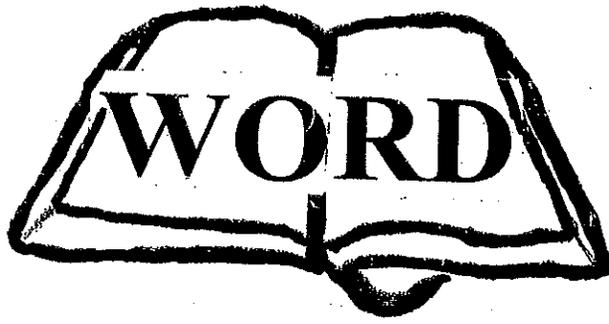


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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

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

VOL.18, No. 2

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

February 24, 2026

# RENEWAL & GROWTH



## "LENTEN SEASON & SPRING"



### LENT is a sacred season of Reflection and Renewal.

A time to remember and expect.. It is time to prepare for the experience of Easter by remembering the journey Jesus walked to the Cross. We live through the Passion of Christ, (his arrest, trial, and crucifixion ,on to fully appreciate Resurrection Morning.

The word "Lent" is derived from the Old English Word "lencten", meaning "Spring which signifies renewal and growth. Spiritually, **Lent** is a season for believers to grow closer to God, examine their lives, renew their commitment to faith. **Lent** begins Ash Wednesday culminating in Holy Week, (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (the last supper), Good Friday (Christ's crucifixion) and finally Easter Sunday, the celebration of Jesus's victory over death.

-Journeywise  
Dr. Shane Stanford

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### SHORT PRAYERS YOU CAN SAY TO FEEL CONNECTED TO GOD DURING LENT THIS YEAR. ....

-God, may your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. Amen.

-Oh, Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything. Amen.

-"Heavenly Father, I'm truly sorry for the moment today where I missed the mark. I ask you for your forgiveness and strength to better follow Your call tomorrow". Amen.

-Hallow

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### SPRING goes hand in hand with our Lenten Season. ....

**Spring** begins on March 20 and brings warmer weather, increased daylight, and a natural renewal of life, often prompting a boost in physical and mental well-being. **Spring** is the season during which the natural world revives and reinvigorates after the colder winter months, a time of **renewal and growth** just as Lent is a time to renew our faith.

Google-AI-Overview  
Live Science

**SPRING FORWARD.....**

Along with Spring comes **THE BEGINNING OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME.**

On Saturday, March 7, set your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** (Spring Forward), before you retire.

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**CELEBRATIONS OF LENT.....**

**Ash Wednesday**, the first day of Lent was celebrated on Wednesday, February 18.

**Palm Sunday**, the last celebration of Lent will be Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>, followed by Holy Week, culminating with **Easter Sunday**, celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

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**NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMANS.....**

- Vice President-Robert Pletcher
- Secretary-Frank Dietz
- Finance chair-Joe Pletcher
- Worship & Music-Frank Dietz
- Property- Nate Atkins
- Christian Education-Bill Thomas
- Prayer Committee-Steve Wolfe
- Produce Give-a-Way- Carol Cramer
- Stewardship-Carol Cramer
- Evangelism-Linda Showers

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**CAR SHOW COMMITTEE.....**

Will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 7PM at the church for preparation of our annual car show this Fall.

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

Will be held on Tuesday, March 17, at 9:00AM. Volunteers will need to arrive by 8:00AM

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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST.....**

Our next breakfast will be held the last Sunday of March. The last breakfast until Fall will be Sunday, April 26

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

**Birthdays:**

- March 2---Mandi Fisher
- 17--Heather (Sands) Davis
- 18--Susan West
- 25--Megan Franufelter

**Anniversaries:**

- March 5—John & Jackie Wilkins

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**St John's Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**January 8, 2026**

Council vice president Robert Pletcher opened the meeting at 7:04 P.M. Members present were: Nathan Atkins, Carol Cramer, Frank Dietz, Brian Miller, Joe Pletcher, Bill Thomas, Steve Wolfe, and Pastor Al Laese.

Robert Pletcher led devotions.

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

The minutes of the December council meeting were read by council secretary Frank Dietz. They were approved on a motion from Steve Wolfe and Carol Cramer.

**ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Joe Pletcher nominated Robert Pletcher for the office of council vice president. Robert Pletcher accepted the nomination. Frank Dietz and Carol Cramer moved to close nominations for council vice president and cast a unanimous vote for Robert Pletcher. Council approved the motion.

Frank Dietz volunteered to accept the responsibilities of council secretary. Joe Pletcher and Steve Wolfe moved to close nominations for council secretary and cast a unanimous vote for Frank Dietz. Council approved the motion.

Pastor's report for the month of December 2025: 4 Sunday Worship services and Sunday School, Christmas Eve service, church council meeting, Cluster meeting in St Clairesville Jan 7, 2026, and 2 private communions. Stovertown has been asked to host a cluster meeting March 4 or April 8, 2026. Stovertown has also been asked to host a cluster summer picnic on a date yet to be determined. Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Bill Thomas.

The December treasurer's report was reviewed by council members. Nathan Atkins and Frank Dietz motioned to have an itemized list of transactions included with the monthly treasurers report, and to have a quarterly endowment fund report. Council approved the motion. The treasurer's report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Nathan Atkins.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND REPORTS 7:41 P.M.**

Finance – Joe Pletcher – Joe Pletcher requested that any projected large expenditures be reported to him to help plan the 2026 Budget.

Worship and Music – Frank Dietz – There will be an Ash Wednesday service on February 18, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Property – Nathan Atkins – "Thanks Snow Crew!"

PRAYER CO – Steve Wolfe – 28 children were helped at Christmas time in 2025. Over \$7050 deposited between October 14 through the 25<sup>th</sup> from the Car Show.

Christian Education – Bill Thomas – Sunday School attendance remains strong, and pancakes are welcomed on the last Sunday of the month.

Produce give away – Carol Cramer – The December produce market was held Tuesday December 16, 2025. 19 volunteers braved the sub 10 degree weather to distribute lettuce, yogurt, celery, apples, corn on the cob, and spinach to 85 households from 11 different zip codes. The Stovertown congregation provided a ham to all households and to all church employees. Leftovers went to The New Covenant Church in South Zanesville and the Senior Center. Leslie and Gary, and Susan Showers brought Christmas donuts. Don Parmiter brought a fire to keep volunteer hands warm. A \$20 donation was received from a client. A PRAYER CO recipient gave each of the volunteers a handmade dishcloth.

Stewardship committee – Carol Cramer

Evangelism committee – Linda Showers

Cemetery committee – Bill Thomas – Three new footers have been poured in the cemetery by three different monument companies. Two were prearrangements while the other was for a full burial. Materials have arrived for a new 100 grave addition to the cemetery. The property committee will assist with installing the markers.

Committee assignments and reports were accepted by council on a motion Nathan Atkins and Carol Cramer.

OLD BUSINESS 8:02 P.M.

Details of passing the collection plate during Sunday Worship service are being worked out.

The carpet replacement estimate is \$5000 for a heavy duty carpet. The color will be chosen by the carpet committee. Approval of the expenditure will be sought at the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bishop Dilahunt's mother passed away. Funeral service will be January 18 2026.

The congregational annual meeting will be held January 25, 2026. There will be a potluck lunch before the meeting.

Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe motioned to adjourn.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz

Council secretary

Brian Miller has devotions for the March Council meeting.



COLUMBUS OH 430  
25 FEB 2026 PM 5 L



**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**

414-338-450 .....  
"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".