

the



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

Stovertown

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

VOL.16, No. 12

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

December 24, 2024

## Merry Christmas!!!!

As we continue to celebrate Christmas, with family and friends we are also looking to the New Year and all that it will bring with it.

Let us remember that:  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Sometimes things in life change so quickly we feel as if the rug has been pulled out from under our feet. We've all experienced relationships that have come and gone, job changes, moves, and the inevitable transitions that come with growing older each year. Thankfully, the Scriptures teach that Jesus never changes. The writer of Hebrews penned, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." When we study the Scriptures and grow in knowledge of Christ's attributes, His character, and His ways, we can trust that He will deal with us in the same way He is represented in the Bible. Few things remain the same, but we can take comfort in the fact that Jesus never changes. Jesus is forever faithful, trustworthy, and steadfast in His love for us. Everything around us might change in an instant but we can count on Jesus eternally.

- The God of Comfort, 100 Bible Verses to Soothe Your Spirit by Zondervan

So let us find comfort in knowing that Jesus will be with us as we traverse the new year.

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

## A NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAYER

-Helen Steiner Rice

What better time and what better season,  
What greater occasion or more wonderful reason  
To kneel down in prayer and lift our hands high  
To the God of creation, who made earth and sky,  
Who sent us His Son to live here among men-  
And the message He brought is as true now as  
then...

So at this glad season, when there's joy  
everywhere,

Let us meet our Redeemer at the altar of prayer  
Asking Him humbly to bless all our days  
And grant us forgiveness for our erring ways...  
And though we're unworthy, dear Father above,  
Accept us today and let us dwell in Thy love,  
So we may grow stronger upheld by Thy grace,  
And with Thy assistance be ready to face  
All temptations that fill every day,

And hold on to our hands when we stumble and  
stray...

And thank You, dear God, for the year that now  
ends

And for the great blessing of loved ones and  
friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

-Helen Steiner Rice

But only on New Year's 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 completely efface  
All that is past, and He'll grant a new start  
To all who are truly repentant at heart.

For the month of January is schedule for  
Tuesday morning January 21, at 9:00 AM.

Volunteers are needs and appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ST. JOHN'S STOVERTOWN,  
COMMUNITY DIRECTORIES ARE  
AVAILABLE AND READY FOR  
PICKUP.**

See Linda Showers for any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF  
JANUARY.....**

**Birthdays:**

- January 6---Janet Novaria
- 12--Don Parmiter
- 30--Larry Brassfield

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCA NEWS.....**

There is no meeting scheduled for the month  
of January.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST  
CONTINUES ON THE LAST SUNDAY  
OF THE MONTH.**

All are welcome to attend at 8:30AM before  
SCS.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEVOTIONAL READING.....**

If you need a devotional for 2025 to enhance  
your walk with God, check out the devotionals in  
the church library. There are ones for a full year,  
partial year and seasonal devotions available. Also  
check out some of the books from current best  
sellers like Joyce Myers, Max Lucado and others.  
Bible Studies are also available for individual  
study. Use the books as long as you wish and  
simply return them when you finish.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONGRATULATION TO NEW  
COUNCIL MEMBERS.....**

Bill Thomas was newly elected for a three year  
term and Frank Dietz was nominated by council  
to serve another three year term.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNUAL MEETING.....**

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday,  
January 26 following a potluck luncheon.

**ANNUAL REPORTS.....**

All annual reports are due to the secretary no  
later than Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY.....**

**St John's Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 5, 2024**

**Council Vice President, Bob Pletcher, opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.** Members present: Nate Atkins, Tom Gibson, Pastor Al Laese, Joe Pletcher, Linda Showers, and Steve Wolfe. Bob confirmed a quorum. Business Meeting was suspended to hear from Bob Foster from Muskingum County Veteran's Council RE a memorial project recognizing Brush Creek Township veterans.

**Nate Atkins offered a devotion** from Psalm 148:7-13

*Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning, hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do His bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars...* Nate recalled how the weather that day reminded him of the Lord's power and might and sovereignty.

**Joe Pletcher read the minutes from the November meeting from *The Word*.** Nate corrected the record RE 2 church property parcels (not 4) that he searched in the county office.

[Approved as amended: N. Atkins/T. Gibson].

**PASTOR'S REPORT – November 2024** - 4 Sunday worship services & Sunday School; 1 Church Council meeting; 1 private communion, and 1 other visit; 4 Cluster meetings; 225 miles.

[Approved: S. Wolfe/J. Pletcher].

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – reviewed by council [Approved: S. Wolfe/T. Gibson].

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE** – no report

**EDUCATION** – no Report

**PRODUCE** – Produce Chr., Gary Williams, sent the Produce Market Report: Tuesday, 11/19/24 at St. John's Lutheran – Stovertown - 107 households served from 4 counties and 11 zip codes; 17 volunteers – thank you all volunteers!

**PROPERTY** – Motion: Pay property taxes of \$1.14 on church owned parcel [Approved: N. Atkins/S. Wolfe]. Motion: Install a wash sink in the rear of the church for altar flower care [Approved: N. Atkins/J. Pletcher]. Motion: Solicit pricing on leveling of concrete pathways [Approved: N. Atkins/ S. Wolfe].

**EVANGELISM** – The NEW St. John's Stovertown Community Directory is complete. The final version was emailed to the directory email batch & Stovertown Prayer List on 12/2/24 and hard copies are available on the bulletin table at St. John's. Linda will email a 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Volunteer Opportunities Signup to Committee Chrs. for review/editing.

**PRAYER CO.** – Chr. Steve Wolfe: currently exploring area needs; gave money to T. Bowers for ramp and travel and Salvation Army and considering sponsoring some Angel Tree recipients.

**OLD BUSINESS [none]**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nominating Committee Motion: Appoint Frank Dietz to Council for a three year term

[Approved: N. Atkins/S. Wolfe].

**Motion to Adjourn – 8:28 pm** [N. Atkins/S. Wolfe]

Meeting followed by The Lord's Prayer

L. Showers - for Council Secretary, Frank Dietz



## Christmas Songs Game: Fill in The Blank

Name these Christmas Carols.

The clues of course are the first letters of the words in the titles of the songs.

1. SCICTT \_\_\_\_\_
2. ISMKSC \_\_\_\_\_
3. JB \_\_\_\_\_
4. IDOAWC \_\_\_\_\_
5. RTRNR \_\_\_\_\_
6. CROAOF \_\_\_\_\_
7. DYHWIH? \_\_\_\_\_?
8. AIAM \_\_\_\_\_
9. FTS \_\_\_\_\_
10. OCAYF \_\_\_\_\_
11. ICUAMC \_\_\_\_\_
12. OLTOB \_\_\_\_\_
13. JTTW \_\_\_\_\_
14. SN \_\_\_\_\_
15. LIS \_\_\_\_\_
16. WCIT? \_\_\_\_\_?
17. TTDOC \_\_\_\_\_
18. GRYMG \_\_\_\_\_
19. HTHAS \_\_\_\_\_
20. WWYAMC \_\_\_\_\_



## Christmas songs game: fill in the blank answers

1. SCICTT - Santa Claus is Coming To Town
2. ISMKSC - I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
3. JB - Jingle Bells
4. IDOAWC - I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
5. RTRNR - Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer
6. CROAOF - Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire
7. DYHWIH? - Do You Hear What I Hear?
8. AIAM - Away In a Manger
9. FTS - Frosty the Snowman
10. OCAYF - O come all ye faithful
11. ICUAMC - It came upon a midnight clear
12. OLTOB - O little town of Bethlehem
13. JTTW - Joy to the world
14. SN - Silent Night
15. LIS - Let it snow
16. WCIT - What Child is this?
17. TTDOC - The twelve days of Christmas
18. GRYMG - God rest ye merry gentlemen
19. HTHAS - Hark the herald angels sing
20. WWYAMC - We wish you a Merry Christmas

# January 2025

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

Pastor Al  
740-541-2823

Church  
740-697-0202

Council 7PM

Holy Communion  
Worship-10AM  
SCS-9AM  
WELCA change collection

Worship-10AM  
SCS-9AM

Worship-10AM  
SCS-9AM

Annual Reports are Due  
To Secretary Today!  
WELCA change collection

Worship-10AM  
SCS-9AM  
Pancake Breakfast-8:30AM  
ANNUAL MEETING  
AND POTLUCK

Vicky Thomas  
Secretary  
740-674-6814  
(C-740-252-1890)

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |  |  |  |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |  |  |  |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |  |  |  |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |  |  |  |

**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".**