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

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL. 15 No. 11

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

November 24 24, 2023

A Christmas Blessing



May Jesus, our Savior,
who was born on Christmas Day,
Bless you at this season
in a very special way.
May the beauty and the promise
of that silent, holy night
Fill your heart with peace and happiness
and make your new year bright.

Helen Steiner Rice

CHRISTMAS

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

By Helen Steiner Rice

Is it just a day
at the end of the year?
A gay holiday filled
with merry good cheer?
A season for presents...
both taking and giving?
A time to indulge
in the pleasures of living?
Are we lost in a meaningless
much-huddled daze
That covers our minds
like a gray autumn haze?

Have we closed our hearts
to God and His love?
And turned our eyes
from 'THE BRIGHT STAR ABOVE'?
Oh, Father in heaven
renew and restore
The real, true meaning
of Christmas once more,
So we can feel
in our hearts again
That "PEACE ON EARTH,
GOOD WILL TO MEN"
Is still a promise
that man can claim
If "HE BUT SEEKS IT IN THY NAME."

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE TO HEAR OUR PRAYERS

By Helen Steiner Rice

Let us find joy in the news of His birth,
And let us find comfort and strength for each day
in knowing that Christ walked this same earthly
way,
So He knows all our needs and He hears every
prayer
And He keeps all His children always safe in His
care...
And whenever we're troubled and lost in despair
we have but to seek Him and ask Him in prayer
to guide and direct us and help us to bear
our sickness and sorrows, our worry and care...
So once more at Christmas let the whole world
rejoice
In knowledge He answers every prayer that we
voice.

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son
is given: and the government shall be upon his
shoulder; and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The
everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6

Celebrations of the Season.

Breakfast With Santa will be held on Saturday
December 16 at the church. More details to
follow.

Caroling will be held on Sunday, December 17.
See Heather and Shannon for details.

Christmas Eve Service will be held on Sunday,
December 24 at 7:00PM.

A THOUGHT.

Seed and Harvest

Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seed
time and harvest will never cease." God takes the
seed that you sow and multiplies them back into a
harvest for your life.

Giving generously is a way to extend the impact,
influence, and ministry of your life. You may feel
that you are giving an amount of money, a
possession, an hour of time, or an offering of your
talents, but from God's perspective, you are
giving of yourself.

Paul stated clearly: "The more you sow, the
greater is the multiplication back to you."
(2 Corinthians 9:6,8,10-11) Oh, that we might be
rich in every way and then be generous on every
occasion.

MID-OHIO FOOD GIVE-A-WAY. . .

Will be held on Tuesday, December 18, from
9:00-11:00AM at the church.

More volunteers are needed. If you can help be
at the church by 8:00AM.

All help is much appreciated.

WELCA NEWS.

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, December 12,
at noon, with a Christmas potluck and gift
exchange.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER . .

Birthdays:

**St John's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
November 2, 2023**

Bill Thomas opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Jason Fabiny, Nathan Atkins, Gary Williams, Tom Gibson, Robert Pletcher, Joe Pletcher, Steve Wolfe, Frank Dietz, and Pastor Al Lease.

Steve Wolfe had devotions.

Steve Wolfe presented the minutes from the October meeting. They were approved on a motion from Gary Williams and Tom Gibson.

Pastor's report for the month of October 2023: 5 Sunday worship services and Sunday School, 3 cluster meetings in Zanesville, 1 cluster meeting in St Clairsville, 1 hospital visit, 1 hospice visit, 1 private communion, 1 other visit, church council, memorial service for Dale Tom, 359 miles submitted. Stovertown will host a cluster meeting March 6, 2024. Bishop Dilahunt will attend Stovertown's Sunday worship service November 5, 2023. Pastor's report approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Jason Fabiny.

The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by council. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRAYER – 115 cars registered for the 2023 Triple Nickel Country Cruise In. Thank you to all for the help. The 2024 TNCC will be Saturday October 5, 2024. A food donation was made to a deserving family the last week of October 2023.

PROPERTY – Daffodils have been planted on the hillside facing St Rt 555. The batteries have been replaced in the AED.

PRODUCE – The October 17, 2023 market served 103 families 5,505 pounds of produce. 14 volunteers distributed all of the produce, the rest of the cleaning supplies, tissues, and paper towels. More volunteers are needed.

ENDOWMENT – The fund is down \$6 for the month of September 2023.

NEW BUSINESS 7:40 P.M.

New council member elections will be Sunday November 26, 2023. Bill Thomas and Steve Wolfe have both served 2 terms and not eligible for re-election. Robert Pletcher has only served one term and is eligible for re-election.

Dave Swingle is recuperation from a double heart stent implant.

Frank Dietz and Tom Gibson motioned to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz - council secretary

Bill Thomas has devotions for the December 2023 meeting.

Free!

Breakfast with Santa

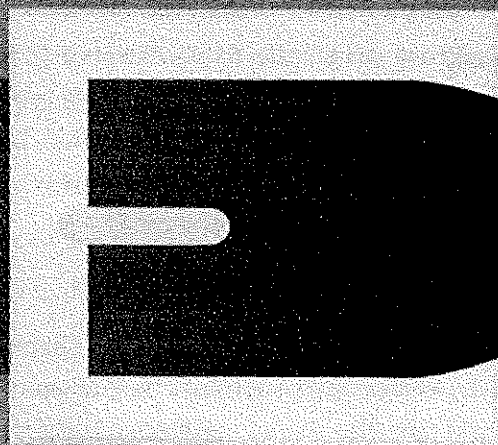
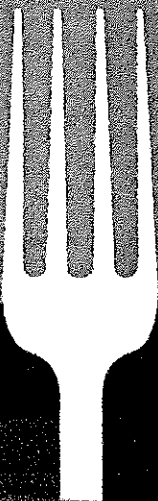
*All are
welcome*

PLUS crafts, music, and storytime!

Saturday, December 16

9 am - 11 am

Bring Your Own Camera
To Capture the moment!!



St. John's Lutheran
Church - Stovertown

State Route 555

Stovertown, Ohio

Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

November 14, 2023

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

We began the meeting with President Kathy Jenkins thanking a number of people; she thanked:

- Delores for the delicious, bountiful, and beautiful luncheon spread
- all who contributed to and helped with the Sunday soup & sandwich luncheon **NOTE: It was suggested that just before the meal is over, we tell anyone who would like to stay and clean up that it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands lighten the work.**

- everyone who contributed to the health and personal care kits and the quilts and who helped pack and deliver them to St. John's Zanesville; special thanks to Joy Pletcher and Kay Wilson

- Janet Novaria and Vicky Thomas for creating the 2024 WELCA booklet

Also thanked were Kathy Jenkins and Janet Novaria for the beautiful, beautiful altar decorations!

The secretary's report was read and approved. Correction to the date, it should have read September 12, 2023 NOT May 9, 2023

Treasurer's report: **Checking** - \$453.39
 Savings - \$3911.49

The December meeting is on the 12th at noon at the church. It will be a potluck with meat & drinks provided. There will be a gift exchange; each attendee is asked to bring a wrapped \$5 to \$10 ornament.

Committee Reports

Mission Growth: Susan West is putting together the Thankoffering service which will be held Sunday, Nov. 19. Janet made a motion that the food collected at the Thankoffering Service be given to Christ's Pantry and the loose or designated Thankoffering monies be given to Christ's Table. Leslie seconded, motion passed.

Mission Community: No report

Mission Action: quilts and kits were delivered to St, John's Lutheran Church – Zanesville on October 5th and will have been shipped to Lutheran World Relief centers.

Old / New Business

- Andrea moved and Janet seconded that Leslie Williams be reimbursed for the purchase of a new 50 cup coffee maker as we needed to replace the old urn that was not working at the car show. Motion passed.

- Raffles tickets for the Christmas quilt are still on sale, \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. See any WELCA member if interested; the winner will be drawn at WELCA's December meeting on the 12th.

- Janet moved and Kay seconded that we divide our meeting's monetary collection 2 ways rather than 3. Motion passed. Linda and Andrea will do more investigation into how we can designate the monies going to the Synod.

Topic

Andrea's topic was based on Psalm 46:10. She played Steven Curtis Chapman's worship-filled song, "Be Still and Know." She also shared Rev. Phillip Lepak's sermon, "Be Still and Know that I Am God," a very timely message for a very noisy world. She also shared info from a Lutheran theologian about the Rapture.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Showers, Secretary

MEMORIAL DAFFODIL HILL

Memorial Daffodil Hill was created on October 28, 2023. Thirteen volunteers dug in the dirt until we had blisters on our hands, as we planted over 400 daffodils. WOW!

We can not wait to see the beauty next Spring in memory of our loved ones.

Thank you to the donors and volunteers for supporting this project

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
Amy Mann & Families | In memory of Jeff Showers, Bill & Lucille Thomas, 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

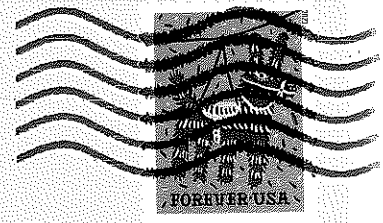
17. Steve Wolfe

In memory of John Wolfe & Emma Bell Wolfe

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Al 740-541-2823	Church 740-697-0202					
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection				Council 7PM		
Worship 10AM SCS-9AM		WELCA-12 Noon				Breakfast With Santa
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection Caroling		MID-OHIO FOOD GIVE-A-WAY				
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM Christmas Eve Service-7PM	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!					
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM Pancake Breakfast 8:30AM					Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-574-6814 cabinintheorchard@yahoo.com	

COLUMBUS OH 430
24 NOV 2023 PM 2 L



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

- December 2---Susan Dietz
- 3---Bob Barr
- 9---Susan Showers
- 10--Ida Lane
- 16--Carol Cramer
- 29--Stacy Tompkins

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 are available for pick-up in the back pay of the church.

Anniversaries:

- December 9--Dave & Sue Swingle
- Dave & Donna Miller
- 18-Bryan & Carol Cramer

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".