

March



ST. JOHN'S NEWS

Last month, my newsletter article talked about the highs and lows of life and how these relate to the journey we Christians take every year as we go from the light of Epiphany, to the mountaintop of the transfiguration, to the somber realities we see in Lent.

Likewise, every day we face challenges and hopefully every day we have joys. During life's journeys, we are surrounded by our sisters and brothers in Christ. I've realized over the last two years that the St. John's family is especially gifted at caring for each other and being there through all of our highs and lows.

To focus more deeply on this, we will gather over the five weeks of Lent to eat a meal, worship, share what's happening in our lives, read scripture, do an activity, pray, and bless each other. This will be a different format than in the years past, but will have many of the same elements.

We will gather around the tables in the basement each Wednesday evening for a meal and the sharing of what's happened over the last week. Youth and adults will share together, knowing that all ages are important. Hopefully, we will know each other even more deeply after these five weeks together.

Following the meal will be time for hymns, scripture, and an activity. Some weeks, we will visit prayer stations or put together care packages. Other weeks may include painting or drawing. We will end the worship time with prayer and blessing of each person at the table.

This may be a change from what you are used to experiencing, but hopefully it will help us all grow as disciples, care for this community, and learn together. Your participation is hoped for. As we learn together, we also start counting on each other more, praying for each other, and realizing how loved we are.

I look forward to growing with you this Lent.

Walking with you in Christ,
Pastor Stacy

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Special points of interest:

- Altar Flowers
- First Quarter Team
- Birthdays
- Spring Ahead—Time Change
- March Calendar
- St. John's Council and Teams 2019
- Baptisms
- Scholarship Fund Drive

"Be still, and know that I am God."
 Psalm 46:10a

Sacred presence
 Sacred space.

Where we meet God.
 Where we sense God's presence
 Where God reveals to us.
 Where God speaks to us.

Where we listen
 for God's voice.

Sacred presence,
 Sacred space.
 Found in
 stillness,
 solitude,
 silence.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 6th with the "Imposition of Ashes."



Wednesdays in Lent will include soup and sandwich supper, prayer, fellowship, discussion, and worship. A sign-up list is on the Welcome Table to provide food for soup suppers. Plan to join us for this special time of worship, food, and fellowship!

UPCOMING EASTER EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt for our youth will be held on Easter morning during the Easter breakfast. If you would like to help with the hunt see Lori or Jenna Stacy. Donations of candy would be much appreciated. Please leave candy in the kitchen and mark for egg hunt.



Easter Breakfast

Men of St. John! It's time to plan for the annual Easter breakfast on Sunday, April 21, 2019. Watch for further details in the upcoming bulletins.



March Birthdays

- Mar. 1 —Kassidy Burdue
- 8 —Keith Schlessman
- 18 —Brian Wilson
- 19 —Bonny Ambos
- 21 —David Young
- 24 —Todd Ross
- 25 —Kathleen Rudiger
- 31 —Heather Ruggles

Mar. 3—
 Happy Anniversary to Ann and Ray Witt.



Anniversary/Birthday Blessings

Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA

The Northwestern Ohio Synod of the ELCA (of which we are a part) has two, soon to be three, companion synods. These relationships are rooted in "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources. Our companion synods are the

Dodoma Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia, with talks with Mexico happening currently.

On Sunday, March 10th, Becky Seibert will be present to share with us her ten trips to our companion synod in Tanzania and their work for clean water for all people. She will share a small amount during worship, but please stay after worship for a special coffee hour to hear more about the life saving work our churches are doing together.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: President, Ann Voight, called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. This meeting was held after the Congregational Council adjourned a retreat which was held at The Coupling beginning at 8:45 AM. A review of that retreat is on separate paper.

PRAYER: Pastor Stacy led us in an opening prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Voight, Kevin Young , Peg Kingsley, Colleen Shupe , Pastor Stacy, Barry Laird , Jenna Stacy, Jerrie Krawetzki , Paula Hoffman, Jeff Justi , Bob Krawetzki

EXCUSED: Ron Zorn, Bonny Ambos

MINUTES: January Council minutes were approved as written on motion by Bob Krawetzki and seconded by Jeff Justi. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Colleen Shupe presented the December treasurer's report as of Dec. 31st:

	Annual	YTD	Last Year	Month
<u>Item</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Only</u>
Offerings (Ordinary Income)	\$158,152	\$160,351	\$167,514	\$44,249
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor	\$72,217	\$73,221	\$71,066	\$5,899
Parsonage Expenses	\$7,450	\$6,358	\$7,475	\$515
Taxes \ Insurance	\$9,180	\$10,418	\$9,819	\$1,203
Office Expenses	\$19,490	\$18,131	\$15,968	\$1,869
Church Expenses	\$35,915	\$39,604	\$28,120	\$6,465
Benevolence \ Other	\$13,900	\$15,133	\$18,292	\$1,000
Total Expenses	\$158,152	\$162,865	\$150,739	\$16,952
Net Ordinary Income	\$0	(\$2,513)	\$16,775	\$27,298

The report had already been approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on January 27, 2019.

Pastor Stacy: Written report submitted. Also attached to her report, Pastor Stacy included her vacation and time off schedule for the year. She elaborated on a Spiritual Retreat at Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, that she will be taking from Feb. 18-22. The Synod requires all pastors to take one week per year for a retreat. Substitute pastor has been arranged. Pastor Stacy also told Council about an ELCA Youth Extravaganza occurring January 30- February 4, 2020, that she is planning to attend. Ann asked Council to carefully look over the entire report to see how involved Pastor Stacy is with St. John's and the surrounding community. Her schedule every work day is packed from beginning to end with tasks involving St. John's and ELCA commitments. We are very fortunate to have a pastor who is as dedicated and motivated as is Pastor Stacy.

Property Team: Jeff Justi reported that the team is looking at several future projects one of which is repaving the parking lot. He will be getting estimates to see how much the cost will be to do the entire area at one time and then asking the Finance Team to look at possible ways to raise the money that will be needed for this project. This may be a 2-3 year fund raising campaign. Currently he would like to see entrance to the side door being only done with the keypad, eliminating the use of a key entirely. Council agreed to make that known to the congregation. In warmer weather the team will be removing a dead tree from the cemetery.

Worship Team: Written report submitted.

Finance Team: The Finance Team met by phone conference on January 31st and recommends that we donate \$100 to Sandusky Zion Lutheran for their youth program that one St. John's member has participated in over the past year. Paula Hoffman moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we approve this recommendation and revisit this program at Zion after May to see if we want to continue participation. Motion passed unanimously.

Faith/Life Team: Paula Hoffman expressed concern that her committee needs some new younger people to help continue the work that her committee has done so well over the past years. We need to make the congregation aware that this committee is vital to St. John's and we need more people to volunteer to help.

OLD BUSINESS:

We have not heard from the Scholarship Team after sending them Council's recommendations for Scholarship guidelines and application form. Bob Krawetzki will contact chairperson Linda Miller-Moore and report back her team's response at our March meeting.

The Church Safety Team has met and has begun work on formulating safety policies facets of the church. The team has welcomed the extensive fire safety expertise Chuck Ruggles brings to the team.

Ann Voight reported that an endowment grant application regarding Bishop Daniel's visit to St. John's on 9/8/2019 has been approved by the Endowment Committee. The grant to support Kriss Buss, the Divinity Lutheran seminarian at Capital University, has also been approved.

Ann asked all team leaders who have yet to turn in their 2018 Team Timelines to please do so to Bob K. as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerrie Krawetzki moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we appoint Mike Babiuch, Preston Luman and Helen Williams for a 2- year term to the Mutual Ministry Team. Motion passed unanimously. They join Joleen Dillender and Paul Stengel who continue one more year.

Congregational Council Prayer Request for 2019 will be for the newly installed Council member format for this month, followed by our seminarian, Kriss Buss, in March.

Barry Laird moved and Kevin Young seconded that we approve the \$785 budget request by the Worship Team from the Bill Scheid Music Fund for 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

Colleen Shupe moved and Paula Hoffman seconded a motion to table discussion on a request from Worship Team that a policy for permission to preach at St. John's be established. This discussion will be continued at our March meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Young moved and Colleen Shupe seconded that we accept the seven (7) grants for 2019 approved by the Endowment Committee. Motion passed unanimously. Sincere thanks and appreciation were expressed for the hard work put forth during the past year by the Endowment Committee to get the guidelines completed and the first round of grant applications considered and approved.

Announcements: Sunday, February 3, Installation of Council; March 5, Council Meeting; March 6, Ash Wednesday; Lent March 6 through April 18.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Kingsley
Secretary



LILY ORDER FORM

We will beautify our sanctuary with Easter Lilies on Easter morning.
Please place your order in the offering plate by Sunday, March 31st.

5 Blooms & Up \$11.00

No. of plants _____ @ \$11.00 each _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: St. John's Lutheran Church

NAME _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF (Deceased) _____

IN HONOR OF (Living) _____

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 – Recovering from hip surgery. 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

Owen Reed – at home – prayers for regaining of strength

Paisley Luman – health concerns

Council prayer requests: For our council, those returning and those newly elected, that they follow God's guidance and faithfully lead this congregation to be a family of disciples faithfully making Christ known.

ST. JOHN'S HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

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 Pointe Huron

Harriett Schlessman: The Willows, Bellevue Rm #307

Beverly Hohman: Rehab at Admiral's Pointe Huron, Rm. 309

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



What is to be done? Our congregations are growing older and smaller. At least 40 percent of our congregations have an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or less. ELCA membership decreases by 70,000 people a year, or roughly the loss of a synod per year. Clergy retirements outnumber new candidates for ministry. Financial pressures and building maintenance create stress. There is a dearth of people in their 20s and 30s in our pews. How do we change this? How do we reverse the trends?

These are anxious questions that come from anxious people across this church. We aren't the only ones asking them—just about every mainline denomination, including the non-Latino population of the Roman Catholic Church, is in the same boat. Even some megachurches are showing signs of plateau or decline. And this is not exclusive to the Christian community. I once attended a national conference of Muslims where one workshop was titled “Un-Mosqued to Mosqued: How to Get the Young Muslim Back to the Masjid.”

Some now see the decline of the church in general, and the ELCA in particular, as inevitable. The response can be to turn our churches into bunkers with our congregations sheltering within the walls or to try every new program that breathlessly promises to attract people to our congregations. Neither is an effective or faithful long-term strategy.

I think we are asking the wrong questions.

The questions we are asking have to do about us: “What can we do?” They express loss and grief and fear—loss and grief for what we were and fear about what we will become. Not only do these questions not lead to productive answers, they also don't point to hope. It's as if the church's one foundation rests on us and our efforts.

I think we need to ask: “What is God up to?”

It's clear to me that we are living in a time of transition, especially for the Western church. I don't know how long this transition will last nor do I have a clear vision of what the church is becoming.

The good news is that you and I don't have to have a clear vision because God does. “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” ([Isaiah 43:18-19](#)). These words of hope were spoken to the Jews who were stuck in exile. They had lost their land, their temple and their king—the pillars of their identity. Likewise, the church has lost social status and relevance in 21st-century American culture.

For Israel and the church this would be a hopeless situation, except that God is faithful. When the Lord admonished, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old,” this wasn't a command to forget God's past saving work, but to believe that God was still acting. This is true for us today. When we stop asking what we can do to fix the church and start asking what God is up to, we open ourselves up to the life-giving promise of God's future.

Then we are also open to more questions: How is the Spirit reshaping the church? How will Christ use us as Christ's living body in the world?

If we want to attract people to our congregations to rebuild a memory, God will not bless our efforts. But if we—grabbed by the Spirit in baptism, changed by the word, intimately and lovingly connected to Jesus and each other in communion, and set free by grace to serve the neighbor—invite all people into true life, then we shall become part of the answer.

This takes attention and devotion. Worship, prayer, Scripture study, generosity and service—not in order to save the church, but in response to the new life God has given us in Christ.

And one more thing: in God's inscrutable wisdom, God has chosen human hands and voices to tell and welcome. Let's adopt the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod's mission to get more people to know more about Jesus.

Article taken from *Living Lutheran* February 2019 issue.

Camp Opportunities for Our Youth and Families

We have three opportunities for camp with LOMO (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio) this summer and with members of our congregation. Whatever your age, there is an opportunity for you!



June 17-21: We will participate in Day Camp at Zion, Huron. Camp Counselors from Camp Mowana will lead singing, games, activities, and Bible Study. Ages completed kindergarten-completed sixth grade are included in this. There will also be special sessions for preschoolers. Kitchen and sign-in help are needed, along with people to house the counselors. Registration information is available by seeing Pastor Stacy for a form.

June 28-30: Families of all ages (even individuals) are invited to Camp Mowana in Mansfield for family camp, which St. John's will participate in with other congregations. Camp is led by Mowana camp counselors and we worship, have Bible study, sing, hike, pray, and have lots of fellowship. All activities are optional. You can stay in a cabin, camp in a tent, or stay in the air-conditioned retreat center, depending on preference. Registration information is available at lomocamps.org. Scholarships and fundraising opportunities are also available. Please let Pastor Stacy know if you plan on attending.

July 14-19: Elementary, middle school, and high school kids will attend Camp Mowana on an individual basis. All youth will go the same week, but may not be in the same cabin as others from church. Structured activities led by camp counselors will be offered. Registration information is available at lomocamps.org. Scholarships and fundraising opportunities are also available. Please let Pastor Stacy know if you plan on attending.

Spring Fling Supper Club

Our "Spring Fling" Supper Club will be on Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 pm at Marconi's Restaurant in Huron. This will be our last one until September 19th. I have ordered our family style menu again. This was very popular the last time we were there! It would be nice if we can get a good turn-out again! Make your plans to come for a great evening of fellowship and good food. We always have such a good time! Sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome table by March 10th.



Baptisms at St. John's

It is with great joy that we join together in celebrating the sacrament of Holy Baptism at St. John's. On Sunday, February 17 the baptism of Raelynn Ann Hermes took place. Raelynn is the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hermes. On Sunday, March 3rd Oliver Mikael Joseph will be baptized. Oliver is the son of Ashlee and Christopher Joseph, grandson of Dale and Cindy Schlessman. Please plan to support these children and their families in their new lives of faith.



St. John Church Council 2019

President: Ann Voight
 VP: Kevin Young
 Secretary: Peg Kingsley
 Treasurer: Colleen Shupe
 At Large: Bonnie Ambos

Faith Life Rep: Paula Hoffman
 At Large: Rep: Barry Laird
 Property Team: Jeff Justi
 Financial Team: Ron Zorn
 Worship Team: Jerrie Krawetzki
 Youth Rep: Jenna Stacy
 Past Pres: Robert Krawetzki

Team Leaders:
 Worship: Sandy Thompson
 Endowment: John Miller



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 February 18, 2019 at St. John's.

Do you have the gift of prayer? Are you comfortable praying with and for others? What if FLAME members were out in the community offering prayers for others? Could you possibly step out of your comfort zone and go out into the community to pray? FLAME has a few suggestions for you.

Firelands Regional Medical Center is in need of spiritual care volunteers to visit newly admitted patients. As a volunteer, you would offer to contact the patient's clergy, offer information on spiritual services, the chapel location, and supportive literature. You will be asked to commit to one day a week and complete the Firelands Volunteer Process which includes an orientation and on-the-job training. Costs are paid for by the hospital. Interested or want more information? Please contact Ann McGookey, Firelands Hospital, Stephen Lippert, Zion-S or your FLAME representative for details.

Another suggestion came from Pr. Marshall, St. Peter, Norwalk. The Free Prayer Initiative is simple. You would simply go to your regular coffee shop or local McDonald's, even a hospital cafeteria. Place a sign that says "Free Prayer" on your table. What might happen? Someone in need might stop at your table to ask for a prayer. Someone who is hurting might just need to talk for a bit. Either way you will be representing the love of our Lord and Savior. Getting out of our churches and into the community might be out of your comfort zone, but are you willing to take a chance to help others? You choose the site. You choose the hours. What could happen if we went outside the walls of our church? The FLAME Board would love to hear your story.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FLAME CHURCH NEWS:

Saturday, March 3rd : Grace, Castalia: Grace Fellowship Hall, Project Share Spaghetti Dinner, Carry-out and delivery available.

Sunday, March 3rd : St Peter, Norwalk, Christian Day Nursery School, Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction, \$8

Tuesday, March 5th: Sandusky High School. 4-6pm, Spaghetti Dinner /Ability Works Talent Show (6pm). Come hear the JOY Time Singers!

Wednesday, March 6th: Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 14th: Zion, Huron, Lifetree Café 7-8pm. Lifetree Café is a place to gather for conversation about life and faith.

Thursday, March 14th : JOY Time is cancelled due to March 5th Talent Show.

Monday, March 18th : St. John's, 7pm. FLAME Board meeting.

Thursday, March 28th: Zion, Huron, Lifetree Café 7-8pm. Lifetree Café is a place to gather for conversation about life and faith.

Thursday, April 11th: St. Paul, JOY Time, 6-7:30pm, a night of Christian Fellowship for adults with developmental disabilities.

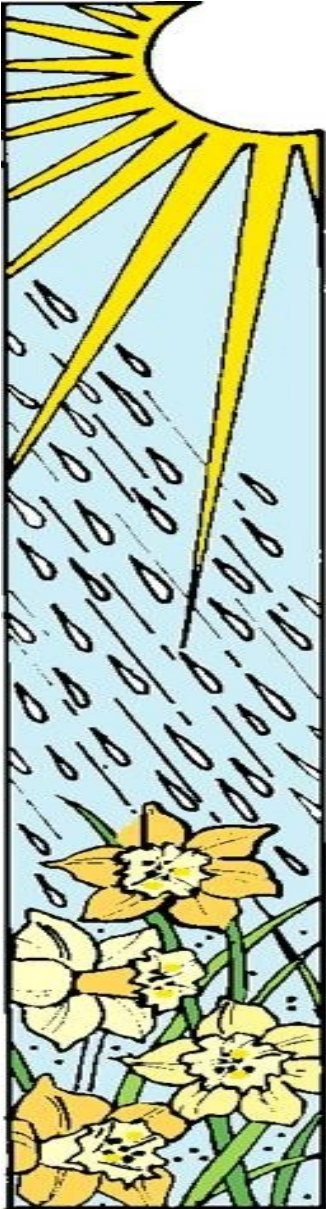
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

Beginning in **May** we will be raising money for the St. John's Scholarship Fund. The fund benefits college, Seminary students and anyone who is doing continuing education or training beyond high school that is a member of this congregation. We need your financial help to ensure that these scholarships will continue to be available. Please give prayerful thought to help with this special ministry at St. John's this May.



A FAMILY OF
DISCIPLES,
FAITHFULLY MAKING

March 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ushers: 3-Chuck, Joshua Thompson	Ushers:				1	2
3 Flowers: 4 Kathy Strayer memory of Bob		5 Book Dis- cussion 9:30 am Church Council 7:00 pm	6 Ash Wed. 7 6:00-Soup supper 6:45 pm- Worship 7:30-Choir		8	9
10 Flowers Kathleen Rudiger	11 Quilting Session 9:00 am Read the Bible Study 5:45 pm at Berardi's Sandusky	12 2nd Tuesdays Small Groups Meet from 5:30-7 pm	13 6:00-Soup supper 6:45 - Worship 7:30-Choir	14 Corinthi- ans Bible Study-10 am	15	16
Fellowship Becky Seibert Global Missions				Crossroads 3:30-6:00 6:30 pm Faith Life		
17Flowers: 18		19 Worship Team-6 pm	20 6:00-Soup supper, 6:45- Worship Choir	21	22	23
24Flowers: 25	9:00 am Quilting Session	26	27 6:00-Soup supper, 6:45- Worship Choir 7:30 pm	28 Corinthians Bible Study- 10 am	29	30
31 Flowers						



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH
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SANDUSKY, OHIO 44870

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WEBSITE:
WWW.STJOHNLCSANDUSKY.
COM



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

A Family of Disciples,
 Faithfully Making
 Christ Known

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

March 3rd

Communion Glasses

March 6th—Ash Wednesday
Wednesdays in March

Lenten Soup Suppers setup each week

March 10th

Fellowship

March 17th

Communion Glasses

Altar Flowers


Mar. 3— Kathy Strayer memory of
 Bob
 10— Kathleen Rudiger
 17—
 24—
 31—

Ushers

March 3—Chuck/Joshua Thompson
 10—
 17—
 24—
 31—

Spring Forward!

Remember to turn your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 10th. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March.



Worship Leaders

Lay Readers

March 3—Jim Semon, Sr.
 10—Linda Miller-Moore
 17—Jason Steckel
 24—
 31—Paula Hoffman

Communion Assistants

Mar. 3—Cassidy Lane
 17— Paula Hoffman

Youth Acolyte

Mar. 3—Megan Thompson
 10—Dawson Dillinder
 17—
 24—
 31—

Youth Psalm Reader

3—Tavi Dillinder

