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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.16, No. 2

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

February 24, 2024

**MARCH IS A MONTH OF  
CHANGE AND RENEWAL. . . . .**

**March 10-** Daylight Savings Time Begins.  
On the evening of March 9, set  
your clocks ahead one hour. (Spring  
Forward).

**March 19-** Spring Begins

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**OTHER DATES TO MARK ON YOUR  
CALENDAR ARE. . . .HOLY WEEK;**

**March 24-**Palm Sunday

**March 28-**Maundy Thursday-Service-7PM

**March 29-**Good Friday

**March 31-EASTER SUNDAY-Holy  
Communion (Sunrise Service and Breakfast at  
7AM)**

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**"AFTER THE WINTER....  
GOD SENDS THE SPRING"**

By Helen Steiner Rice

Easter is a season  
OF HOPE and JOY and CHEER,  
There's beauty all around us  
To see and touch and hear...  
So, no matter how downhearted  
And discouraged we may be,  
New Hope is born when we behold  
Leaves budding on a tree....

Or when we see a timid flower  
Push through the frozen sod  
And open wide in glad surprise  
Its petaled eyes to God...  
For this is just God saying---  
"Lift up your eyes to Me,  
And the bleakness of your spirit,  
Like the budding springtime tree.  
Will lose its wintery darkness  
And your heavy heart will sing"  
For GOD never sends THE WINTER  
Without THE JOY OF SPRING.

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**RENEWAL**

By Helen Steiner Rice

When life has lost its luster and it's filled with  
dull routine,  
When you long to run away from it,  
Seeking pastures new and green.  
Remember, no one runs away from life  
Without finding when they do  
That you can't escape the thoughts you think  
That are pressing down on you.  
For though the scenery may be different,  
It's the same old heart and mind  
And the same old restless longings  
That you tried to leave behind...  
So when your heart is heavy and your day is dull  
with care.  
Instead of trying to escape, why not withdraw in  
prayer?  
For in prayer there is renewal of the spirit, mind,  
and heart,  
For everything is lifted up in which God has a  
part.  
For when we go to God in prayer, our thoughts  
are rearranged.  
So even though our problems have not been

**St John Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting  
February 1, 2024**

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Nathan Atkins, Joe Pletcher, Tom Gibson, Gary Williams, Frank Dietz, Steve Wolfe, and Pastor Al Laese.

Robert Pletcher led devotions that expressed that church leadership is a team effort. Frank Dietz presented the January council meeting minutes. They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Gary Williams.

Pastor Al Laese presented his report for the month of January: 4 Sunday worship services and Sunday school, 4 weekly cluster meetings, church council meeting, congregational annual meeting, a private communion, one other visit, and 212 miles driven. Ash Wednesday will be February 14 and Easter will be March 31. Pastor Al also has the Zanesville St John's midweek Lenten schedule for anyone interested. The Southern Ohio Synod Youth Ministry Coach and Community Sandbox Manager, Gary Pecuch, has expressed interest in visiting Stovertown for a worship service. Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS 7:21 P.M.**

Produce – Tuesday morning January 16 was in the low teens. Don Parmiter brought supplies for a small fire that helped warm the 12 volunteers. The truck arrived at 9:43 A.M. and the giveaway began at 10:15 A.M. There were 5 new households among the 71 households served.

Property – The elevator has passed inspection.

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

Joe Pletcher read thank you notes from Gary King, director of the Avondale Fund, and from April Wolford, director of development for Osterlen Services for Youth Inc.

**NEW BUSINESS 7:35 P.M.**

Due to the amount of cleaning and the condition in which the church basement is sometimes left, the church janitor Jamey Brassfield is requesting her compensation be raised to \$50 (from \$30) for non-member events. Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe motion to approve the raise. All council members approved the motion.

Robert Pletcher noted what a positive appearance the basement bulletin boards add to the church.

Frank Dietz and Gary Williams motioned to adjourn at 7:51 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz – council secretary.

## **PRAYER COMMITTEE REPORT 2023**

In 2023, because of everyone's hard work and dedication, community support, and our Good Lord's Blessings, The PRAYER Company was able to provide the most assistance back to our surrounding community than ever before. In addition to providing our usual assistance to Christ Table, Eastside Ministry, Salvation Army and Avondale Children's Home (money was again specific to buy children's Christmas gifts) assistance was also provided to 2 different families with children to help with Christmas expenses (one received cash and one received a Walmart gift card), and we also provided assistance with food (Kentucky Fried Chicken) on 2 separate occasions following funerals here at Stovertown. We also provided 30 pairs of men's gloves to Eastside Ministry late last month, after we were informed they had a need for them, and we provided groceries to a family with 3 young children, who had spent their money on unexpected medical bills and had no food in their home, In addition to that, we helped 3 different families who were dealing with cancer diagnosis, and were traveling to Columbus for their cancer treatments. One was Netti (who we sold 50-50 tickets at the 2022 Cruise -in) who lives alone and was getting chemo and radiation at OSU, and the other 2 cases both involved children who were getting their cancer treatments at Children's hospital

In 2023 , because of everyone's hard work, \$4,007.00 was given back to our community, which is \$1,077.00 more than last year. In the 13 years since its beginning, our Prayer Company has provided over \$29,000.00 back to our community.

The date for the 2024 Cruise-In will be the first part of October, depending on what other cruise -ins happen to be going on at that time.

The annual campout at Campbell's Cove and canoe trip continues to grow, and this year was the largest yet, with 30 plus participating in camping and 20 plus canoeing. A great time was had by all, on and off the water!. The 2024 event will be the weekend of September 14 and they are taking reservations for it now. Come join in on all the fun and fellowship!

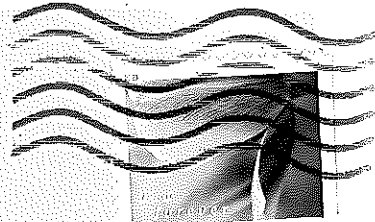
A BIG "thank you"! goes out to everyone involved who makes this all happen, and our events such a success. I can't express my appreciation enough, and I am truly Blessed to be a part of the St. John's Stovertown Family.

Submitted with sincere respect and appreciation  
Steve Wolfe

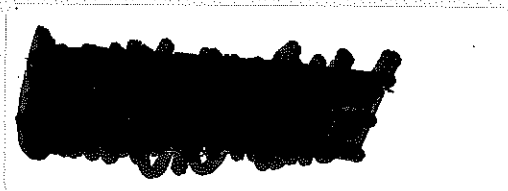
# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Al 740-541-2823	Church 740-697-0202					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Holy Communion WELCA change collection SCS-9AM Worship-10AM				Council 7PM		Set your clocks Ahead ONE HOUR Before Bedtime (Spring Forward)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM Daylight Savings Time Begins	WELCA 2PM					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection	PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday Worship-10AM SCS-9AM					GOOD FRIDAY	
21				MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7PM		
EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Ser-7AM Breakfast to follow Worship-10AM-Communion SCS-9AM			Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 gabini@heorchar@yahoo.com			

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**RETURN TO:** ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
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solved or changed, Somehow the good Lord gives us the power to understand That He who holds tomorrow is the One who holds our hands.

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

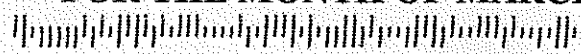
This month's give-a-way is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, from 9-11AM. Volunteers are needed and need to arrive by 8AM.

**WELCA NEWS.....**

WELCA will meet on Tuesday March 12 at 2:00PM at the church. Hostess will be Joy Pletcher and topic leaders will be Janet Novaria.

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**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH.....**



- Birthdays:** March 2--- Mandi Fisher  
 17-- Heather Davis  
 18---Susan West  
 24---Megan Franufelter  
 28---John Wilkins

**Anniversaries:** March 5—John & Jackie Wilkins

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**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".**