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

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.16, No. 6

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

June 24, 2024

**A TIME TO CELEBRATE
AMERICA!!!!**

JULY 4TH

Have a safe and enjoyable day!



GOD BLESS AMERICA

By Helen Steiner Rice

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

May it always stay that way
But to keep 'OLD GLORY' flying
There's a price that we must pay...
For everything worth having
Demands work and sacrifice.
And FREEDOM IS a GIFT from God
That commands the HIGHEST PRICE
For all our wealth and progress
Are as worthless as can be
Without the FAITH that made us great
And kept OUR COUNTRY FREE...
Nor can our nation hope to live
Unto itself alone,
For problems of our neighbors
Must today become our own...
And while it is
So hard to understand
The complexities of war,
Each one of us must realize
That we are fighting for
The principles of freedom
And the decency of man,
And a Christian Nation
We're committed to God's Plan...
And as the LAND of LIBERTY
And a great God-fearing nation

We must protect our honor
And fulfill our obligation...
So in these times of crisis
Let us offer no resistance
In giving help to those who need
Our strength and our assistance
And 'THE STARS and STRIPES FOREVER'
Will remain a symbol of
A rich and might nation
Built on FAITH and TRUTH and Love

OUR FAITH...OUR FOUNDATION.....

STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATION

By "Quiet Moments Alone with God",
Bethany House

A tornado had ripped through a town, leaving a path of destruction Residents walked around in a daze, not knowing where to begin the rebuilding of their town and their lives. So much had been lost, including their belief that nothing like this would happen to them.

Without hope, it is difficult to carry on. Hope is the foundation of your faith. Without it, you cannot expect to weather the storm of life. Your belief that God can make a difference is foundational to your faith. Strengthen your faith today-show others how strong your relationship with God is by praying. When prayers are answered, everyone's faith is strengthened.

**I am the firm foundation
On which you can dance,
And sing, and celebrate My Presence.
"I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

Problems have the potential to destroy us or make us stronger. We've all met people who have experienced trials and become bitter toward God and have stayed stuck in the past. Other people who struggle through tough times come through faith. Job was one of those people. Job lost his family, home, health, and a vast sum of resources, but he still didn't become bitter with God.

Although Job experiences dark days that challenged his faith, he endured his suffering and came through with his faith intact. Trials purify our faith because they force us to decide what we really believe about God. The fire of affliction removes the impurities that linger in our spiritual lives. Job's faith went through the fire, but he came "forth as gold". As we go through challenging season, we should remember to ask God to increase our faith and allow our season of testing to make us stronger.

-The God of Comfort by Zondervan

COUNCIL.....

July Council will not meet on Thursday, July 4th. Instead they will meet briefly following the worship service on July 7th.

Council voted: Good Friday Services will begin again. **Thank you** for all of the feedback. As per the June 6th, 2024 St. John's Stovertown Council meeting, **we will hold a Good Friday Service as part of Holy Week, beginning in 2025.**

Also.....

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR A LENTEN WEDNESDAYS GATHERING PLANNING TASK FORCE.....

Please e-mail lsshowe@gmail.com if you would like to help plan Lenten Wednesday gatherings for Lent 2025. The task force will work with Pr. Lease to decide if we hold services or a Bible study and topics, as well as timing-midday vs evening, etc. Congregational interest and involvement in the planning will determine if we move forward with Lenten gatherings.

THE PRODUCE MARKET NEWS....

The Produce Market is going well and folks are very appreciative of the food they receive. For May we had 112 households coming to get food. Once again, we are asking the congregation to contribute boxes of **macaroni & cheese and jars of peanut butter,(any size)**.

We will pass these out at the July 16 market. Bring your donations to the church and place them on the table in the choir loft. If you prefer to make a monetary donations, just mark your envelopes accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Showers at 740-452-9070 Thank you. God's work thru our hands.

OUR 14TH YEAR ANNUAL CAR

SHOW will be held on Saturday, October 12. Volunteers and food will be needed and much appreciated. See Steve Wolfe for details,etc. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!**

BIRTHDAYS AN ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Birthdays: July 11—Delores Wolfe
13—Shirley Kessler
16—Denny Tompkins
21—Kathy Jenkins

Anniversaries: July 10--Pastor & Andrea Laese
25—Joe & Joy Pletcher
31—Robert & Renee
Deitrick

WELCA NEWS.....

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, July 9th at 6PM at Pizza Cottage(located near Kohl's) to eat out. Member are to bring prizes for bingo and all church members are invited.

WELCA Community Basement (garage) Sale will be held on July 26 & 27 from 9AM-4PM. You

COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 6, 2024

Stovertown's council meeting started at 7:00PM. Present was Robert Pletcher, Pastor Al, Joe Pletcher,, Gary Williams, Linda Showers, Tom Gibson, Nate Atkins, and Steve Wolfe.

Secretary's Report was ready by Linda Showers and approved by Steve Wolfe and Tom Gibson.

Treasurer Report was approved by Gary Williams and Joe Pletcher.

The Pastor's Report for May 2024 was 1 church council meeting, 4 Sunday Worship Services, 1 Cluster Meeting, 4 Regular meetings., 1 private communion, 1 graveside service (Maxine Quinn) and 1 funeral service at St. Paul's, Roseville (Tom Snyder),1 family visit (family of 3), and a total mileage of 245 miles. Pastor's report was approved by Steve Wolfe and Gary Williams. Pastor will be in New York for a class reunion the last Sunday of June, and Pastor Robert Heinlein from New Lexington will lead us in service that day.

Finance Report-Joe Pletcher reviewed our insurance policy

Property-the cemetery road was recently graded, and new stone will be coming soon.

Prayer Company-The Cruise In will be October 12 this year.

Produce report-The give-a-way was May 21 with 112 served and 7 new families. 18 volunteers were present and donuts were provided by Vince & Linda Showers. A total of 8,300 lbs of food was given away

Old Business-Linda Showers made a motion that we have a Good Friday Service in 2025. Seconded by Nate Atkins. Details well be worked out at a later date. Linda Showers also made a motion that we have our 2025 Lenten Service planned by a committee of Church members, to lessen the burden on our Pastor during that busy time. Seconded by Steve Wolfe

New Business- Next month's church council meeting will be directly after our July 7th service since the first Thursday of the month falls on July 4th. Motion was made by Steve Wolfe and Joe Pletcher

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM on a motion by Gary Williams and Linda Showers. All stood and prayed the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted for Frank Dietz
Steve Wolfe

Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

June 11, 2024

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

President Kathy Jenkins welcomed everyone. She thanked everyone who helped and contributed to the Mother/Daughter/Friends Banquet. She thanked Joy Pletcher for the Hostas used for door prizes, Linda Showers and Karen Showers for the flower seed favors and Jamie Brassfield for the pretty cupcakes. Special thanks to Kathy Jenkins and her daughters for the beautiful decorations and Kathy for fixing the chicken.

She asked us to give positive words to describe our Fathers. People mentioned words such as: hard-working, encouraging, a dancer. She finished with a prayer in honor of fathers.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report: **Checking - \$142.47**
 Savings - \$3914.27

Committee Reports

Mission Growth: No report

Mission Community: Kathy encouraged us to bring a friend to July's outing at the Pizza Cottage.

Mission Action: Joy and Kay will be getting a list of needed items for the personal care kits and school kits. Be looking for the lists in The Word and future bulletins.

Old / New Business

-Kathy read a thank-you note from Vicky Thomas.

-Thank you to Leslie Williams and Karen Showers for purchasing and delivering the items we donated to Philo High School for their student needs pantry.

-The July outing is scheduled for July 9th at 6PM at the Pizza Cottage (located in the North end near Kohl's). All church members are invited. Please bring a white elephant gift for the Bingo prizes.

-The Basement sale will be July 26th and 27th from 9AM to 4PM. Please do not bring items for the sale until after the 7th of July and then take them to the basement. WELCA will help Jamie organize the items on July 25th.

-Thank you to Linda Tilton for the coffee maker she donated. It will be perfect to use for small gatherings.

Topic

Andrea had an inspiring topic on random acts of kindness. She spoke of genuine acts of service and asked us "what does love require of you?" She gave us numerous examples of people who found various ways to show the love of Christ and reminded us that we need to stick our necks out and find ways to help others.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Showers, Secretary



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



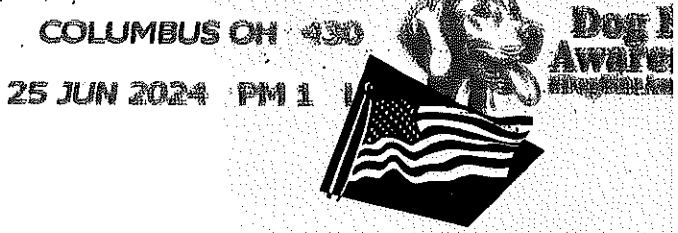
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

25 JUN 2024 PM 1 1
25 JUN 2024 PM 1 1

may drop off items anytime after the first week of July 21 (would be best) and take them to the main basement area.

CARE AND SCHOOL KITS BEING ASSEMBLED.....

The WELCA is collecting donations until August. 25 for 18 personal care kits and 18 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. You may find a sign up sheet in the narthex for these items or you may also donate cash in your offering envelopes. Please mark your envelopes with WELCA Care/School Kits. If you have questions, see Kay Wilson or Joy Pletcher.



**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".

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Pastor Al 740-541-2823</p> <p>CHURCH 740-697-0202</p>		1				
<p>Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM</p> <p>Council to meet after Service WELCA change collection</p>		8				
<p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM</p>		15				
		14				
		16				
		17				
		18				
		19				
		20				
		21				
<p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection</p>		22				
		23				
		24				
		25				
		26				
		27				
		28				
<p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM</p>		29				
		30				
		31				
				3		
				4		
				5		
				6		

No Council
Have a safe &
Enjoyable holiday!

Church basement
Sale 9AM-4PM

Church basement
Sale-9AM-4PM

Vicky Thomas
Secretary
cabinintheorcharde@yahoo.com