



When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:10-11)

Our homes are special places where we meet Christ in our family, our friends, our neighbors. They are places where share faith for the first time, have important conversations, where we grow as disciples together. Each year on Epiphany (January 6th), we have the opportunity to bless our homes. The service for this is taken from the ELCA's Sundays and Seasons and is printed below. I encourage you to do this service as a family, and to join us on January 5th as we bless our church home together during our 10:30 worship service.

Greeting

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.
By wisdom a house is built
and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled
with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

Reading

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

*Article continued, pg. 2

Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, February 9th. All confirmed members of St. John's are asked to attend. We will discuss important ministries for 2020.

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
NW Ohio NE Ohio Candidacy Meeting	2
Upcoming Events	3
Team Spotlight	4
Council Minutes	5

Special points of interest:

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
The Word was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through the Word,
and without him not one thing came into being,
and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace. (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

Inscription

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20✠ C M B✠ 20

Write the appropriate character while speaking the text:

The magi of old, known as
C Caspar,
M Melchior, and
B Balthasar,
followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us
20 two thousand
20 and twenty years ago.

✠ Christ, bless this house,

✠ and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of Blessing

O God, you revealed your Beloved to all people
by the shining light of a star.
We pray that you bless this home and all who live here
with your gracious presence.
May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide,
your truth our light, and your peace our benediction;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Walking with you in Christ,
Pastor Stacy



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:

Caitlin Berg - friend of Samantha Lane

Aileen Wilson - prayers for comfort and healing.

Donna Morrissey - Healing prayers - friend of the Voights

Larry Schlessman - Continued prayers for comfort and healing. Prayers also for Dawn for strength and rest.

Mike Van Slambrouck - Lisa Wilson's brother-in-law undergoing heart surgery.

Congregational Council requests St. John's congregation prayerfully prepare our hearts each day of December for the coming of Christ.

Pray for the Homebound

Thank you for your faithfulness to our homebound members.

June Gorga: Providence Care Centers, 2025 Hayes Ave. Sandusky, OH 44870 (Mother of Nancy Osbun)

Rachel Kaliszewski: Gaymont Nursing Home, 66 Norwood Ave. Norwalk, OH 44857 (Renee Barkhimer's mother)

Ruth Knpke: At home

Jean Nottke: At home

Joan Zorn: The Meadows of Osborn Park, 3916 Perkins Ave. Huron, OH 44839

Beverly Hohman: Memory Care at Admiral's Pointe, 1920 Cleveland Rd W. Huron, Oh 44839

Norma Zorn: At home

Janet Meinert: At home

We continue to have inter-generational Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month at 9 AM. In January, we will look at Epiphany and our homes. In February, we will focus on hunger. Please join us.

Attention St. John's Family: The northwestern Ohio and northeastern Ohio's candidacy teams meet with people who are in seminary to interview them and discuss their potential toward becoming rostered ministers. Thanks to our centralized location, the candidacy teams will be meeting at St. John's on **Wednesday, January 8 from 1-4**. Due to the sensitivity of the conversations and the need for confidentiality, we ask that everyone refrain from being near the upper room during this time.

Thank you for understanding and for providing a welcoming place for the synods to meet! Pastor Stacy

New Beginnings

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope." Psalm 130:5

New year, new beginnings.

But once a year?

I hope in God's word —

creating word

living word

life giving word.

Every day, every moment,

from God's creative breath —

potential for new surprises, opportunities,

new insights, new ventures.

Holy Spirit, open my eyes,

heart and mind

to what God sets before me.

Find surprise, the new,

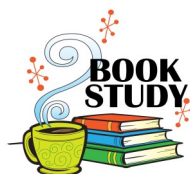
in small things,

on surface not much.

Rejoice in the newness of every day.

In Christ, 365 days

of new beginnings.



BOOK STUDY

We meet on Wednesday, January 15th at 10 am at Vine and Olive. We are reading "Holy Envy." Please read chapters 6 & 7 for our upcoming discussion.

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!!!!!!

January Birthday

Jan. 2 — Vicki Johnson,
Helen Williams
3 — Doreen Ross,
5 — Jean Nottke,
9 — Scott Riley
Pastor Stacy
11 — Jacob Deehr
17 — Sandy Thompson
21 — Amelia Bliss
22 — Preston Luman
23 — Brittany Semon

24 — William Lucht
25 — Don Johnson
26 — Mia Scovanner
29 — Nancy Osbun



Please send reports in a Word doc by e-mailed to sandy8110@gmail.com by January 12th. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Small Group Study

The "youngish" families are still gathering for second Tuesdays! You are invited to Chet and Matt's on January 14th at 5:30 for dinner. Kids get to bring a less than \$5 gift to exchange. Parents are invited to bring a white elephant gift (something you found around the house). Buffet is \$12 for adults (kids are much cheaper) and we have the banquet room reserved.

Second Tuesday Small Group #2 next meeting will be held on January 14th meeting place to be determined.

Calling All Women!

You are invited to a Bible Study on the third Tuesday of the month at noon at Vine and Olive. We will be doing the Bible Study in the Gather magazine published by the ELCA. A one-year subscription is \$20. Please see Pastor Stacy to sign up. We begin on the third Tuesday of February.

Thank you to the carolers who sang and visited. I greatly appreciated singing along and our visit. **Ruth Knupke**



Pastor Stacy
Will Be Away

Pastor Stacy will be away for continuing education and vacation beginning January 21st through February 7th 2020.

Altar Flowers

January Flower Donors

5 — Ruggles family memory of
Charles S Ruggles III's birthday
12 —
19 —
26 —



St. John's Team Spotlight

Faith Life



Paula Hoffman, team leader, Dawn Schlessman, Jerrie Krawetzki, Sue Lucht, and Sue Bottorf. Missing from picture: Jolene Dillender and Tara Tommas

Our team organizes social activities for all ages. WE strive to create opportunities for our church family to spend time together, enjoying each other, laughing together, sharing meals and companionship. New ideas for events are welcome always. We are also dedicated to finding ways to serve our fellow man. From small projects to very involved, we strive to include as many of our church family as we can in these projects and new opportunities are always welcome. The team meets monthly, but meeting attendance is not required for activity participation. If you would be interested in participating at any time contact Paula Hoffman or any team member. We look forward to sharing our activities.

Winter hit early this year. If there is a level two or three snow emergency for Erie county, worship is cancelled. If you are unsure of a cancellation, please check our website or Facebook.



We have a new seminary student!

SEMINARIANS

St. John's Seminarian for 2020: Morgan Walker will be the newest seminary student we get to journey with as she follows God's call to become a pastor. More details will be coming soon, but she is from Vermillion.

We also continue to pray for Pastor Dan Gutman (recently ordained), and Barry Halter and Kriss Buss (both on internship).

Correspondence from our seminarians:

Thank you so much! This is so sweet and much appreciated! And thank you so much for the Christmas card. I hope your community is having a wonderful Advent! **Kriss Buss**

Thank you from **Barry Halter**.

From Seminarian **Morgan Walker**: Thank you so much for the gift card! I am in the midst of finals week at the moment, so prayers for my first round of finals would be much appreciated.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-President, Kevin Young called the meeting to order. Pastor Stacy led us in prayer and we all shared three things from the past holidays that we were thankful for.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Young, Peg Kingsley, Pastor Stacy, Ron Zorn, Jeff Justi, Barry Laird, Bob Krawetzki

EXCUSED: Ann Voight, Colleen Shupe, Paula Hoffman, Jerrie Krawetzki

MINUTES: Ron Zorn moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we accept the November minutes as written. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of October 31, 2019:

Item	Annual Budget	YTD Actual	Last Year YTD Actual	Month Only
Offerings (Ordinary Income)	158884	114258.6	107529.2	9237.51
Expenses				
Pastor	75624	67978.53	60999.39	7542.41
Parsonage Expenses	6995	4212.87	5668.33	164.45
Taxes \ Insurance	10815	9281.71	9083.11	95.48
Office Expenses	18890	15369.15	14857.83	1340
Church Expenses	30380	27867.18	30894.68	1884
Benevolence \ Other	16180	12447	12952.89	1195
Total Expenses	158884	137156.4	134456.2	12221.34
Net Ordinary Income	0	-22897.9	-26927.1	-2983.83

Bob Krawetzki moved we accept the treasurer's report as written and Peg Kingsley seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

PASTOR STACY'S REPORT: Written report submitted. Pastor Stacy shared that she has been involved with revamping the adult Sunday School. She will be teaching classes in the Deaconia program in Fremont for five weeks during Lent. She encourages anyone interested in the program to check with her for information. She also reminded us that she is always open to meeting with St. John's members for coffee.

FAITH/LIFE TEAM: Written report submitted by Sue Lucht. The Christmas Party has been rescheduled for December 15th following the children's program after church.

WORSHIP TEAM: Written report was submitted.

FINANCE TEAM: Ron Zorn went over the proposed 2020 budget. Ron will be taking over as treasurer in 2020 since Colleen Shupe is resigning at the end of the year.

PROPERTY TEAM: Jeff Justi reported that the elevator phone is now working. The phone company installed a new line which is currently above ground and will be buried when weather permits. Jeff reported that he talked with Allied Exterminating reminding them that we cancelled our contract with them last May.

FLAME: The FLAME Board has voted to discontinue. The programs already established through FLAME will continue to operate independently. The Finance Team is recommending that any existing money in the FLAME treasury either be donated to a charity, or if they choose to disperse the funds to each participating church, St. John's would like our money returned to us. We will then donate that money to a charity of our choice.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Congregational meeting reports due not later than January 12, 2020. Send them to Sandy Thompson.

Council Prayer: Council requests St. John's congregation prayerfully prepare our hearts each day of December for the coming of Christ. Pastor Stacy shared that the word "Xmas" actually has a religious connection. The first letter of the Greek word for Christ is "X".

Team Leading Month: November 3rd was the Endowment Team's presentation and they did a great job. December is Faith/Life.

Constitution: Kevin reported that he has been working on reformatting the Constitution so that we eliminate most of the By-Laws and incorporate them into the Constitution. There is more to be done on small changes and he will have a further update at the next Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

FLAME Funds Disbursement: As recommended by the Finance Team, if the FLAME funds are not donated to a charity, St. John's would like to have our amount given back to us and we will then donate that money to a charity of our choice. Ron Zorn moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we accept the recommendation. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

2020 Budget: Jeff Justi moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we accept the 2020 Budget as proposed by the Finance Team. Motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Nomination Committee: Kevin Young recommended Jenna Stacy and Heather Ruggles to be members of the Nomination Committee for 2020 elections. Peg Kingsley moved and Jeff Justi seconded that we approve the recommendation. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2020 proposed new Council members will be invited to the February Council meeting. Barry Laird announced that he will be stepping down from his position of member-at-large for 2020 because of new family care needs.

REMINDERS: Save the Date: Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 9, 2020 immediately after worship and followed by a potluck in the Fellowship Hall.

Next Council meeting will be January 7, 2020, 7 PM in the Upper Room.

ADJOURNMENT: Jeff Justi moved and Bob Krawetzki seconded that we adjourn the meeting, which was followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Post Meeting Comment: Ron Zorn mentioned that in addition to the gift we are giving to the Layne family as a remembrance for Shirley Layne, we might consider an additional monetary gift. The group felt positively toward this suggestion and decided to discuss it at the next Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Peg Kingsley

A FAMILY OF
DISCIPLES,
FAITHFULLY MAKING
CHRIST KNOWN

January 2020

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Welcome,
2020!

1

2

3

4

5
Flowers:
Ruggles
family

6

7
Council
Meeting
7:00 pm

8
Candidacy
Team:
1-4 pm

Choir
Practice –
6:30 pm

9 Faith Life 10
6:30 pm
Upper Rm

Joy Time at
St. Paul
6 pm

11

12
Flowers:

13
Quilting
Session
9:00 am-
Read
through the
Bible-5:45
at Berardi's
Sandusky

14 Second
Tuesday
Small
Groups 5:30
pm
Young fami-
lies to Chet
& Matts

15 Book
Study 10 am
at Vine &
Olive
Worship
Team-5:30
Choir
Practice
6:30 pm

16
Endow-
ment Team
8:30 am
Upper Rm

17

18

19 Flowers:



21
Pastor
Stacy be-
gins contin-
uing educa-
tion/vaca
1/21-2/7

23
Choir
Practice
6:30 pm

23

24

25

26
Flowers:

27
Quilting
Session
9:00 am

28

29
Choir
Practice
6:30 pm

30

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
Sandy & Chuck Thompson

January 5th & 19th
Fellowship—Jan. 5th
Communion Glasses

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

**Help needed for the first
quarter team. Please see
Allison Young if you are
able to help out on the team.**



Quarterly Ministry Team

Catechism

January 12th is the Baptism of our Lord.
On this day, Tavilyn Dillender will receive
a Bible 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 Pas-
tor Stacy is scheduled to teach the older
youth, we 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 is a
Bible in the upper room. Please underline
your favorite verse or leave a note in the
Bible for Tavi so she knows that God's
word is alive and full of love for her when
she receives her Bible. Thank you for be-
ing an important part of her life and help-
ing her grow into her baptismal prom-
ise. **Pastor Stacy**

Ministry Opportunities!

USHERS

Jan.—

LAY READERS

Jan. 5—
12—
19—
26—

COMMUNION ASSIST.

Jan. 5—
Jan. 19—

New Ministry Lists Posted

New Flower Chart Posted!

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

