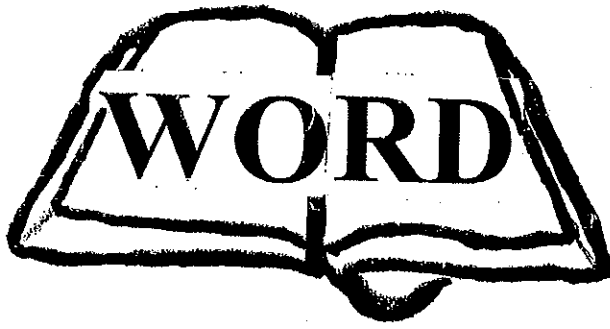


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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.16, No. 4

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

April 24, 2024

MOTHER DAY..... May 12th

Remember her on her special day!

AT MY MOTHER'S KNEE

By Helen Steiner Rice

I have worshipped in churches and chapels.
I have prayed in the busy street.
I have sought my God and found Him
Where the waves of the ocean beat.
I have knelt in a silent forest
In the shade of an ancient tree,
But the dearest of all my altars
Was raised at my mother's knee
God, make me the woman of her vision
And purge me of all selfishness
And help keep me true to her standards
And help me to live and her to bless.
And then keep me a pilgrim forever
To the shrine at my mother's knee.

**MOTHER/DAUGHTER /FRIENDS
BANQUET.....**

Is scheduled for Monday, May 13 at the church at
6PM. More details will follow.

WELCA.....

Will not meet on May 14. It was cancelled due
to the Mother/Daughter/Friends Banquet the day
before.

PEACE.....

Four Pieces of Peace

By Fruit of the Spirit, Marcia Hornok

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since
as members of one body you were called to peace.
And be thankful.

-Colossians 3:15

Peace has at least four aspects. The first two
reflect a peace we inherit because of what God
has done for us. The last two are part of our
everyday spiritual walk, a peace that we keep with
God's help.

1. Accepting the salvation provided by Jesus gives us peace with God. (Romans 5:1) We are no longer His enemy. We are His child.
2. All Christians who have peace with God also have peace with each other, because Jesus' death reconciled Jews and Gentiles into one body of believers called the Church (Ephesians 2:11-22)
3. Although God provided peace for believers. He tells us to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3) How? By being "humble and gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2) He wants us to have peace in our relationships.
4. We also have peace within ourselves when we practice the disciplines of Philippians 4:4-9. This is the peace Jesus promised to His disciples, even when they suffer. (John 16:33) It overcomes a troubled and fearful heart (John 14:1,17)

Peaceful fellowship with other Christians and inner peace from trusting God to take all of our problems—that's what peace as a fruit of the Spirit looks like.

Be thankful that Jesus' death and resurrection gave us peace with God and with all believers.

Ask God to help you live in peace with others and to have a peaceful heart in trusting Him.

The God of Comfort

By Zondervan (100 Bible Verses to Soothe Your Spirit)

God's people can have peace with the Father because of what Jesus has done on our behalf. The prophet Isaiah foresaw that there would be a coming Messiah and wrote, "See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice" (Isaiah 32:1) In Jesus, we can be at peace with God because He has atoned for our sins and imputed His righteousness to all who believe in Him, and follow Him as Lord. Paul wrote, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21) As we experience peace with God, through faith in Jesus Christ we can live in peace in the midst of troubling circumstances. God takes full responsibility for His children, and because of His provision, we can live life in quiet confidence that He will do as He has promised.

Father thank you that because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, I am reconciled to You. I will live in peace knowing that my sins are forgiven and that I belong to You. Amen.

The fruit of that
righteousness
will be peace;
its effect will be
quietness and
confidence forever.

Isaiah 32:17

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

Homebound communion available:

Call Pastor Al 740-541-2823 of the Church 740-697-0202 (to leave a message) if you are

homebound and would like to receive monthly communion. Anyone interested in training to offer homebound communion when Pastor Al is unavailable, please e-mail lsshowe@gmail.com.

Seeking your input RE Good Friday Service & Lenten Services.....

A suggestion has been made to the Church Council to hold a Good Friday Service again. Council seeks your input/preferences on a 2025 Good Friday Service and, if you would like to hold Wednesday Lenten Services in 2025. Please provide your feedback to a Council member in the next few weeks.

CHURCH CAMP-IN.....

Will be held the weekend after Mother's Day. See Shannon Davis for details.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

Emily Dietz will graduate from Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law on May 6. She has accepted a position with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. If you would like to send her a card her address is: 1620 N. High Street #436 Columbus, OH 43201

The women of the ELCA met at Karen Showers' home. Eleven members were present. President Kathy Jenkins welcomed everyone. She thanked Janet Novaria for the excellent job she did on the WELCA booklets pointing out the prayers she had included. Kathy opened the meeting using several of those prayers. She thanked Karen for hosting the meeting. She also thanked all those who helped in any way with the Sunrise breakfast and commented on the nice surprise visit by the Easter bunny.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report: **Checking - \$248.47**
 Savings - \$3913.30

Committee Reports

Mission Growth: No report

Mission Community: The theme for the May 13th Mother/Daughter/Friends potluck will be gardening/flowers. Kathy has asked Kristine Yeary of Curly Girl to speak to us about gardening tips. The Mother/Daughter/Friends potluck is scheduled for May 13th at the church at 6PM. Meat (chicken) and drinks will be provided. Kathy Jenkins and Linda Showers will be in charge of decorations/favors for the potluck.

Mission Action: No report

Old / New Business

- Linda Showers has been added to the Mission Growth committee.
- **REMINDER:** the May 14th WELCA meeting has been cancelled. We will meet June 11th at the church with Andrea Laese having the topic and Susan Showers as hostess.
- It was moved by Susan Showers that we purchase \$200 worth of items needed by the Philo High School pantry for students in need. Karen Showers seconded the motion. Motion passed. Treasurer Leslie Williams will purchase the items and give them to Jenny Swingle. Some of the funds used for this project comes from the bucket monies collected twice a month. Thank you to all who contribute.

Topic

Joy Pletcher had a timely topic on finding JOY even in the midst of conflict. She asked us what brought us joy. She used scripture and song to remind us that no matter what is going on in our lives we need only to redirect our focus on Jesus to capture the joy that reflects the truth that God has already won the battle so we can rejoice in all circumstances.

Hostess Karen served a delicious strawberry cheesecake dessert along with festive Easter cookies.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Showers, Secretary

The June meeting is on the 11th at 2PM at the church. Andrea Laese will have the topic. Susan Showers will be hostess.
NO MAY MEETING.

St John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
April 4, 2024

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. Members present were Joe Pletcher, Gary Williams, Linda Showers, Tom Gibson, Steve Wolfe, Frank Dietz and Pastor Al Laese.

Linda Showers led devotions based on "The unchanging savior."

The minutes of the March 7, 2024 meeting were presented by Frank Dietz. They were approved on a motion from Gary Williams and Steve Wolfe.

Pastor's report for the month of March 2024: 5 Sunday worship services and Sunday School, extra services for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunrise, 4 cluster meetings, hosted the March 6 meeting at Stovertown Church, a hospital visit, a private communion, Bishop's convocation was March 11 in Columbus, church council meeting, and 321 miles submitted. The Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Steve Wolfe and Gary Williams.

The treasurer's report was reviewed by council members. It was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Steve Wolfe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS 8:19 P.M.

PRAYER – \$250 was given to the Long family to help with expenses after the tragic passing of their son. \$100 given to Eastside Community Ministries for supplies. \$250 given to Juanita Johnson to help with expenses after her house fire on St Rt 555. There will be a fundraising benefit May 18 and 19 in the Philo area to help cancer patient Anna Harlan with the expense of having the tumor and a kidney removed. Bob Grayson is putting together a history of area churches, and he may be contacting some members of Stovertown St John's to gather their memories of the church.

PRODUCE – 15 volunteers distributed 5903 pounds of goods to 93 different households on a cold and windy March 19. Cars started arriving at 7 AM, the delivery truck arrived at 8:30, and distribution started at 9:02. The remaining 2 boxes of grapefruit was donated to the Salvation Army.

NEW BUSINESS 8:40 P.M.

There has been concern about communion for homebound and hospitalized members. Council reminds members of the congregation to please utilize Pastor Al's cell phone

(740 541 2823) or the church's number (740 697 0202) if you desire communion. If you are interested in training to offer homebound communion when Pastor Al is unavailable please contact Linda Showers (lsshowe@gmail.com) for more information.

Interest has been expressed for mid-week Lenten services and Good Friday services to be held in 2025. Please express your feelings to a council member over the next few weeks.

Steve Wolfe motioned that he would like to help the WELCA to select a knife set and new cutting board to be used in the kitchen. Linda Showers offered a second to the motion. After a brief discussion, council approved the motion.

Frank Dietz and Linda Showers motioned to adjourn.
All prayed The Lord's Prayer

Frank Dietz – Council Secretary

Gary Williams has devotions for the May 2024 council meeting.

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Al 740-541-2823	CHURCH 740-697-0202	Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 sabinintheorchard@yahoo.com				
Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	Mother/Daughter/ Friends Banquet 6PM					
13	14	15	16	Church Camp-In	Church Camp-In	
19	20	Produce Give-A-Way	22	23	24	25
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM						



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION STATEMENT FOR ST 04/23
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".

MANY THANKS.....

- To all involved in the creation of the cross of daffodils.
- To all that is involved in keeping our church sign updated and adding all the spiritual messages.

The church is truly blessed with a congregation wanting to do God's work and spread his good news.
