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

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL. 15 No. 12

Pastor-Al Laesc-740-541-2823

December 24, 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!!!!!!!

A NEW YEAR! A NEW DAY! A NEW LIFE!

By Helen Steiner Rice

Not only on New Years but all the year through
God gives us a chance to begin life anew.
For each day at dawning we have but to pray
That all the mistakes that we made yesterday
Will be blotted out and forgiven by grace
For God in His love will completely efface
All that is past, and He'll grant a new start
To all who are truly repentant at heart.

As we begin a new year , and reflect back on
last year, our thoughts are what do we do
differently this year. A new year is a renewal of
another year new opportunities, new
possibilities, new adventures, etc.

RENEWAL is defined : to make like new,
restore to freshness, vigor or perfection
OR

A situation in which something begins after it is
stopped or was interrupted.

There are many Bible verses that are about
renewal.

Psalm 51:10: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 4:16: we do not lose heart. Though
our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is
being renewed **day by day**.

Other Bible verses: Titus 3:5; Colossians 3:10;
Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:9; and many
more.

**The God of Comfort- 100 Bible Verses to
Soothe your spirit.**

By Zondervan

We've all heard the old saying, "One day at a
time". Although the phrase has become cliché it
still holds a lot of wisdom. God is faithful to give
us the grace to get through whatever comes our
way, but He doesn't supply it in advance. Often
we worry about what might happen, and our fears
never even come to pass. Other times we get
anxious about what we might be facing weeks or
months down the road. God gives us grace at the
exact time we need it. Jesus instructs His
followers to focus our thoughts on the present day
and to trust that God will provide as we have
need. That doesn't mean we shouldn't make
reasonable plans for the future. But worrying
about the future is courting disaster that may
never come. And even if we do face trouble in the
future, God will help us at our exact time of need.

"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for
tomorrow will be anxious for itself, Sufficient for
the day is its own trouble"

Matthew 6:34

MID-OHIO FOOD GIVE-A-WAY

Will be held on Tuesday, January 16 from 9-
11AM. Volunteers are needed from 8AM-
10:30AM.



Southern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

To our partners in sharing the gospel at St. John Lutheran Church Stovertown,

As I write this, a fresh breeze and the sounds of late summer are filling my office. On gorgeous days like today, it is easy to spot God's abundance surrounding us. The sunshine, the blue skies, the beautiful colors – they all serve as reminders that our God is a God of abundant life.

Jesus assures us that he came so that we may have life, and have it abundantly. That promise has proven true time and time again in our lives, particularly in recent years. As our world changes rapidly, God has equipped us to not only adapt but to thrive, learning to share the gospel in new ways.

As Christ the King Lutheran Church, West Chester was participating in the Synod's Collaborative program for congregational revitalization, they discerned that they were particularly gifted with passions for both the arts and creation care, and that God had blessed them abundantly with talent and resources in both areas. Over the last few years, they have found abundant life and blessing through the sharing of those gifts in arts programming and creation care ministries. I invite you to check out (ctkluth.org) the various ways in which the arts enrich their worship and community outreach, as well as the strong connections they make with their community through their creation care ministries (a community garden, urban forest, and Monarch festival).

MomenToUs (<https://www.momentous.social/>) is our newest Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC), sharing God's abundant life in Christ Jesus with new people through an innovative ministry that is both a holy experiment in online community and in-person outreach to the fastest-growing township in Ohio. Pastor Rebecca Grate is a gifted mission developer, but we always knew this innovation would be a BIG project, and it would be even better as a Synod project, with all of us supporting it and learning from it together. It is still in its formative early days, but MomenToUs has been exceeding all of our early goals and we are having to set new goals as fast as we can! MomenToUs is supported by a combination of Southern Ohio Synod Mission Support, Thrive! funds, ELCA grants, and also by generous grants and contributions from congregations who are excited to participate in a holy experiment that is sharing God's abundant love with new people.

We are so grateful for you and your good work here in the Southern Ohio Mission. You not only have abundant life in Christ, you share it – in your personal lives, in your congregational life, and in the world. Our work together would not be possible without your faithfulness. Your generosity has allowed other people to experience God's abundance in new and life-giving ways.

To continue our good work together, the Synod Stewardship Team asks your congregation to prayerfully consider a commitment of \$6,869.00 for 2024-25. The enclosed Statement of Intent will assist your Synod Council, Staff, and Teams as they make plans for the coming year. We really are stronger and better together, and we are so thankful to work alongside you as, together, we seek to share God's abundant life with everyone.

With gratitude,

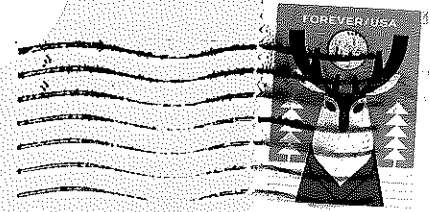
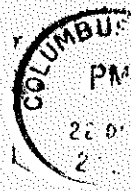
Michelle Terry

Michelle Terry, SOS Stewardship Team Chair

Approved December Council.

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PASTOR AL 740-541-2823		1		2		3
					Council 7PM	
		8		9		10
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection						11
14 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM	15			16		17
						18
21 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA Change collection Annual Reports Due!	22			23		24
						25
28 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM Pancake Breakfast 8:30AM Annual Meeting & Potluck	29			30		31
				CHURCH 740-697-0202		VICKY THOMAS secretary cbj@theorchard@yahoo.com 740-674-6814
						26
						27
						12 ..
						13
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RETURN TO: ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,
STOVERTOWN
P.O. BOX 361
PHILO, OH 43771



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WELCA NEWS.....

The WELCA will not hold a meeting in the month of January.

NOTES: Jim Swingle was the winner of the quilt that the WELCA auctioned off.

NEW COUNCIL MEMEBERS FOR 2024.....

The following were elected to council at the end of November: Bob Pletcher
Linda Showers
Steve Wolfe

ANNUAL MEETING.....

Is scheduled for Sunday January 28 following a potluck lunch.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE to the secretary no later than Sunday January 21.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY.....

Birthdays: January 6--Janet Novaria
12--Don Parmiter
14--Joy Pletcher
30--Larry Brassfield

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".