission Growth committee for all their hard work on the February LOVE meeting. Thanks also for all who provided food for the event. Special thanks to Jamie Brassfield for the beautiful cupcakes and Kathy for stepping in for Susan West to run the games.

There was no secretary's report.

Treasurer's report: Checking - \$248.47

Savings - \$3913.30

NOTE: We raised \$125 with the quilt raffle. Jim and Gail Swingle won the quilt.

Committee Reports

Mission Growth: No report

Mission Community: We will be planning the Mother/Daughter/Friends Banquet. It is scheduled for May 13th at the church at 6PM. Details TBA

Joy moved that we cancel the May 14th WELCA meeting. Janet Novaria seconded. Motion passed.

Mission Action: Joy shared a printout on the various places throughout the world where our quilts and kits went, places such as Ukraine and Maui.

We will begin quilting sometime after Easter.

Old / New Business

- Easter Sunrise breakfast sign up will be placed on the bulletin board in the narthex.

-Treasurer Leslie Williams asked that we be thinking of where in the community we want this first quarter of bucket monies to go. It currently comes to \$126. We will decide at the April meeting so please bring ideas for discussion.

Kathy ended the meeting with a reading, "Easter Wishes."

Topic

Janet began with reading us "Jesus Loves ME for Seniors," followed by a reading about the Cross. She also gave us a Easter Bible Quiz to take home. She brought materials and ideas to encourage us to decorate rocks in inspiring ways to bring out our creativity and encourage us to think about the Easter season. It was an enjoyable time for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Showers, Secretary

The **April** meeting is on the 9th at 2PM at Karen Showers' home. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.** Joy Pletcher will be topic leader.

St John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
March 7, 2024

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Council members present were Nathan Atkins, Frank Dietz, Joe Pletcher, Gary Williams, Steve Wolfe, and Pastor Al Laese.

Devotions were led by Joe Pletcher from Psalm 40.

The minutes of the February meeting were presented by Frank Dietz. They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Gary Williams.

Pastor's report for the month of February: 4 Sunday worship services and Sunday School; Ash Wednesday service with communion, a private communion, one other visit, 2 hospital visits, church council meeting, 3 cluster meetings, cluster meeting in Adamsville, 181 miles submitted. Bishop Dilahunt's annual convocation for pastors is Monday March 11. The Southern Ohio Synod Youth Ministry Coach and Community Sandbox Manager Gary Pecuch's visit was a success. Pastor's report approved on a motion from Gary Williams and Joe Pletcher.

The treasurer's report for the month of February was presented to council members. After review and a short discussion, the report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS 7:19 P.M.

Property – The Jackie Pletcher memorial bench has been installed in the prayer garden, Air return fans have been oiled, LED bulbs have been installed, and 2 vent covers replaced.

Produce – The event was held on a sunny, 50 degree February 20. 16 volunteers distributed 5,994 lbs of products to 86 households. A representative from the Mid-Ohio Food Bank was there to observe the 7:58 A.M. starting time. The leftovers were taken to the Salvation Army.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the tragic passing of Isaac Long on March 6, 2024. Gary Williams and Steve Wolfe motioned that the church will give \$500 to the Farus Funeral Home to help cover funeral expenses and that the PRAYER CO will give \$250 to the family for immediate expenses. Council approved the motion. Donations will be accepted on Sundays as well.

Council meetings will start at 8 P.M. until November.

Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins motioned to adjourn at 7:42 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz – council secretary

Linda Showers has devotions for the April 2024 meeting

Register for 2024 Summer Camp Now!

Register for 2024 Summer Camp by March 31st, 2024, and get an Early-Bird T-shirt! This is a special t-shirt that only our Early-Bird registrants will receive and will include the names of all our Early-Birds on the back! All you have to do is register for 2024 Summer Camp by March 31st, and you will automatically be eligible to receive a shirt!

See a sneak peak of our Early-Bird Shirt design above!

Register for camp and get your shirt by following this link: <https://hopewoodoutdoors.campbrainregistration.com>

Summer 2024 Program Spotlight!

Family Camp Weekend at HopeWood Pines

What is it?

Escape from the distractions of screens and packed summer schedules with a weekend of fun, faith, and family.

Connect with each other in fellowship, work together to conquer the challenge course, and gather in worship around the campfire. Family camp is a great opportunity to relax, make memories, and introduce the entire family to HopeWood Pines.

Dates:

June 28 – 30, 2024 ONLY

Site: HopeWood Pines (LMC)

Register for 2024 Family Camp Weekend at HopeWood Pines

here: <https://hopewoodoutdoors.campbrainregistration.com>

April 2024

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Al 740-541-2823		1	2	3 Council 8PM (Note time Change)	4	5
7		8	9	10	11	12
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection		WELCA 2PM				13
14		15	16	17	18	19
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM		Produce Give-A-Way				20
21		22	23	24	25	26
Worship-10AM SCS-9Am WELCA change collection						27
28		29	30			
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM						
					Church 740-697-0202	Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 cabinintheorchard@yahoo

COLUMBUS OH 430

20 MAR 2024 PM 4 L



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



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**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".