

the



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

VOL.18, No. 9

September 24, 2026

CHANGE.

As the Fall Season approaches it leads us to think and/or anticipate changes: the color of the leaves, the cooler temperatures,(which will be greatly welcomed), going back to school, and many Fall activities just to mention a few.

As human beings we are used to facing changes throughout our lives, some are welcomed and others not so much. (Currently, we as a congregation, are facing change/transition). Learning how to cope with changes leads to a new kind of freedom, which helps you become more open, authentic and selfless-basic ingredients for loving others as yourself. **Mark 12:31.**

Courageously facing change in life leads to personal and spiritual growth and an increased reliance on God. When expectations and patterns are disrupted, without trusting God to help make a decision and cope with change , it is easy to get stuck in a rut and fail to fulfill your purpose.

There are many stories in the Bible about change. Noah, Jonah, Ruth, David and even Jesus and his disciples had to face change. On a more personal level, our communities of Roseville, Crooksville and many other communities are now facing many changes as they rebuild their lives after the devastating floods they encountered numerous times this year.

No matter what changes we encounter on a daily basis, let us ask God through prayer to give us the coping abilities that we need to survive and thrive.

Here are a few Bible Readings that may help us to cope with any and all changes in our lives.

Romans 12:1-2
1 Corinthians 15:51
2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Psalms 31-8 The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathways for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Jeremiah 29-11 "I know the plans that I have for you, declared the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster plans to give you a future filled with hope."

Joshua 1:1 "Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or disappointed, for I , the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go"

Ecclesiastes 3:1
Deuteronomy 31:8

Note: This article has been based on an article from Mary Ronney Armand, founder and writer for the faith-based blog Butterflyliving.org.

TALK IT OVER WITH GOD

By Helen Steiner Rice

You're worried and troubled about everything,
Wondering and fearing what tomorrow will bring
You long to tell someone, for you feel so alone.
But your friends are all burdened with cares of
their own

There is only one place and only one friend
Who is never too busy, and you can always
depend

On Him to be waiting with arms open wide
To hear all the troubles you came to confide...

For the heavenly Father will always be there
When you seek Him and find Him at the altar of
prayer.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty
hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time;
casting all your care upon him; for he careth for
you.

-1 Peter 5:6-7

FIFTEENTH(15TH) ANNUAL TRIPLE NICKEL COUNTRY CRUISE-IN....

With Fall, at Stovertown, comes our annual car
show sponsored by "The Prayer Company"
Saturday, October 10th. The event will start at
1:00P.M. with registration of the cars, trucks,
motorcycles, etc.

The Car Show Committee has been busy
making final preparations for the show. We have
some great door prize donations coming in but the
event must still cover a variety of supply cost like
the bounce house, T-shirts that we sell, food,
paper products....Any congregation member that
has Thrivent Choice dollars available can direct
those funds directly to the church. Once you direct
the choice dollars, please let Treasurer, Jessi
Fabiny know as she can drop them into The
Prayer Company account. This would help offset
some cost and allow funds raised to make an
even bigger impact on our local community. We
all know this is a big show that takes a lot of
work! If anyone has extended family/friends that
are willing to help out we could use the extra help
throughout the day. This is also a great way for
grandkids/highschoolers to fulfill any volunteer
hours they might need. Please let Mandy Fisher,
Susan Miller or Stacy Tompkins know of any
volunteer help and please also let Susan know of
any Thrivent Choice dollars directed. Please sign
up on the sheets in the narthex to volunteer,
donate food, etc. At this time, Pepsi will be
providing their products along with water, so we
are not certain if we will need any drink donations

until closer to show time. Members may donate
door prizes/gift cards. All items must be new and
when you bring them to the church, put them in
the basement and sign the sheet as to who brought
them and what was donated.

The funds raised from this event goes right back
into our community for; people in need,
Christmas gifts, fire victims and many, many
other needs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OCTOBER 10TH AND PLAN TO HELP MAKE THIS YEAR THE BIGGEST YEAR EVER!!!!

PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY.....

Will be held on October 20, at 9:00AM.
Volunteers will be needed and appreciated. You
will need to arrive by 8:00AM.

WELCA NEWS.....

WELCA will meet on Tuesday October 13 at
2:00PM at the church. Hostess, Linda Showers
will have the topic.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER.....

Birthdays:

October 9—Sandy Seyerle
13—Adam Dietz
27---Susan Miller

A BIG THANK YOU.....

To everyone for all the cards, well wishes, etc. I
received following my surgery. I am doing well.

Thank You- Delores Wolfe.

St John's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2026

Council vice president Robert Pletcher called the meeting to order at 8:08 P.M.
Members present were: Frank Dietz, Nathan Atkins, Carol Cramer, Linda Showers, Brian Miller, Joe Pletcher, and Father Shannon Ramey.

Joe Pletcher led devotions from Mathew 7:24-27.

The minutes of the June council meeting were presented by secretary Frank Dietz.
They were approved on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Joe Peltcher.

Due to sudden illness, the council reviewed the June bank statements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship Coordination Team – Father Ramey will lead service during the month of July and the August 2 services. Pastor Derek Wadlington from Muskingum College will lead a communion service August 9, 2026.

Produce – On June 16, 2026, 20 volunteers served 93 households corn on the cob, cucumbers, potatoes, pineapples, and strawberry lemonade. A roll of paper towels and a loaf of bread were given to each household by the congregation. Leftovers went to the Senior Center.

Property – the furnace in the basement has been repaired.

Witness/Evangelism – The church directory and prayer email chain are being updated.
Committee reports accepted on a motion from Nathan Atkins and Carol Cramer.

OLD BUSINESS 8:35 P.M.

Volunteers for the LWL and SAM training are still being developed.

NEW BUSINESS 8:37 P.M.

Julie Barhost, from the Osterlund Children's Fund wants to speak to the Stovertown congregation during Sunday School August 2, 2026. The Southern Ohio Synod sent a communication about special donations that members can give to.

Frank Dietz and Linda Showers motioned to adjourn

All prayed The Lord's Prayer

Frank Dietz, council secretary

St John's Lutheran Church

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes August 6, 2026

Council Vice President, Bob Pletcher, opened the meeting at 8:10 pm. Members present: Nate Atkins, Brian Miller, Joe Pletcher, Fr. Shannon Ramey, Linda Showers. Bob confirmed a quorum.

Devotion Bob provided thoughts on I Cor.

No minutes from the July meeting were available.

TREASURER'S REPORT – reviewed by council; Motion to accept passed [L. Showers/B. Miller].

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETARY – no report

EDUCATION – no report

FINANCE – no report

PRAYER CO. – no report

PRODUCE – no report

PROPERTY – Property Chr., Nate Atkins, reported that after numerous attempts, the leveling Co. is not responding to fixing the rear entrance that is badly out of level after their work. Nate will consider tearing out the sidewalk section and redoing the concrete. Carpet has been ordered and should be installed soon.

WITNESS/EVANGELISM – Witness Chr., Linda Showers, reported that the "final call" for Directory edits/updates was sent out in July. The new 2026 Directory will be emailed to members in August and hard copies will be available at church.

OLD BUSINESS

L. Showers motion: "Council will establish an audit team as per the church constitution by Fall 2026."

[L. Showers/N. Atkins] - Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed remuneration, plus mileage for shut-in visitation, hospital visits, etc. for Fr. Ramey. Fr. Ramey expressed the desire for participation from St. John's Stovertown congregation members to accompany him on visits. Individuals who have expressed an interest in helping with visits were discussed. The topic was tabled until Fr. Ramey knows his virtual charter school commitments and potential eye surgery schedule.

Fr. Ramey reported that several individuals had expressed frustration in using two service books. He suggested trying using the Setting One Service Order from the Green Hymnal on a trial basis [which would match the lectionary schedule]. The 1st setting will be used on 9/13 pending consultation with organist, Susan Dietz, and worship leader, Bob Deitrick.

Motion to Adjourn – 9:10 pm [J. Pletcher/N. Atkins]

Meeting followed by The Lord's Prayer

L. Showers - for Council Secretary, Frank Dietz

Minutes of the Women of St. John's Stovertown – WELCA September 8, 2026

The Women of St. John's Stovertown – [WELCA] met at church on 09/08/2026 at 2 pm. Six members were present. LWR School Kits were assembled for shipping and health kit contents were boxed to be delivered to the Roseville Collection Site. Joy Pletcher provided a lovely fondue buffet. After eating, President Susan Showers opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer about "Showing Up" [Matt 7:14].

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the June 9, 2026 WELCA meeting were printed in *The Word*.

Treasurer's Report: WELCA received \$5,000 from the American Legion. A thank you was sent.

Correspondence

Two "get well/thinking of you" cards were signed by all for Delores Wolfe and Kay Deitrick Wilson.

Committee Reports

Mission Growth: no report

Mission Community: Janet reported that the July pizza and bingo night at church was well received – 22 attended. The cost of food was approximately \$100 [Dominos pizza, bread bites; salad, ice cream and toppings, including some donations of food]. All agreed that holding the July gathering at church was a great idea.

Mission Action: 18 School kits were assembled for shipping and the contents for 18+ health kits contents were packed for transportation to the Roseville collection site.

Old Business

None

New Business

- 1) President Susan Showers created a signup sheet for procuring church supplies quarterly [a list of supplies was included] – individuals can sign up to check supply status and then replenish as needed per season.
- 2) The Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet was discussed. Changing to a "Tea" format was discussed and referred to the Mission Community Team for consideration.
- 3) Susan thanked Karen Showers and Leslie Williams for delivering the quilts and health kit materials to the Roseville Collection site.
- 4) Susan created a signup sheet for the 2027 WELCA Meetings Topic Leader and Hostess. She suggested using the *Holy Giggles* Bible Study – she will provide the book to any who sign up to lead.

Topic

LWR school/health kits packing

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church 740-697-0202	Vicky Thomas Secretary 740-674-6814 740-252-1890 (C) cabinintheorchard@yahoo.com			Council 7PM		
4 Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection	5	6	7	8	9	10 15 th ANNUAL TRIPLE NICKEL CAR SHOW 1:00PM
11 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM	12 WELCA 2PM	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection	19 Produce Give-A-Way	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship-10AM SCS-9AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

COLUMBUS OH 430
23 SEP 2026 PM 6 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**

"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".

**OUR HAPPY THOUGHT FOR THE
MONTH.....**

Affection is responsible for
nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable
happiness there is in our lives.

-C.S. Lewis
