



# ST. JOHN'S NEWS



When I was around eight years old, everyone seemed to have the speed-adjustable Christmas lights. Some strands would blink, some would change as they went down the row, some would flash, some would stay solidly lit. And it was all remote controlled.

We got the bright idea to drive around town and change everyone's Christmas lights, hopefully without them knowing how it was happening. The solid ones suddenly rapidly flashed. The blinking ones became solid. And we laughed and laughed.

This became a tradition, and each year after worship on Christmas Eve we changed the light displays around town with our remote. It was family time together, all of us in one car sharing stories and laughter, and even praying for the families as we changed their Christmas lights.

Some traditions are like this—they happen randomly, when someone gets an idea to try something new. Some traditions span generations in a family, like dinner together and then worship on Christmas Eve. Sometimes we even start a new tradition, hoping that it will grow and we will be blessed with time together.

This month, during the season on Advent, I encourage you to share your traditions with your family. What did you do as you were growing up? What do you do now? Why? What is the meaning behind it?

As you share your stories and traditions, St. John's would like to offer a new option to our church family. We have decks of cards with devotions on them—one for each day during Advent and Christmas. Please feel free to take a deck of cards and together as a family, as an individual, or as a group (perhaps going to a nursing home in our area and sharing with some new friends) do these daily devotions. Some days are fun as they tell about John the Baptist and his weird diet of insects and honey and then dare you to try a new food. Other days are more serious, as you get to talk about what concerns you have, sharing them with each other and with our Lord.

Whatever your traditions are, I pray that they draw you closer to each other and to our Lord.

Walking with you in Christ,  
Pastor Stacy

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## Special points of interest:

- *Altar Flowers*
- *Birthdays and Anniversaries*
- *Youth & Adult Ministry Helpers*
- *Our Homebound*
- *Giving Tree*
- *January Book Study*
- *Good Gifts*

# WORSHIP WITH US AT CHRISTMAS

## December Events

**Youth Christmas Program:** On Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 am the youth present "Unwrapping Christmas". Don't miss this special worship opportunity! Worship will be followed by our traditional sandwich and cookie potluck lunch. Please bring something to share.

**Choir Cantata:** St. John's Choir will present "Behold the Star!" on Sunday, December 23rd during the 10:30 am worship service.

**Christmas Eve:** Three opportunities to worship on Sunday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with special evening worship services at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The two services will be essentially the same, featuring both Holy Communion and candlelight. Spread the word; invite family and friends to come for Christmas Eve worship!

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THESE SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO PREPARE YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD!**



### Intergenerational Event:

Please join us for a special event during Sunday School on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All ages will meet together at 9:00 am as we prepare for Advent with special stories, songs, and prayers and the making of Advent Wreaths.



### St. John's Christmas Party Sunday, Dec. 2nd. 3-5 p.m.

Families and Friends of all sizes and ages are wanted!! Help us start off the Christmas Season at St. John's with a Christmas Celebration of fun and fellowship. A



Families and friends  
Christmas Party

light supper will be served. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert. Hope to see you there!

### Ladies and young ladies of St. John's!

Plan to attend the Christmas Get Together at the Sandusky Yacht Club on **Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 pm.** Come help us begin a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and bring a friend! Please make your reservations on the sign-up sheet located on the Welcome Table.



## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

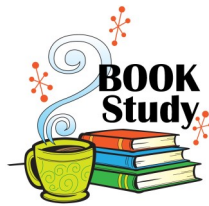
Dec. 8—Wesley Justi  
Myrna Schlessman  
10—Lori Stacy  
14—Ray Vance  
14—Rolland Schlessman  
17—Andrew Baaske  
29—Ray Young  
30—August Hohman  
30—Kristi Justi  
Rita Zorn  
31—Bobbie Deehr

Dec. 1 — David and Mary K. Schlessman  
16 — Jon & Trudi Baaske  
17 — Kevin and Allison Young  
27 — August and Beverly Hohman  
Rollie and Myrna Schlessman



## Coming in January Book Study

Please join us for a book club. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9am at Barry Bagels, beginning in January. 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. Thank you!



As we approach Advent and the holidays, it's sometimes difficult to find the perfect gift for someone. This year, St. John's is making it even easier to purchase ELCA Good Gifts. There is a catalog with information on the welcome table, and it's easy to purchase a cow, pig, sheep, chicken, or farm tool for someone in a third world country--in the honor of someone you love. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Stacy.



### POET'S CORNER by Jerry Bauer

#### Poem for Advent

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

In the wilderness of daily life  
uncertainty and fear hover near.  
In the wilderness hear a voice,  
sound of God's word, hopeful voice.

Prepare the way, a highway straight.  
A word to receive,  
a call to act,  
a message to share.

God comes in Christ, prepare the way,  
in heart and mind and life.

REJOICE!

## Giving Tree



This year the Faith Life Team has selected to do **Christmas for Nursing Home Seniors**. These residents and their "wish lists" do not have much family or visitors. Typically they spend the holiday alone. So let's reach out to them by choosing a tag, buying the items requested, wrapping and returning it to church by Sunday, December 16, 2018. The items will be delivered to happy residents so the residents can receive the love of the Lord and the true meaning of giving this Christmas Day. Thank-you for your continued generosity.

### CHRISTMAS for NURSING HOME SENIORS

Choose a tag on the Welcome Table  
Purchase the gift  
Wrap gift (or don't wrap)  
Attach tag to the gift (IMPORTANT)  
Return gift to church by Dec 16.

#### FOR CASH DONATIONS

Cash will be used to provide gifts from  
the lists not picked

Take a cash donation tag with envelope  
Put cash in envelope and place in the  
basket provided

## Endowment Fund Grants

Endowment applications are available on the Welcome table. If you are in need of monies for a ministry at St. John's, please fill out an application which are due by December 15, 2018 for disbursements by April 15, 2019. Anyone with questions can contact a member of the Endowment Committee.

**Thank you!** Thank you to all who helped with the Hanging of the Greens! The event was truly a festive gathering of church family across generations, creating a beautiful sanctuary for us to enjoy during the season of Advent and Christmas. Special thanks to the fourth quarter fellowship team for planning a delicious. The efforts of all who participated are much appreciated!



# 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:

**Family of Polly DiCocco** – grieving her death.

**Becky Johnson**—Healing from persistent pain.

**Norma Zorn** – in need of our prayers

**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

**Matt Popek** - preparing for heart valve replacement

**Barb Vance** – continuing cancer treatments

**Dick Widdoes** - In need of healing prayers

**Kirk Meinert** – (Son of Janet Meinert) Recovering from crushed heel surgery.

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



## Pray for the Homebound

**June Gorga:** Providence Care, Hayes Ave. Sandusky.  
(Mother of Nancy Osbun)

**Rachel Kaliszewski:** Gaymont Nursing Home, Norwalk  
(Renee Barkhimer's mother)

**Ruth Knupke:** At home, Huron

**Jean Nottke:** At home, Huron

**Margaret Ommert:** At home, Huron

**Joan Zorn:** The Meadows, Huron

**Eloise Mitchell:** Commons of Providence,  
Sandusky

**Irma Moon:** Admiral's Point Huron

**Harriett Schlessman:** The Willows, Bellevue Rm #518

Addresses and contact information may be found in the congregational directory unless they reside in a nursing home. Thanks for caring!

## Healthy Habits



This month with all the holiday feasting, heartburn can happen. What is heartburn? Your stomach produces acid to aid with digesting the food you eat. The acid normally stays in the stomach. Every now and then a small amount of the acid may get into the tube (esophagus) that connects your stomach and mouth. When the acid goes up into the esophagus you may feel a burning sensation, which is called heartburn. It has nothing to do with the heart. You can keep heartburn at a minimum by eating smaller meals, avoid caffeinated drinks, acidic foods such as tomatoes, as well as less fatty and spicy foods. Smoking and alcohol can also trigger heartburn. It can be difficult to tell the difference between chest pain and heartburn, so see your healthcare provider or emergency room if unsure. (Taken in part from Seasons for Wholeness: Vol. 1)

***"He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house."***  
**Proverbs 15:27**



Stein Hospice  
Invites you to the 34th Annual Light Up A Life

In memory of a loved one or to honor someone living. A donation of \$15.00 or more will light a bulb on one of the Hospice Holiday Trees in Washington Park, Downtown Sandusky or St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. Norwalk. Celebrate your Gift of Life at the Light Up A Life Service and Tree Lighting Ceremony. Dinner Reception to Follow Each Service. Family and Friends are Welcome!

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 4:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson and W. Washington St. downtown Sandusky

Sunday, December 9, 2018, 4:30 pm at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Benedict at Executive Norwalk.

Proceeds from this event will directly benefit terminally ill patients and their families in Erie, Huron, Lorain, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca and surrounding counties.

# ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

## November 6, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President, Ann Voight, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at Ann's house because there was no electricity at the parsonage or church due to heavy winds.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Voight, Peg Kingsley, Kevin Young, Barry Laird, Paula Hoffman, Jerrie Krawetzki, Jake Deehr, Pastor Stacy, Jenna Stacy, Bonny Ambos

**EXCUSED:** Doug Tommas, Colleen Shupe, Bob Krawetzki

**MINUTES:** October Council minutes were approved as written on motion by Jerrie Krawetzki and seconded by Paula Hoffman. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Finance Team recommended that we give more information in our treasurer's reports. The following is as of September 30, 2018.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Last Year YTD Actual</u>	<u>Month Only</u>
Offerings (Ordinary Income)	<b>\$158,152</b>	\$99,139	\$98,107	\$10,338
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor	<b>\$72,217</b>	\$55,167	\$53,021	\$ 6,136
Parsonage Expenses	<b>\$7,450</b>	\$5,340	\$6,237	\$795
Taxes\Insurance	<b>\$9,180</b>	\$8,988	\$9,059	\$121
Office Expenses	<b>\$19,490</b>	\$13,656	\$12,130	\$1,336
Church Expenses	<b>\$35,915</b>	\$28,846	\$21,246	\$1,515
Benevolence\Other	<b>\$13,900</b>	\$11,933	\$14,982	\$1,405
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$158,152</b>	\$123,931	\$116,674	\$11,308
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$0</b>	(\$24,791)	(\$18,567)	(\$970)

**Pastor Stacy:** Written report submitted. Pastor Stacy reported that her time spent in Colorado for her Continuing Education credits was very beneficial. An outgrowth of the conference is a group of intergenerational members from the congregation has formed a "think tank" and will be in contact with each other sharing ideas throughout the year. The ELCA has stated that contractually all ELCA pastors will take part in this continuing education format each year. Pastor Stacy looks forward to what is presented for next year.

**Deacons:** Nothing new to report.

**Elders:** Nothing new to report.

**Trustees:** Jake Deehr reported that all concrete work was completed this past weekend. He had volunteer friends who donated their time to help Jake with this project. We thank Jake and his friends who helped make this project a reality. A ridge vent has blown off the roof of the church and Jake will be contacting Tusing about replacement. The painting is also entirely done. The painters did a very professional job and everyone is pleased with the results. The Property Team will be having a meeting on November 13, 2018 to determine what other projects need to be done. The Finance Team has recommended that the Property Team use their judgement as to whether we repair the present kitchen door, or repair it and add an electronic keypad for entrance.

**Good News Amen:** Nothing to report.

**Worship Team:** Written report submitted.

**FLAMe:** Nothing to report.

**Endowment Committee:** The third quarter endowment report and minutes to the committee's last meeting were reviewed by the Finance Team and reported to Council.

**Finance Team:** Written report submitted. Recommendations are mentioned under appropriate categories in these minutes.

**Faith/Life Team:** Written report submitted Paula reported Trunk or Treat went very well and will probably be held inside from now on. Flags will be placed at OVH this Thursday. The Giving Tree will be utilized again this Christmas season and items will be donated to area nursing homes. Paula will be gone from 11/30-12/20 and Lynn Call has agreed to take over Faith/ Life business during that time. The team has welcomed new members Dawn Schlessman and Joleen Dillender.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Paula Hoffman moved and Barry Laird seconded that we endorse Allison Young as the head of the soon to be created Church Safety Committee. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote with one abstention.

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.

The Scholarship proposal was tabled until the next Council meeting.

Finance Team reported that Jim Moore has purchased a new Lavalier microphone, recorder and transmitter for use at the altar. We thank Jim for his work on this and his keeping the cost to just \$130. Barry Laird has volunteered to take Jim's place when Jim is unable to attend a church service. Jim will show Barry how to operate the equipment.

Nominations for next year's Congregational Council members will be announced at the Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Many thanks to the committee for their work in preparing a slate of officers and Council members.

Pastor, Church Administrator, organist and custodial evaluations for 2018 have been completed, signed and filed.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Finance Team presented the 2019 Budget. They have increased Pastor Stacy's salary by the ELCA minimum requirement for 2019. Pastor's health insurance will remain at its current level. After discussion Peg Kingsley moved and Bonny Ambos seconded that we approve the budget as presented. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Many thanks to Colleen Shupe for her work in preparing this budget for 2019.

The prayer groups have worked really well this past year and as an outcome it has been suggested that we have more prayer requests listed in the bulletin and newsletter each month. The next prayer request is for the formation of the Church Safety Team.

Ann Voight reminded all Council members that Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filing for grant requests from the Endowment Fund.

Council decided that the kitchen door should be locked during church services. The front door will remain unlocked and ushers will watch for anyone coming in during a church service. This will be further explored by the Safety Team when it becomes operational.

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.

The Oversight Committee met on October 27<sup>th</sup> and found the treasurer's records to be in good order. They have submitted their findings for the annual report and have asked to meet again in early 2019 to review the fourth quarter records for 2018.

Upcoming events to keep in mind:

- 12/4 Congregational Council meeting
- 1/8 Congregational Council meeting
- 1/27 Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church

All Council members thanked Ann Voight for having our meeting at her home on such short notice. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peg Kingsley, Secretary



## *Firelands Lutherans Active in Mission*

*Working to make Christ known in the community by building connective programs and cooperative ministries among us.*

*Grace, Castalia—St. John's Union Corners—St. John's, Bellevue—St. Paul, Sandusky  
St. Peter, Norwalk—Trinity, Sandusky—Zion, Sandusky—Zion, Huron*

Your FLAME Board met on November 12, 2018 at St. John's. All rostered members were invited to a dessert and to share ideas for 2019.

Please welcome and thank your new 2019 FLAME officers.

President: Steve Lippert, Zion, Sandusky

Vice-president: Lori Schlick, Trinity

Treasurer: Karen Munsterman, Zion, Huron

Secretary: Cathy Wobser, Trinity

Pastoral advisor: Pr. Ann Marshall

We also want to thank outgoing officers, Barry Laird, Judy McEowen, Barb Rohrbacher, and Pastoral advisor Pr. Eric Bodensstab for their dedication to the Board in 2018.

Our November meeting was dedicated to discussing goals for the Board in 2019. Our rostered leaders shared their thoughts and some great insights into the future focus for the Board. Here are some of the ideas presented.

- Folks still do not know what FLAME is or what it does.
- FLAME needs to find projects that put Lutherans out into the community doing something, rather than just donating our FLAME dollars to community causes.
- Our congregations need to come together-united. Do not focus on our individual congregations, but on what we can do together to make Christ known.
- We have aging congregations. How do we retain members we have? How do we reach a younger population?
- How do we re-evangelize people who need to know about Christ or those meeting Jesus for the first time
- Collaborate. Do things that are too big for one congregation to do alone.
- Define a focus. FLAME may be spreading itself too thin by doing too many projects.
- What does our community need? The only way to know is to knock on doors.
- Look at community assessments that local hospitals and the health departments complete to analyze the data and see where the needs are in each community.

What would you like to see FLAME do? Remember the Board is not FLAME. **YOU are FLAME!**

We need your ideas. We need your support. We need your prayers. Please share your thoughts with your representatives or feel free to attend any FLAME Board meeting.

A special note: Lifetree Café will not be meeting in December. Watch your leaflet for information on the January meetings.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FLAME CHURCH NEWS:**

Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: St. Paul, **JOY Time** Christmas Party, 6:00-7:30 PM, night of faith and fun for adults with developmental disabilities.

Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup>: St. John's, FLAME Board meeting 7pm



Caroling being planned! Watch the bulletin and website for upcoming date and time!



Project Noelle Christmas cheer gifts need to be back to the church by **December 9th**. You may wrap your gifts or not, your choice, but make sure you put the Child's name and envelope number on the gift. Please place your items in the "Project Noelle" box near the welcome table. Thank you for all the caring you provide God's children! Blessings.



In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

**Directions:** Circle all the complete small “joy” words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find “Jesus” amid all the joy!

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O



“Yes, it’s beautiful — but can we talk about its placement?”

# Christmas story!

Please wear your  
pjs and join us for  
hot cocoa, snacks,  
and a Christmas  
story on December  
19 at 6:30. All ages  
are welcome.

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! Reminders will start the weekly beginning in mid-December, and the sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome table by December 16th. Kathy Strayer





A FAMILY OF  
DISCIPLES, FAITHFUL-  
LY MAKING CHRIST  
KNOWN

# December 2018

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Ushers:

1

2 Flowers:

St. John's  
Christmas  
Party-3:00  
pm



4

Council  
Meeting  
7:00 pm

5

Choir  
Practice  
7:00 pm

6 Ladies  
Christmas

7

Get-  
Together  
6 pm at the  
Yacht Club

8

9 Flowers:

Lori Sta-  
cy's birth-  
day

10

Quilting  
Session  
9:00 am

11

Second  
Tues. Family  
Small Group  
5:30-7 pm  
Place to be  
determined.  
Choir  
Practice  
7:00

12

13

Crossroads-  
3:30-6:00  
pm

14



15

16 Flowers  
Youth Pro-  
gram - 10:30  
Sandwich  
Potluck  
Fellowship



18

19 Christ-  
mas Story  
6:30 pm  
Choir  
Practice  
7:00



21

22

23 Flowers  
Doug &  
Tara Tom-  
mas  
Choir Can-  
tata  
"Behold  
the Star"

24 Christmas  
Eve Candle-  
light-Holy  
Communion  
Worship  
4:00 pm  
8:00 pm

25



26

27

28

29

30 Flowers  
Scheid  
Family

31



Holy  
IS  
HIS  
NAME.

LUKE 1:49

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

## Fourth Quarter Team

Sue Lucht, Peg Kingsley  
Jerrie Krawetzki, Doreen Ross  
**December 2** Communion glasses  
Fellowship after worship  
**December 16**  
Sandwich/Cookie Fellowship after  
Christmas program  
**December 24**  
Communion glasses

Teams will be in charge of communion glasses, fellowship, and altar cloths.

 *Altar  
Flowers*

December

2-  
9-Jim & Bonnie Semon in honor of  
Lori Stacy's birthday  
16-Mike & Pat Babiuch  
23-Doug and Tara Tommas  
30-Scheid Family

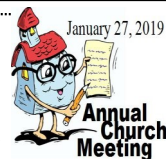
## Youth Ministry Leaders

### Acolytes

Dec. 2—Tavi Dillender  
9—Dawnson Dillender  
16—  
23—  
24—4:00—  
8:00—Cole Ruggles  
30—

## Annual Reports

The St. John Council requests church leaders to complete your annual report as soon as possible. These will then be processed and printed by Sandy Thompson for distribution to the congregation. Please send reports to Sandy in a Word Doc. by e-mailed to [sandy8110@gmail.com](mailto:sandy8110@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your assistance.



## Worship Leaders

### USHERS

Dec. 2—Ted & Lynn Call  
9—Ann & Dave Voight  
16—Ann & Dave Voight  
23—  
24—  
4:00—Ann & Dave Voight  
8:00—Dave & Mary K  
Schlessman  
30—

### COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Dec. 2—  
16—Ann Voight  
24—4:00—  
8:00—Jim Semon, Sr.

### LAY READERS

Dec. 2—Kevin Young  
9—Linda Miller-Moore  
16—  
23—Jim Semon, Sr.  
24—  
4:00—Kevin Young  
8:00—Jason Steckel  
30—