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

Stovertown

www.stovertownelca.com

VOL.17, No. 9

Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

September 24, 2025

"FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH YOU;".....

-The God of Comfort, Bible Verses.
Zondervan.

The most repeated phrase in the Bible is, "Do not fear". God knew His people would struggle with anxiety, and He repeatedly addressed the topic in the Scriptures. In Isaiah 41:10, God instructed His people not to fear because He was their God. Usually, when fear overwhelms us, it's because we are consumed by a situation that is beyond our control, and we are afraid of what might happen. But God instructs us to be mindful of His presence. The Bible promises that God will never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5), and therefore we never face a problem alone. When we are aware of God's presence in every situation, we can shift our focus from our problem to God, who promises, "I will strengthen you, yes I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10). God's provision arrives at the exact time we need it. The situation causing us anxiety may be out of our control, but nothing is beyond God's control.

"Fear not, for I
am with you;
Be not dismayed,
For I am your God.
I will strengthen you,
Yes I will help you
I will uphold you
with My righteous
right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Where God's love is.
There is no fear, because
God's perfect love

drives out fear. It is
punishment that makes
A person fear, so love
Is not made perfect in

the person who fears.
1 John 4:18

An encouraging word during a time of stress can be like water to a parched throat. The prophet Isaiah instructed his readers to be strong and not to fear. Isaiah offered hope with these words: "Your God will come." When we are waiting on a situation to change, we might begin to wonder of God will ever intervene. But Isaiah's words remind us that God is faithful. At times we will be forced to wait longer than we would like, but during those times God strengthens our faith and deepens our trust. God never promised us that life would be comfortable, so we shouldn't be surprised by trouble when it comes. But as we wait for God to act, we have the potential to grow closer to Him, to know Him better, and to love Him more. As our history develops with God, our faith grows and we become strong in the Lord.

Say to those who are
Fearful-hearted,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Behold, your God will
come with vengeance,
With the recompense of God"
He will come and
save you"
Isaiah 35:4

In the Scriptures, the term, fear sometimes refers to reverence, and other times it denotes "trembling or terror". Proverbs 29. The author was referring to the latter and communicated that being scared of other human beings is a snare for God's people. When believers are fearful of

another person, it's the individual will have a measure of control over us. But if we trust God, there is no reason to fear anyone or anything, because "whoever trust in the Lord is kept safe" (vs 25) The word safe used in this instance means "to be set inaccessibly high," meaning that God lifts us to a place of safety that is out of reach from human threats. Chronic fear of another person demonstrated a lack of faith that God will protect us, but God demonstrates time and again He is worthy of our trust.

Fear of man will
prove to be a snare,
but whoever trust in
the Lord is kept safe.
Proverbs 29:25

Yea, though I walk
Through the valley of
The shadow of death.
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
They comfort me.
Psalm 23:4

Father, I do not want my life to be characterized by fear. Teach me to be continually aware of Your presence and live with confidence because You are always with me. Amen

**GOD'S ASSURANCE GIVES US
ENDURANCE.**
-Helen Steiner Rice

My blessings are so many, my troubles are so few---
How can I be discouraged when I know that I have you?
And I have the sweet assurance that there's nothing I need fear
If I but keep remembering I am Yours and You are near.
Help ,me to endure the storms that keep raging deep inside me
And make me more aware each day that no evil can betide me

If I remain undaunted though the billows sweep and roll

Knowing I have Your assurance, there's a haven
for my soul
For anything and everything can somehow be endured
If Your presence is beside me and lovingly assured.

14th ANNUAL TRIPLE NICKEL COUNTRY CRUISE-IN

Will be held on Saturday, October 11 beginning at 1:00PM. Registration will begin at 12:30PM.

There will be door prizes, good food, Bounce House, ice cream, music and a lots of fun .Bring your special cars, trucks, bikes, tractors, etc. to showcase or just come for the food and fun.

Food and volunteers will be needed. See Steve Wolfe for details.

**SEE YOU AT THE CHURCH ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11!!!**

WELCA NEWS.

The next meeting will be held on October 14 at 2:00PM at the church. Janet Novaria is the hostess and Susan Showers has the topic.

CHURCH CANOEING AND CAMPING TRIP WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 11th & 12th at Hocking Hills again next year and join us.

St John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
August 7, 2025

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 7:59 P.M. Members present were Linda Showers, Gary Williams, Steve Wolfe, Joe Pletcher, Frank Dietz and Pastor Al Laese.

Joe Pletcher led devotions centered on Peace.

The unofficial minutes of the July 3, 2025 council meeting were presented by council secretary Frank Dietz and approved on a motion from Gary Williams and Steve Wolfe.

Pastor's report for the month of July: 4 Sunday worship services and Sunday School, 4 cluster meetings, a private communion, 2 other visits, a Roseville funeral, church council meeting, and 200 miles submitted. Pastor announced that he had been undergoing tests and procedures leading up to a heart valve replacement on August 14. Pastor Al will be unable to lead Sunday Aug 17 worship service. Frank Dietz and Joe Pletcher motioned for council vice president Robert Pletcher to contact Father Shannon Ramey to lead Sunday Service. The motion was approved by council. Father Ramey accepted the invitation over the phone. Pastor's report was approved on a motion from Frank Dietz and Gary Williams.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRAYER CO – 24 church members attended the dinner July 18 at Theo's Restaurant before 21 members attended The Living Word outdoor drama. The Triple Nickel Country Cruise In will have a display from the Zanesville Model Train Club, local dirt track racing drivers and their cars, and some pulling trucks on display.

Produce – The July 15 Produce Market served 100 families from 11 zip codes. 19 volunteers distributed carrots, potatoes, celery, radishes and greens in the 90 degree heat. Leftovers went to the Zanesville Senior Center. Joy and Joe Pletcher provided refreshments.

Worship and Music – Thanks to Joy Pletcher, Steve Wolfe, Linda Showers, and Vince Showers for filling in for organist Susan Dietz and Sunday School leader Bill Thomas who are recovering from surgeries.

There was no business to discuss

Frank Dietz and Joe Pletcher motioned to adjourn at 8:42 P.M.

All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Frank Dietz council Secretary

Minutes of the Women of the ELCA

September 9, 2025

The women of the ELCA met at the church. Six members and one helpful guest (Steve Wolfe) were present. We began the meeting by packing personal care kits (20) and school kits (21). We also packed 38 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. Vice-President Janet Novaria opened the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving.

There were no treasurer, committee or secretary's reports.

Old / New Business

- It was moved by Leslie Williams and seconded by Joy Pletcher that we send \$100 to LWR to help pay for shipping costs of the quilts and kits. Motion passed.

- It was moved and seconded that we give the current collected bucket money at the spaghetti benefit on the 21st of September to help Shannon and Heather Davis. Motion passed.

- A concern was presented about the lack of attendance at WELCA meetings and if we should even continue having those meetings. It was suggested we drop meetings and only do special church wide events like the LOVE meeting, Thankgathering luncheon, etc. A second idea was also suggested that we continue next year (2026) like we have been doing and if less than 6 people show up for 3 of our 5 regular meetings we consider major changes. Discussion was tabled until the November meeting. Please give some thought on the future of WELCA at St. John's – Stovertown and share those ideas at the November meeting or with other WELCA members.

- A HUGE thank you to Joy Pletcher for all her work on gathering all the materials needed for the LWR kits. Her leadership was much appreciated. A HUGE thank you also to Susan West for her leadership in our quilting project and to Ida Lane, Sandy Kemp and Joy Pletcher for all the tops they create during the winter months that allow us to create the quilts we send to LWR.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Linda Showers.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Showers, Secretary

Next meeting is October 14th at 2PM
at the church. Janet Novaria is the
hostess and Susan Showers has the
topic.

14th ANNUAL!



TRIPLE NICKEL COUNTRY CRUISE-IN

"Autumn in the Country!"

Saturday, Oct. 11th, 2025



Event Starts at 1pm - Reg. Starts 12:30pm

Saint John's Lutheran Church - Stovertown

6575 Center Road, Roseville, OH 43777

CARS, TRUCKS, BIKES, TRACTORS
"If It Has Wheels, It's WELCOME!"



Just South
Of Zanesville
On Ohio Route 555!

Free Admission and NO Entry Fee!

**DASH PLAQUES &
GOODY BAGS**
(While Supplies Last)

**HOMEMADE FOOD
& ICE CREAM**

**TWO 50/50
DRAWINGS**

**FAMILY
FUN!**

**RAFFLE
PRIZES**

**MUSIC BY:
CLAY CITY DJ's**

BRING YOUR CHAIRS AND CANOPIES!

Bring an FM Radio to ensure you hear announcements on event grounds!

PLEASE! NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK!

PROCEEDS BENEFIT: Saint John's Lutheran Church P.R.A.Y.E.R Company Youth Group

MORE INFO: Steve Wolfe (740)-647-3066, email: sjlpc@hotmail.com

October 2025

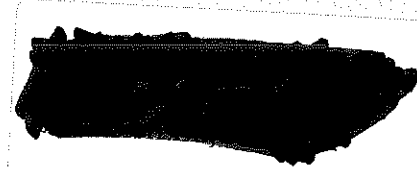
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Al 740-541-2823	Church 740-697-0202	Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 (H) 740-252-1890 © cbinintheorchard@yahoo.com	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Holy communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection						Car Show
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM		WELCA-2PM				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship-10AM SCS 9AM WELCA change collection		Produce Give-A-Way 9AM				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Worship-10AM SCS-9AM						

COLUMBUS OH 430
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RETURN
TO: ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH,
STOVERTOWN
P.O. BOX 361
PHILO, OH 43771



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY

Will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at 9:00AM. Volunteers will need to arrive by 8:00AM.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.

Birthdays:

October 5—Pastor Al
9—Sandy Seyerle
13—Katlynn Pletcher
Adam Dietz
23—Donna Miller
27—Susan Miller

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".