



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I give thanks to our God for each one of you. Being surrounded by you is a gift and a joy, and you are a tremendous blessing. We are so thankful for you—disciples who help make Christ known in this world by sharing healing, hope and love. It seems that each one of you has something so special to give—time spent in prayer for our congregation, family, and world; the love you give this community through the numerous hours of service; the care you give this congregation; the work you do to help share Jesus' love so that this whole world can know they are cared for. Thank you for all you do.

You are an important part of the St. John's family simply by being who you are, a beloved child of God. As part of this family, we want to know—what's new in your life? Are you celebrating the birth of a family member? Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Is there an important anniversary or birthday coming up? Did you or someone in your family move? Did you do well on a test and we can celebrate with you? Is there something we can pray about with you?

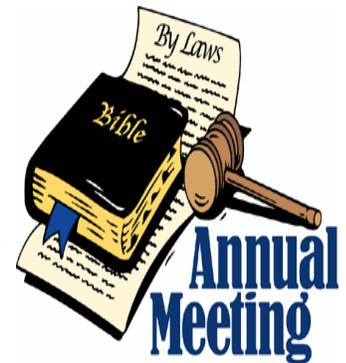
Part of this community that I am so thankful for is how we all look out for each other, pray for each other, and lift each other up. It is a joy as we show up for worship and see how the Spirit has been active in various lives throughout the past week, as we talk together and share the news of what's been happening as God works through us to bring healing to this world.

\* Article continued, pg. 2

### Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, January 27th. All confirmed members of St. John's are asked to attend. We will discuss important ministries for 2019.

Plus, a world famous pot-luck lunch will follow the meeting! Drinks will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. Don't miss this important meeting of the congregation and fellowship time to follow.



#### Inside this issue:

Prayers for members	2
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#### Special points of interest:

- Altar Flowers
- Ministry Leaders
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Annual Reports Due
- January Calendar
- Poets Corner
- Catechism Class begins

If you would like to share what's been happening in your life, or the life of your family, please let us know. You can cut out the slip from the back of the bulletin or newsletter, or you can send us an email or make phone call. Fill out as many spots as are important to you now.

It is a joy to walk with you in Christ.  
Pastor Stacy

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pray for me: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I give thanks for : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I worry or am sad about: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Upcoming events: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

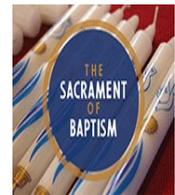
How can we support you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New address? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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It is with great joy that we join together in celebrating the sacrament of Holy Baptism for Raelynn Hermes on Sunday, January 20th. Please plan to support this child and her family in their new lives of faith. Raelynn was born June 23, 2018 to Sarah and Thomas Hermes, Jr.

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and gifts this season. We continue to be thankful that we serve God alongside you. Thank you, Pastor Stacy and family

Thank you to the St John's choir for all they did to share the good news during Advent and Christmas. The cantata was especially meaningful. You are a blessing!

## Your Prayers needed

Prayer is one of the most beautiful and meaningful gifts we can offer one another. Occasionally there are folks in this congregation, or friends or relative of members, in need of prayer for various reasons. Your prayers are needed for:

**Jason Shupe** – Recovering from surgery at home.  
**Beverly Hohman** – Declining health and memory loss. August Hohman prayers for strength and comfort.

**Dave Mehling** - in recovery from stroke  
**Barb Vance** – continuing cancer treatments

**Dick Widdoes** - In need of healing prayers  
**Family of Carl Hohman** grieving his death. Brother of Augie Hohman.

**Jack Kahl** - in need of our prayers.

**Council prayer requests:** For the formation of a church safety team that will care for this congregation and all people in this world.

## Small Group Bible Reading

We are joining congregations across northwest Ohio as we read through the Bible in a year. It's not too late to participate! Please see Pastor Stacy if you would like to be added to the small group. Our bishop is encouraging all congregations in the Northwestern Ohio Synod (we are one of these congregations) to read through the Bible in a year.	Jan. 1 Gen. 1-3
	Jan. 2 Gen. 4-7
	Jan. 3 Gen. 8-11
	Jan. 4 Gen. 12-15
	Jan. 5 Gen. 16-18
	Jan. 6 Gen. 19-21
	Jan. 7 Gen. 22-24
	Jan. 8 Gen. 25-26
	Jan. 9 Gen. 27-29
	Jan. 10 Gen. 30-31
	Jan. 11 Gen. 32-34
	Jan. 12 Gen. 35-37
	Jan. 13 Gen. 38-40
	Jan. 14 Gen. 41-42
	Jan. 15 Gen. 43-45
	Jan. 16 Gen. 46-47
	Jan. 17 Gen. 48-50
	Jan. 18 Ex. 1-3
	Jan. 19 Ex. 4-6
	Jan. 20 Ex. 7-9
	Jan. 21 Ex. 10-12
	Jan. 22 Ex. 13-15
	Jan. 23 Ex. 16-18
	Jan. 24 Ex. 19-21
	Jan. 25 Ex. 22-24
	Jan. 26 Ex. 25-27
	Jan. 27 Ex. 28-29
	Jan. 28 Ex. 30-32
	Jan. 29 Ex. 33-35
	Jan. 30 Ex. 36-38
	Jan. 31 Ex. 39-40

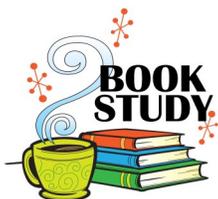


**God Come to Us**

“It had been revealed to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” Luke 2:26

God comes to us  
 by spoken word of the Father,  
 through the prophets,  
 through the angel to Mary and Joseph.  
 Through the written Word we hear the words.  
 By living Word, Jesus the Son,  
 through word and deed made  
 Father known.  
 By empowering word,  
 Holy Spirit come,  
 as you did for Simeon,  
 Show us the Christ.

**ST JOHN’S FAMILY THANK YOU** from all of the nursing home residents who benefited from your Christmas gifts. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, each wish was granted ..... to include a live plant ! God’s LOVE lives here!!!!!!!



We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9 am in the Upper Room, beginning January 8th . The next book will be Stranger God. We have 11 books ordered, and they are \$15. To receive a book, please put a check in the offering plate with book club in the memo line. Books are located on the Welcome Table. First assignment: read part 1 in Stranger God, up to page 62.

Please send reports in a Word doc by e-mailed to sandy8110@gmail.com by January 10th. Thanks so much for your assistance.

**Supper Club**



Supper Club is resuming again on January 24, 2019. We will be going to Berardi’s Restaurant in Huron on Cleveland Rd. East. They have a nice back room for us and we are supposed to be able to order from the menu. All of their food choices are very tasty! We will meet at the usual 6:00 PM time. Looking forward to a great turnout for a fun evening of fellowship and good food! Kathy Strayer

Christmas has come and gone; gifts have been given and received. A new year begins but it is never too late to give gifts that don’t cost a cent: the gift of listening, the gift of a favor (do something kind for someone else), the gift of a written note, the gift of a sincere compliment, the gift of a smile. All of these gifts can be given away freely and help to brighten someone else’s day as well as your own!  
 What other gifts can you give that don’t cost? Challenge yourself this month. You will receive so much more than you give! (Taken in part from Seasons for Wholeness: Vol.2)



*“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” Proverbs 18:16*

**January Birthday**

**Altar Flowers**

- Jan. 1 —Heather Welch
- 2 —Vicki Johnson,  
Helen Williams
- 3 —Doreen Ross,
- 5 —Jean Nottke,  
Jacob Bechtel
- 9 —Scott Riley  
Pastor Stacy
- 11—Nathan Harlan  
Jacob Deehr
- 17—Sandy Thompson

- 21—Amelia Bliss
- 22—Preston Luman
- 23—Brittany Semon  
Harriett Schlessman (101)
- 24—William Lucht
- 25—Don Johnson
- 26—Mia Scovanner
- 29—Nancy Osbun

- January Flower Donors**
- 6– Chuck & Heather Ruggles & boys in memory of Chuck’s dad’s birthday
  - 13-
  - 20-
  - 27– Ann & Dave Voight in memory of Art & Wilma Schlessman’s wedding anniversary, Ann’s parents.

## A Message from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105)*



I am excited to share with you that **2019** will be the **Year of Scripture** in the Northwestern Ohio Synod.

What follows is a quick outline of Coming Attractions.

The Year of Scripture will have a **3-fold focus**:

**Bible Reading** as a daily discipline and habit

**Bible Reflection** to help us become fluent in the language of sacred scripture

**Bible Study**: to lead us to discover the depths of who God is and the breadth of what God does.

Our Year of Scripture **Memory Verse** is Psalm 119:105 *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"*. I encourage you to start committing this Bible verse to memory right away.

A Year of Scripture **Bible Study** will be available on the Synod Website on **January 1, 2019**. This year's 6-session study will focus on the **Sermon on the Mount** from Matthew 5-7. Learn how Jesus reads and reflects on Scripture. Hear Jesus' call that as disciples we are to be hearers **and** doers of God's Word. This 6-session **Sermon on the Mount** Bible study will make a great Lenten Study / Sermon Series.

Our Year of Scripture **Book of the Year** is **A Compact Guide to the Whole Bible: Learning to Read Scripture's Story**. 2015. Edited by Robert W. Wall and David R. Neinhuis (Baker Academic Publishing). This very accessible book takes the reader through the entire narrative of God's Word, with an emphasis on the "metanarrative" of the Biblical story. This small guide will be a great companion during the Year of Scripture, and a great resource for pastors, deacons, and lay leaders.

Synod Wide **Read through the Bible in One Year**. I want to encourage and challenge you to join with the rest of the Northwestern Ohio Synod and read through the entire **Bible in One Year**. Back in 2004 and 2012, the parishes I was serving read through the Bible in One Year as a **community** spiritual practice. Scripture is meant to be read in community, so please don't do this alone.

Between now and December 31, 2018, I want to invite you to form a number of small groups in your parish, who will gather weekly, 2x a month, or monthly (it's really up to you), and commit to doing this spiritual practice **together**. If you do it alone, you're going to get halfway into Leviticus, give up, and get mad at me. Don't do that. Read together. Reflect together. Learn together. It is the best way. And I promise that when you do this together, it will change the conversation and the culture of your parish.

During my weekly e-mails, I will be offering teachings and tips that focus on the **Daily Bible Reading Schedule**. I plan to join you in 2019 as we **Read through the Bible in One Year**.

I look forward to reading, reflecting, studying, and walking with you through **2019, the Year of Scripture**. Bless you,

*Daniel Beaudoin*



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## We have a new seminary student! **SEMINARIANS**

Kriss Buss is a second year Master of Divinity student at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, OH. Kriss and her husband, Ben, (both Ohio natives) have lived in Columbus for the past seven years. Kriss comes to her call to public ministry after a decade as a social worker, primarily working in child welfare. Ben, a Patent Examiner for the US Patent and Trademark Office, is an active lay member of the church, particularly involved in supporting local campus ministry. Kriss and Ben are foster parents, and have one 19 year old son, Avery, who joined their family as 17 year old foster son.

Kriss is pursuing a call in Word and Service, as a deacon in the church. In particular, Kriss envisions a future in ministry as a prison or hospital chaplain. As part of her call to public ministry, Kriss has also pursued a call to join the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, an intentional community of women who work towards impacting this broken and beautiful world prophetic ministry on the margins, and accountable relationship within our community.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 4, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President, Bob Krawetzki the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PRAYER:** Pastor Stacy led us in an opening prayer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Voight, Peg Kingsley, Kevin Young, Barry Laird, Pastor Stacy, Jenna Stacy, Bonny Ambos, Colleen Shupe; Guest: John Miller

**EXCUSED:** Doug Tommas , , Jerrie Krawetzki, Paula Hoffman, Jake Deehr

**MINUTES:** November Council minutes were approved as written on motion by Barry Laird and seconded by Ann Voight. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kevin Young moved and Barry Laird seconded that we approve the treasurer's report as given. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.  
 As of October 31, 2018 :

<u>Item</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Last Year YTD Actual</u>	<u>Month Only</u>
<b>Offerings (Ordinary Income)</b>	<b>\$158,152</b>	<b>\$107,529</b>	<b>\$108,236</b>	<b>\$8,390</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
Pastor	\$72,217	\$60,999	\$59,019	\$5,833
Parsonage Expenses	\$7,450	\$5,668	\$6,678	\$328
Taxes \ Insurance	\$9,180	\$9,083	\$9,407	\$95
Office Expenses	\$19,490	\$14,803	\$13,345	\$1,147
Church Expenses	\$35,915	\$30,895	\$23,446	\$2,048
Benevolence \ Other	\$13,900	\$12,953	\$16,132	\$1,020
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$158,152</b>	<b>\$134,401</b>	<b>\$128,027</b>	<b>\$10,471</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$26,872)</b>	<b>(\$19,790)</b>	<b>(\$2,081)</b>

**Pastor Stacy:** Written report submitted. Pastor Stacy reported that she was appointed by the bishop to serve on the Candidacy Team and spent 2 days in Columbus interviewing seminary students. She also was elected at the synod assembly to work on a Consultation Team to work with a congregation in conflict. Both experiences have been very rewarding for her.

**Deacons:** Nothing new to report.

**Elders:** Nothing new to report.

**Trustees:** Jeff Justi checked with our church insurance to upgrade where necessary, as was approved by Council at a previous meeting. The cost for the revisions will be about \$1000. The sidewalks are beautiful and free of standing water! The paint work looks good and the roof has been repaired.

**Worship Team:** Nothing to report

**Good news Amen:** Will be restarting in January

**FLAMe:** Steve Lippert will be president in 2019. The group met with the two new pastors in our area.

**Endowment Committee:** John Miller reported that recently his committee moved a lot of the money into more secure areas because of the volatile market conditions this year. There have been no applications submitted yet for endowment grants. John asked that Council encourage people to apply. His committee will be meeting on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Stacy reported that she has several grant applications that she will be submitting. Ann Voight moved that Council apply for a \$2200 grant request supporting an honorarium for a Capital Seminary student to come to St. John's to preach in 2019. The grant request would also cover \$1000 donation to Capital Seminary. Colleen Shupe seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Finance Team:** Team did not meet in November.

**Faith/Life Team:** Written report submitted

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Allison Young is in the process of forming a Church Safety Team.

Trustees have decided that the back door will be repaired and a digital entry system will be installed on the door.

Sunday School people have begun to have their background checks processed. This can be done online. Council is asking anyone involved with children of St. John's, in any capacity, is to have their background form filled out and sent in. This would include any mentors and also those who take youngsters to visit shut-ins.

DRAFT revisions to the Scholarship Guidelines and Application Form, as discussed by members at the November council meeting, were presented. Council members discussed and accepted both. Bob Krawetzki will give the drafts to Linda Miller-Moore for the Scholarship Committee's review and suggestions. Bob will encourage the committee to submit an application for a grant from the endowment fund for 2019.

Ann Voight went over the sheet that the nomination team has prepared describing the title changes being suggested for council members for 2019. Peg Kingsley moved and Bonny Ambos seconded that we inform the congregation at the annual meeting that said changes are to be made for one year only and that we need congregation approval to make these temporary changes. If the new process works effectively for 2019, Council will ask the congregation at next year's annual meeting to vote to change our Constitution to accommodate the different titles of Council positions. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ann Voight asked that all team reports for the annual meeting should be turned in no later than January 10<sup>th</sup> to Sandy Thompson.

Council members will have a retreat held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9AM-2 PM at the Coupling. More information is forthcoming.

Ann also reminded Council members of the website address she has sent for the NWOS. Good reports and messages can be found there monthly.

Bob Krawetzki reminded all team leaders to submit their calendar of descriptions of their team's work throughout the year.

Upcoming events to keep in mind:

- 1/8 Congregational Council meeting
- 1/27 Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church

Colleen moved and Ann seconded that we adjourn the meeting. We adjourned by saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Kingsley  
Congregational Council Secretary



Catechism Class

#### **It's a busy time of year as we plan for the coming of our Lord.**

We wait with anticipation, with hope, with longing. As we plan for Christ to come, we also look ahead. January 13th is the Baptism of our Lord. On this day, Cassidy, Wade and Joshua will receive Bibles from the St. John's congregation. We will all remember our baptisms and give thanks that our God has claimed us and continues to call us beloved children. During Sunday School classes when Pastor Stacy is scheduled to teach the older youth, we will now have catechism class. If there are any additional youth who would like to be part of this, please let Pastor Stacy know soon. In the meantime, there are Bibles in the upper room. Please underline your favorite verse or leave a note in the Bible for Wade, Cassidy and Joshua so they know that God's word is alive and full of love for them when they receive their Bibles. Thank you for being an important part of their lives and helping them grow into their baptismal promises. Blessings during this journey, **Pastor Stacy**

A FAMILY OF  
DISCIPLES,  
FAITHFULLY MAKING  
CHRIST KNOWN

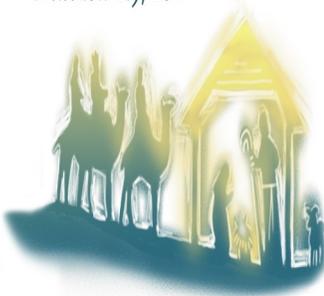
# January 2019

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

The star...  
came to  
rest over  
the place  
where the  
child was.



Matthew 2:9, ESV



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
			Choir Practice – 7:00 pm			
6 Flowers:	7	8 Book Study-9am held in Up- per Room	9 Choir Practice – 7:00 pm	10 Endow- ment meet- ing-8:30 am Crossroads 3:30-6:00 Joy Time at St. Paul 6 pm	11	12
		Council Meeting 7:00 pm				
13 Flowers: Rollie & Myrna Schlessman	14 Quilting Session 9:00 am	15 Second Tuesday Small Groups 5:30 pm Young fami- lies to Casta- way Bay	16 Worship Team-6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	17 Faith Life 6:30 pm	18	19
						
20 Flowers: Baptism of Raelynn Ann Her- mes		22	23 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	24 Bible Study at Mr. Smith's Coffee Shop - 10 am	25	26
27 Flowers: Annual Meeting following	28 Quilting Session 9:00 am	29	30 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	31		

St. John's Lutheran Church  
106 Scheid Rd  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Phone: 419-625-2192  
E-mail:  
stjohncal@gmail.com

Website:  
www.stjohnlcsandusky.com



St. John's Lutheran Church  
 106 Scheid Rd.  
 Sandusky, OH 44870

A Family of Disciples,  
 Faithfully Making Christ Known!

Church: 419-625-2192  
 stacylauer@gmail.com (Pastor)  
 Sandy8110@gmail.com (Admin.)  
 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**  
**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

## First Quarter Team

Allison & Kevin Young  
 Judy & John Miller  
 Sandy & Chuck Thompson

**January 6th & 20th**  
 Fellowship—Jan. 6th  
 Communion Glasses

**January 27th**  
 Annual Congregation Meeting  
 Potluck

Teams will be in charge of  
 communion glasses, fellow-  
 ship, and altar cloths.  
 Contact Allison Young if you  
 have any questions.



**Quarterly Ministry Team**

## Ministry Opportunities!

	<b>Youth</b>		
	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Psalm Reader</b>	<b>USHERS</b>
Jan. 6—			Jan.—
13—			
20—			<b>LAY READERS</b>
27—			Jan. 6—
			13—
			20—
			27—
			<b>COMMUNION ASSIST.</b>
			Jan. 6—
			Jan.20—
			<b>New Ministry Lists Posted</b>
			<b>New Flower Chart Posted!</b>

**It's time for a new Bible study!** We will be doing the Together in Faith series from Augsburg called "Being the Body of Christ: A Study in 1 Corinthians". Please sign up on the welcome table by January 13. The cost for a participant book is \$6, which can be placed in the offering plate with "bible study" in the memo line. We will meet for four weeks at 10 am at Mr Smith's coffeehouse downtown. The dates are January 24, January 31, February 7, and February 14. Please let pastor Stacy know if you have any questions.

**From Jean Nottke:**  
 Thank you to all of my sisters and brothers at St John's for remembering me this time of year and for the beautiful card.

There are many open dates just waiting for you to sign up.

