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

Stovertown

[www.stovertownelca.com](http://www.stovertownelca.com)

VOL. 15 No. 1

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

January 24, 2024

**VALENTINE'S DAY.....**

AND

**ASH WEDNESDAY.....**

Are Wednesday, February 14.....

We can celebrate our Love for one another and  
our Love for God on the same day.

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**ASH WEDNESDAY.....**

Service at 7PM on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

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**Daily Thoughts for Daily Needs**

By Helen Steiner Rice

Life is a mixture of sunshine and rain;  
Teardrops and laughter, pleasure and pain-  
We can't have all bright days, but it's certainly  
true

There was never a cloud  
The Sun Didn't Shine Through!

\*\*\*\*\*

The more you love, the more you'll find  
That life is good and friends are kind...  
For only What We Give Away  
Enriches Us from Day to Day

NOTE: Apply this to our Produce Give-A-Way.

The Produce Give-a-Way continues to be  
blessed with generous donations of money to  
purchase extra food for our clients coming each  
month. In December, each household received 1/2

of a ham towards a holiday meal. This was made possible by two generous \$500.00 donations given anonymously, from our congregation, plus grants applied for, from Thrivent Financial. Thanks to Brian & Susan Miller, Vince & Linda Showers, and Karen Showers for applying for these grants and receiving \$250.00 each. That brought a total of \$1,750.00 that made the purchasing of the hams possible. Campbell's Foodtown in South Zanesville, provided the hams for us.

Thanks to all who have supported this community project thru volunteering, giving financial assistance, and thru prayers. We truly thank you!! We continue to do God's work thru our hands and making a difference for those in need in our community.

I would also like to thank Santa & Mrs. Clause for attending the December market. They greeted everyone and handed out candy canes with the legend of the candy cane. Thanks for giving of your time. Greatly appreciated!

Produce Market Coordinator, Karen Showers.

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God never sends the WINTER  
Without the JOY of SPRING...  
And though today your heart may "cry"  
Tomorrow it will "SING!"

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**St John's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting  
December 7, 2023**

Bill Thomas opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Tom Gibson, Gary Williams, Joe Pletcher, Frank Dietz, Nathan Atkins, Robert Pletcher, and visitor Joy Pletcher.

Nathan Atkins led devotions based on Ephesians 3:14-21. "Something new."

Frank Dietz presented the minutes from the November meeting. They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Tom Gibson.

The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by council members. It was approved on a motion from Gary Williams and Joe Pletcher.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Produce Market – The cold, rainy, and breezy give away was held November 21, 2023. 4995 pounds of food was distributed to 102 households. The leftover cantaloupe and cabbage went to the Salvation Army.

Finance – The Endowment Fund at the end of October was down \$4000 to \$271,000.

Worship and Music – Christmas decorations will be placed in the sanctuary December 10 after worship service. Christmas Eve service with communion will be at 7:00 P.M.

**NEW BUSINESS 7:28 P.M.**

Stovertown congregation has received our Mission Support Goal from the Southern Ohio Synod. Our recommended 2024 goal is \$6869, \$509 higher than the 2023 goal. This amount will help them reach their \$1.8 million budget. Robert Pletcher and Gary Williams motioned to make Stovertown's 2024 Mission Support Goal \$6869. After discussion, the motion passed.

Bill Thomas, Steve Wolfe, and Robert Pletcher, will be leaving church council at the end of December 2023. Linda Showers and Robert Pletcher have been elected to council positions. Council will have to appoint someone to fill the vacant position.

Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins motioned to adjourn at 7:41 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz - council secretary

**St John's Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting**  
**January 4, 2024**

2023 council secretary Frank Dietz opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Nathan Atkins, Gary Williams, Linda Showers, Tom Gibson, Robert Pletcher, Joe Pletcher, Jason Fabiny, Pastor Al Laese, and guest Steve Wolfe.

Pastor Al led devotions based on Luke 10:23-24.

Frank Dietz motioned that Steve Wolfe fill the vacant council position to serve calendar years 2024, 2025, and 2026. Tom Gibson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by council.

Frank Dietz presented the December council meeting minutes. They were approved on a motion from Robert Pletcher and Nathan Atkins.

The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed. It was approved on a motion from Tom Gibson and Jason Fabiny.

Pastor Al presented reports for the months of November and December 2023.

November: 3 Sunday worship services and Sunday School, 4 cluster meetings, cluster meeting in New Lexington, church council meeting, 3 days in hospital, 134 miles submitted

December: 5 Sunday worship services and Sunday School, Christmas Eve service, a private communion, 2 hospital visits, CAT scan (clear) and most of December 5 at hospital, 154 miles submitted.

The Southern Ohio Synod will hold its annual assembly Friday May 31 and Saturday June 1, 2024 at a location yet to be determined. Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Robert Pletcher and Nathan Atkins.

**Council Officer Elections**

**Vice President of Council**

Gary Williams nominates Frank Dietz. Frank Dietz declines the nomination.

Frank Dietz nominates Robert Pletcher. Robert Pletcher accepted the nomination.

Tom Gibson moved that nominations for council vice president be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Robert Pletcher. Joe Pletcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by council.

Frank Dietz volunteered to continue to be council secretary. Robert Pletcher and Gary Williams motioned to accept Frank Dietz's offer. The motion was approved by council.

Jesse Fabiny would like to continue to be church treasurer. Tom Gibson and Steve Wolfe motioned to accept Jesse Fabiny's offer to continue to be church treasurer. The motion was approved by council.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN assignments**

Property – Nathan Atkins

Social Ministry – Gary Williams

Produce Give-A-Way – Gary Williams

PRAYER – Steve Wolfe

Worship and Music – Frank Dietz

Evangelism – Linda Showers

Education – Tom Gibsom

Stewardship – Jason Fabiny

Finance – Joe Pletcher

**COMMITTEE REPORTS 7:30 P.M.**

Produce – 15 volunteers passed out 4995 pounds of food to 102 families on a cold, rainy and breezy Tuesday November 21, 2023. The few remaining leftovers were loaded and taken to the Salvation Army shortly after 10 A.M.

PRAYER – \$4077 has been given to the community in 2023. Most recently, \$500 was given to help replace a cancer patient's furnace. The canoe trip has been moved to September 13-15, 2024. The Triple Nickel Country Cruise In will be during the first part of October 2024.

Property – Pastor reported that after hearing of the dollar amount the repairs to St Johns Zanesville's roof cost, Bishop Dillahunt is asking congregations to double check and make sure that property insurance amounts are adequate and up to date.

Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins motioned to adjourn at 7:47 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz – council secretary

Robert Pletcher has devotions for the February 1, 2024 council meeting.

**Council members and terms**

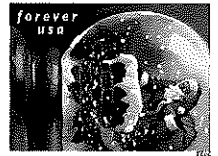
2024 – Frank Dietz(2), Jason Fabiny(2), Nathan Atkins

2025 – Tom Gibson(2), Gary Williams(2), Joe Pletcher

2026 – Robert Pletcher(2), Linda Showers, Steve Wolfe

# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Church 740-697-0202	Pastor Al 740-541-2823		Council 7PM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM			Happy Valentine's Day Ash Wed. Ser. 7PM			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA Change collection		Produce Give-A-Way				
25	26	27	28	29		
Worship-10AM- SCS-9AM Pancake Breakfast 8:30AM						
					Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 cabini@theorchard@yahoo.com	



**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, OH.**

**"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".**

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF**  
**FEBRUARY.....**

**Birthdays:**

- February 7---Leslie Williams
- 13---Sue Swingle
- 14---Curt Novaria.

**One of the best feelings in the**  
**World is knowing that someone**  
**Is happy because of you.**

**"In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."**

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**NEW COUNCIL OFFICERS AND**  
**COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2024**

- Vice President-Bob Pletcher
- Secretary-Frank Dietz
- Treasurer-Jesse Fabiny
- Property Chair-Nate Atkins
- Social Ministry Chair-Gary Williams
- Produce Give-A-Way Chair-Gary Williams
- Worship & Music Chair-Frank Dietz
- Evangelism Chair-Linda Showers
- Education-Tom Gibson
- Stewardship Chair-Jason Fabiny
- Finance Chair-Joe Pletcher

**Matthew 7:12**  
**By Christian Art Publishers**

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