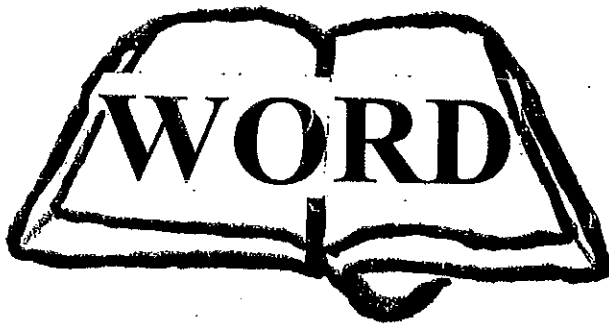


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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.17, No. 2

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

February 24, 2025

HOPE AND ANTICIPATION

Our lives are full of hope and anticipation. They give our day to day lives a purpose.

Can you only imagine if you had nothing to look forward to each morning when you start your day?

HOPE is defined as a feeling that what is wanted will happen.

There are Bible verses such as **Romans 15:13** relating to hope: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" or **Psalm 147:11**: The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love." ,and many others.

But along with Hope is **ANTICIPATION**.

Anticipation is defined as to look forward to: Bible verses such as **Galatians 3:6-9**: For we are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth. Why doth he yet hope for". Or **Isaiah 25**: Anticipation is a gift from God as people look forward to the future.

With God in our lives we are full of hope and anticipation for our future.

Some of these are very small in the overall scheme of things. For instance : The month of March can be said to be full of hope and anticipation. I'm sure most of you are ready to move on from the snowy and cold weather. March gives us this hope. For instance we need to mark our calendars for **SUNDAY, MARCH 9th to SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR** for

daylights savings time to begin. Meaning longer and brighter days ahead. Then on **MARCH 5**, mark your calendars for our **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 7:00PM**, as we prepare for our Lenten Season and upcoming celebration of Easter. And then let us remember that **MARCH 20TH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!!!!**

Small hopes and anticipations but something for us all to look forward to.

ANNOUNCING A LENTEN STUDIES GROUP.....

Will begin the first week of March. If you are interested in being a part of this group see Susan Showers and the sign up sheet and books are in the front pew of the church.

WELCA NEWS.....

WELCA will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at 2:00PM at the church The topic leader will be Janet Novari and Kay Wilson will be the hostess.

PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY.....

Will be held on Tuesday, March 18 at 9AM. Volunteers are needed to show up at 8AM.

St John's Lutheran Church – Stovertown Evangelism Team Report - 2024

St. John's Lutheran - Stovertown Weekly Email

A weekly email was established to share information, including prayer requests and weekly announcements/reminders.

Evangelism/Witness/Outreach Audit

In June 2024 an audit was conducted to review all of the many outreach efforts by members of St. John's Lutheran Church – Stovertown. Any effort that is visible/inviting to the community or directly involves the community was included. The list of current evangelism/witness/outreach vehicles or events at St. John's Lutheran – Stovertown includes:

- Breakfast with Santa
- Campouts/Canoe Trip
- Car Show
- Cemetery Services
- Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
- Community Garage Sale
- Funeral Luncheons
- Prayer Company
- Prayer Shawls
- Produce Market – 3rd Tuesday of the month
- Quilting
- St. John's Christmas Eve, Christmas, Holy Week & Easter Services
- St John's E Sign
- St. John's FB page
- St. John's Monthly Newsletter
- St. John's Web page
- WELCA meetings & activities

This list involves many members of St. John's Stovertown who welcome, witness to, serve and encourage others in the community and we thank the Lord for such a loving, gracious congregation – *Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words.*

St. John's Lutheran - Stovertown Community Directory

A community directory was compiled from old directories, and weekly email & monthly newsletter invitations for participation. Drafts for proofing for corrections were sent several times. A final PDF of the directory was emailed to all listed in December 2024. Hard copies were also made available at St. John's - Stovertown.

Linda Showers
Evangelism Chr.

***May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon the earth, your saving power among the nations. Ps 67:1-2***

St John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
February 6, 2025

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. Council members present were Nathan Atkins, Tom Gibson, Steve Wolfe, Bill Thomas, Frank Dietz, Joe Pletcher, and Pastor Al Laese.

Pastor Al Laese led devotions based on "fishing for people."

The minutes of the January 2025 council meeting were presented by council secretary Frank Dietz. They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Steve Wolfe.

Pastor's report for the month of January 2025: 4 Sunday morning worship services and Sunday school, 4 cluster meetings, church council meeting, church annual meeting, a hospital visit, a visit and a funeral for a Roseville member. June 6 and 7 will be the Southeastern Ohio Synod Assembly with bishop election. Robert Pletcher asked for and received council's permission to be St John's Stovertown synod assembly delegate. Pastor's report approved on a motion from Joe Pletcher and Tom Gibson.

The treasurer's report was presented and reviewed. After a brief discussion the report was approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Frank Dietz 5 to 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property – A new Exmark rear discharge mower will be delivered to the mowing crew before the start of grass season. Selling of the used Exmark mower will be done by council members. Property committee chairman Nathan Atkins requested permission to replace the elevator maintenance room door. Council approved replacement on a motion from Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe.

PRAYER Committee – \$500 was given directly to the family of Tonya Dicks, Cannellville explosion and fire victims. PRAYER committee members are in search of men's and women's coats for Eastside Community Ministry.

Education Committee – Attendance is holding strong even in the harsh January weather. There is plenty of room for more attendees, especially on Pancake days on the last Sunday of the month.

Produce Committee – The give-away was postponed to January 29 due to the sub-zero temperatures. 15 volunteers welcomed 8,613 lbs of product at 7:45 A.M. 99 households were served. Leftovers were donated to the Zanesville Senior Center.

Worship and Music Committee – The WELCA annual LOVE Meeting and potluck will be February 10 after Sunday morning worship service in the church basement. Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 5th. Easter will be celebrated on April 20, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS 7:45 P.M.

Steve Wolfe volunteered to be on the local Veteran's memorial planning committee. He will report to the council on the committee's activity.

NEW BUSINESS 7:52 P.M.

Nathan Atkins and Bill Thomas motioned that the monthly financial report show more church funds and more details of all funds. Council approved the motion. Robert Pletcher and Joe Pletcher will work with our treasurer Jessica Fabiny to include the details.

Responding to questions and directives from the January 26, 2025 congregational annual meeting, the church council expressed gratitude to Pastor Al Laese for agreeing to be the interim pastor for our church during our time of turmoil 13 years ago. Church council encourages congregational members to check the website "<https://southernhiosynod.org/congregations/compensation-guidelines/> " and to review our constitution. Page 14 of the 2024 St John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Stovertown Annual Report lists Stovertown's 5 year plan "Preach the Gospel always; if necessary, use words," and a list of activities.

Frank Dietz and Tom Gibson motioned for adjournment at 8:20 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer

Frank Dietz – council secretary

Bill Thomas has devotions for the March 2025 council meeting.

March 2025

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Pastor Al 740-541-2823	Church 740-697-0202				1
	2						8
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection					Council 7PM		7
	3						6
	4						5
	5						4
	6						3
	7						2
	8						1
	9						15
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM			WELCA 2PM				14
	10						13
	11						12
	12						11
	13						10
	14						9
	15						8
	16						7
Worship-10AM							6
	17						5
	18						4
	19						3
	20						2
	21						1
	22						15
	23						14
Worship 10AM SCS-9AM							13
	24						12
	25						11
	26						10
	27						9
	28						8
	29						7
	30						6
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM Pancake Breakfast 8:30AM							5
	31						4

Vicky Thomas
Secretary
740-674-6814
cell-252-1890
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RETURN
TO: ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,
STOVERTOWN
P.O. BOX 361
PHILO, OH 43771



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

As we begin to notice the changes of the
Season,

4370189384 RC12

**TAKE TIME TO APPRECIATE
GOD'S BLESSINGS**

By Helen Steiner Rice

Blessings are all around us,
If we look we can recognize a blessing in
each day, each hour, each minute
each family member, each friend, each neighbor
each community, each city, each nation,
each challenge, each word of encouragement

each flower, each sunbeam, each raindrop,
each awesome wonder crafted by God
each star, each sea, each bird, each tree,
each sorrow, each disappointment
each faith, each prayer.

There shall be showers of blessings

Ezekiel 34:26

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

Birthdays:

- March 2---Mandi Fisher
- 17---Heather Sands/Davis
- 18---Susan West
- 24---Megan Fraunfelter

**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