

Cross Connection  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
September 2021

REMEMBER  
9-11

**A Joy Circle Open Invitation to the  
*Ladies of St. John's ~***

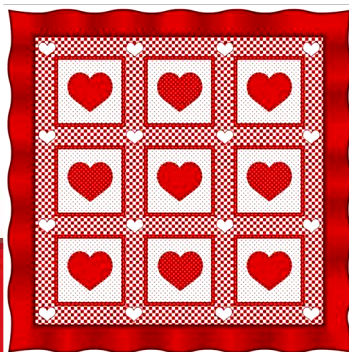
Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship and bible study. Joy Circle meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 1 pm, in the parlor. All are welcome to come see what we are all about. Mark your fall calendars for September 21 at 1 pm. See you there!



9:30am  
September 5  
Sunday School



**FALL BIBLE STUDY  
THURSDAYS STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 16  
6:30 PM  
CHURCH PARLOR  
"GOSPEL OF JOHN"**



**"Blessing of the Quilts"  
Worship Services  
September 25 & 26**

# vietsam Wall

## and Field of Crosses

September 15 -19, 2021



### Schedule

#### Sunday, September 12, 2021

1:00 pm Set up flags and crosses

4:00 pm Lighting of Eternal Flame-Family of Lee Stephens, KIA Persian Gulf War

#### Wednesday, September 15, 2021

5:30 pm Motorcycle escort starting at Wapakoneta VFW, Co. Rd. 25A

#### Thursday, September 16, 2021

5:30 pm Opening Ceremony

Special Speaker - Capt. Guy Gruter - POW

7:00 pm Sidney Civic Band - Phil Chilcote

8:00 pm Prayer-Phil Chilcote and Taps-Sidney Civic Band

#### Friday, September 17, 2021

10:00 am Col. David Taylor (Someone to sing)

11:00 am Guest Speaker Kathy Hayes

11:30 am Explore - Veterans in the Crosses

7:00 pm Outrider Concert

#### Saturday, September 18, 2021

10:00 am Tawawa Gates Open for Cruise-In registration

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Cruise In-Tawawa Park

1:00 pm Jim Hall Bench Dedication

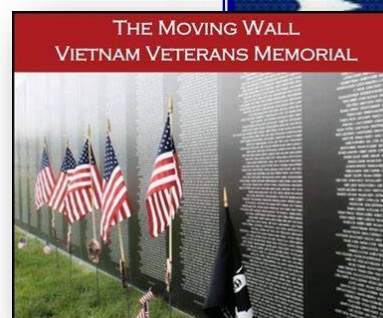
#### Sunday, September 19, 2021

2:00 pm Closing Ceremony

Guest Speaker-Jon Baker

Extinguish Eternal Flame - Family of Charles Huston

3:00 pm Wall and Field of Crosses Retired



Prayer given by  
Pastor Steve Edmiston  
Thursday, Sept. 16  
8 am  
Custenborder





Growing up, I had three calendars that I paid attention to. First, was the regular calendar, January through December, with my birthday in August always coming soon. Then, there was the school calendar marked with September through June and summer vacation. That was of critical importance to many of us. Then there was the church year, the liturgical calendar. I was enough of a church nerd that this was important to me.

The changing of colors around the church was always exciting. The different feel for the seasons of the church year, anticipation in Advent and joy at Christmas, wonder in Epiphany and sober reflection through Lent, the most incredible celebration in Easter and then the green and growing season after Pentecost. There were festival in the midst and I was always excited to see what was coming next.

It is September and the school year begins again. It is a little strange this year for me as I have only one child left in school, Anna, and she is spending her first semester in New York City. As the school year begins, we begin things here at St. John's. It has been a while for us what with pastoral transitions and COVID-19 but we kick-off some wondrous things.

On September 5 we have Rally Sunday where we will be looking to get children excited about Sunday School. On September 15, we start a first year class for Confirmation. It is exciting to begin these things! On September 16, at 6:30pm, we begin a 10 week Bible Study on the Gospel of John. There are lots of things beginning.

As this school year starts and our church year continues with our growing season, may your lives be blessed. If you haven't been back to worship yet, we can't wait to see you again. If you know people who could benefit from joining with us, invite them. May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord fill you all. Let us begin.

Pastor Steve



#### **BIBLE STUDY**

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, WE BEGIN A BIBLE STUDY ON THE **GOSPEL OF JOHN**. CLASS BEGINS IN THE PARLOR AT 6:30 IN THE EVENING. WE WILL STUDY AND LEARN

OF THE SIGNS OF JESUS, OF HIS "I AM" STATEMENTS, AND HIS GLORIOUS DEATH AND RESURRECTION. JOIN US FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY OUR NAME-  
SAKE, ST. JOHN, AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FAITH LIFE.

## Lori Holt

Brothers and Sisters,

Yes, it's September!! Can you believe it? Seems like just yesterday we were making our New Year's resolutions!!! Baseball season is coming to an end, football season begins and autumn also begins!! Not that autumn means hot weather ends, but one can always hope!!

Speaking of hope, these scripture verses speak of the greatest hope!

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

--Isaiah 40:31

For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

--Jeremiah 29:11

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from Him. Truly He is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

- --Psalm 62:5-6

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

--Psalm 130:5

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

--Romans 12:12

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

--Romans 15:13

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

--2 Corinthians 4:18

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

--Romans 15:4

May we all trust in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Happy Birthday, Stephanie!!

Love in Christ,

Lori Holt





## Luther's Purse

Dear St. John's Family:

It's been awhile since we've presented information about Luther's Purse and want to take this opportunity review the purpose of this program, committee members, and to ask for the congregation's help in identifying possible opportunities.

Luther's Purse has been in existence for 11 years beginning in 2010 and operates under guidelines established by the Memorial Committee for these funds. Our goal is to be the education and communication arm of the Memorial Committee and a benevolent arm of St. John's. We partner with the congregation to identify special or benevolent opportunities within our congregation or community where financial support can ease a burden or where we can support a Christian cause. It's important to our team to ensure that the congregation has an understanding of the mission and purpose of Luther's Purse: to offer real help in difficult situations. This may be as simple as a gas card for a family making numerous trips to a hospital for medical treatments or assistance toward a medical device to walk for a person seriously injured in an accident. We also provide specific but limited financial support as needed to Christian oriented organizations within the community who offer assistance to low income, homeless, and abused women and children, for example.

The current Luther's Purse members are: Bonnie Sturm (Chairwoman), Pam Wilson (Secretary), Abe Gibbs (Financial Reports); Kermit Dorsey, and Peggy Roeth. Pastor Steve serves on this committee as a mentor/advisor but does not vote with committee members on disbursement decisions. A report of Luther's Purse disbursements are provided to the congregation in the annual report. All personal information concerning any financial help remains confidential but is shared with the congregation in general terms.

There are many opportunities to offer help that allow others to see the love of Christ through the people of St. John's. Often, this kind of help is enough to give them courage and hope to persevere and what a joy for all of us to be a part of that kind of Christian love! Many people over the years have come to know how very generous the people of St. John's are in caring for our less fortunate neighbors.

When you hear about a need, we want to hear from you. While not all requests fall into the guidelines as established, many do, so please let us know of any you hear about and want us to consider. Thank you for your commitment to serving God's people.

Friends in Christ,  
Luther's Purse



## Quilting Circle

Once again this year, the ladies of St. John's Sewing Circle have spent many hours creating quilts. Their faithfulness was not hindered by the COVID epidemic. A "BLESSING OF THE QUILTS" to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief will take place during our worship services September 26. The beautiful and colorful quilts will be displayed throughout the church sanctuary when Pastor Steve will bless them for the recipients. Please join us for this special service to see how your donated fabrics, gently used sheets, yarn, and batting have been used to help change the lives of our neighbors in need.

\*\*\*\*\*TIED IN FAITH\*\*\*\*\*SENT IN HOPE\*\*\*\*\*WRAPPED IN LOVE\*\*\*\*\*

The ultimate purpose of a Quilt is to provide warmth, an essential need for people in every climate. In addition to being a cozy, clean new bed cover, it can be:

- \*A baby carrier tied around a mother's back
- \*A market display, spread on the ground and piled with vegetables
- \*A sack for transporting these goods to market
- \*A sunshade
- \*Protection against the wind, rain and leaky roofs
- \*To soothe a sleeping child
- \*A blanket on cold nights
- \*To grace the shoulders of a frail person who can never be too warm
- \*A shawl and most importantly
- \*A constant reminder that someone, far away, cares a lot.

These Quilts are more than the sum of their stitches. Prayers and hope went into the making of the Quilts and accompanied them as they made their way to recipients. Made by human hands and prayed over by human hearts, the Quilts affirm the value of the life of someone else and serve as a reminder of God's comforting and unconditional love.

### GOD PROVIDES...

That's what Lutheran World Relief Quilts are all about.

GOD PROVIDES simple fabrics, thread and needles.

GOD PROVIDES time together around the quilting tables.

GOD PROVIDES extraordinary gifts, wrapped in love.

A BIG THANK YOU to all involved who have stitched, donated time, fabric, yarn and batting as we continue our ministry at St. John's.

\*\*\*\*\*

A special invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to join this ministry. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month 9-11:30 a.m. in the church basement. Come participate and socialize as God provides time together around the quilting tables.

A recent Thrift Shop customer was checking out. As the conversation turned to the mission of the Thrift Shop, this woman said that she already knew about the Thrift Shop's mission. Some years ago, when she was having financial difficulties, the Thrift Shop paid her DP& L bill. She said that bit of help meant more to her than we could ever know. Her financial situation has since improved and even though she's moved away from Sidney, she supports the Thrift Shop when she's in town.



That same day, another woman returned to the Thrift Shop. She had asked for help with her DP& L bill a few days earlier. She needed to pay the bill the day before pay day and she was only asking for a temporary loan to cover the bill until she was paid. Her DP& L bill was paid by the Thrift Shop so power wouldn't be disconnected. When this woman received her paycheck, she returned to the Thrift Shop to repay the 'loan'. She was very grateful for the help and was surprised and thankful that someone would trust her.

In both cases, the Thrift Shop was able to help these women financially. But just as importantly, these women were made aware that no matter their situation, they are valued as God's children.

I want to thank everyone for their generous donations of food. Then we will be able to feed a lot people.

Mary Cooke, Director

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith: if it is serving, then serve; if it teaching, then teach; if it to encourage, then give encouragement; if it to giving, then give generously; if it is to lead do it diligently; if it to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Romans 126-8*

#### **St. John's Thrift Shop Hours**

Monday-Friday 10 am-4 pm  
937-492-0337

### **Worship Services at Dorothy Love**

In order to provide communion for St. John's members who live at Dorothy Love, a monthly worship service is scheduled. All residents are invited to attend, and members of St. John's are encouraged to come and accompany a family member or friend.

The service is scheduled with Pastor Steve Edmiston.

**Dorothy Love Retirement Community**

**Tuesday, September 21**

**10 a.m.**





# St. John's Church Council

August 9, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER:** President, Bill McCroskey

**OPENING DEVOTION:** Pastor Steve Edmiston

**AGENDA REVIEW:** No new additions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

## OLD BUSINESS

### Community Meals

Darin Davis communicated that he had met with the leaders of the community meals and there was hesitancy about starting them back up. Lack of numbers and COVID resurgence were concerns. Is there still a need? They discussed possibly starting back up on the same day as the annual coat giveaway. They could then use that as a means of communicating that we were starting the meals back up.

Discussion:

It was communicated that the Thrift Shop had different plans for this year's coat giveaway and it might be difficult to hold the community meal on that same day.

There is also a new dynamic in the Mercy Mission House that will be on the south side of town. They have reached out to St. John's in regards to working / serving meals one night a month at their facility. Pastor Steve was going to have Lynn Pitchford send contact information to Darin to inquire as to what and how this might work, It might be an option for replacing in-house community meals.

### Sunday School

Sharon Koester communicated that flyers will be going out in order to assist with getting an estimate of how many might attend to get an estimate on the amount of materials to order. Sunday school will start with Rally Sunday on September 5<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day weekend). Regular Sunday school will then start the following weekend (September 12<sup>th</sup>).

Will continue with Sunday School bags.

### Offering Plates

Pastor Steve communicated that usage of the offering plates was going well. Baskets have been put out for the communion cups instead of throwing them in a trash can.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A copy of the Secretary's report was distributed with the agenda.

Jeff Fannon denoted that in regards to the **Financial Secretary Replacement** we should change the word "volunteered" with "she replaced" Barb Covault.

\*Norb Mertz moved to approve as amended, Jeff Fannon seconded. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A copy of the Treasurer's report was distributed with the agenda.

July – Property repairs / leases – over budget – HVAC maintenance.

Benevolences – CORE (Council on Religious education) starting up again in September.

\*Jacob Cook moved to accept as submitted, Sharon Koester seconded. Motion passed.

## STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Steve: Report reviewed by Pastor Steve and enclosed hereto.

\*From Synod:

Synod is hosting a workshop on effect church councils. It is a collaborative 2 year program for congregations that are stalled and looking for next steps, etc. Grants are available. Register by 08/26/21. There will be a Zoom meeting on 08/30/21 from 7:00 – 8:45 PM.

\*Church will be hosting a one day Vacation Bible School on 08/15/21.

\*Will have a baptism on 08/22/21.

## Church Council (continues)

\* Will be out of office for vacation on 08/15/21. Pastor Cheryl Siegenthaler has agreed to be with us both Saturday and Sunday (08/14 and 08/15/21).

\* Will be out on 10/16/21 due to son Noah's wedding. Jeff Blust will cover.

\* 08/30/21 – One day trip to New York City. Moving his daughter, Hannah to college.

\* Starting a new Bible Study.

\* Will have 3 attendees in catechism.

\* Trying to restart visits with shut-ins.

Volunteer Coordinator Report: Report submitted hereto.

\* Crayon boards for kids during services. Would like to restart.

Motion made to restart by Pastor Steve. Seconded by Grant Covault.

Thrift Shop Report: Mary's report presented by Linda Fogt and enclosed hereto.

\* Brisk business.

\* Good food donations.

\* Bob Vogler did some caulking – no water since. Stairwell still needs looked at.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education & Youth:

\* Discussed restart of Sunday School and Rally Sunday.

Evangelism:

\* Welcome Bags – All paper work that goes in them has been redone. Asking council to add personal notes.

Starting up Cards for Christ again. \* Have designed place mats for the community meals if we restart them.

Finance:

\* No report.

Music & Worship:

\* No report. Hoping for Jr. Bell Choir.

Parish Life:

\* No report. Still looking into a golf scramble.

Property:

\* No report. Still reviewing past contracts.

Stewardship:

\* Trying to set up some temple talks.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**DEVOTIONS:** Bill McCroskey

### INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for communion assistants and devotions.

Community Meal: Still evaluating.

Newsletter deadline: August 24th

Next Council Meeting: September 14th, 7pm. Committee meetings during 6-7pm hour.

### ATTENDANCE:

Jacob Cook, Grant Covault, Darin Davis, Pastor Steve Edmiston, Joyce Fishbaugh, Linda Fogt, Phil Kocher, Myron Koester, Sharon Koester, Bill McCroskey, Deb Mertz, Norb Mertz, Reece Pitchford, Jeff Fannon. Excused: Tina Ike, Phil Kocher, and Katy Leonard.

### Joy Circle

Meeting: Sept. 21

Sewing Circle 9 am

Wednesday, Sept. 22



### Altar Guild

Kathie Fields

Darlene Hall

Pat Mullen



## Cards from Christ

Do you feel special when someone takes the time and effort to send you a greeting card? Now is your chance to make others feel special and to pass on God's love.

St. John's will once again be collecting Christmas cards for the 'Cards from Christ' effort. "Cards from Christ" is Ohio's Christmas Cards for Inmates ministry. Its goal is to provide a Christmas card to all incarcerated men and women in the Ohio prison system. In 2020, this ministry delivered Christmas cards to 60 different facilities. We would like to again help them reach their 2021 goal of 50,000 cards. The numbers of facilities and cards associated with this ministry are amazing. But when you consider that these numbers represent the numerous times that one person is telling another person that they are special in God's eyes, it's even more amazing.

### We will be collecting cards between now and December 1 in drop off boxes in the sanctuary entrance.

You are encouraged to sign the cards with your first name only or 'Your Friend' or 'Your Brother/Sister in Christ'. And you are welcome to include encouraging messages. Please remember that not all recipients will be Christian but all will respond to kindness. Most importantly ... please pray that each card goes to the one who needs it the most, even if that person feels they need it the least.

Since these cards are going into the prison system, there are some rules ... no envelopes (just cards), no trifold, no pockets, no pop ups, no glitter, no loose pictures or messages, no trinkets or gifts, no full names (just first name, please), no addresses and no phone numbers.

If possible, please rubber band your cards or place them all into a larger envelope with a count. There will be a collection box for signed cards and a second box for unsigned cards. It's fine if you would like to donate cards but prefer not to sign them. We'll see that they are signed before being sent.

Over the past several years, the members of St. John's have generously supported this ministry. And with your help, we hope to do the same again this year. So please consider joining this effort to tell others that they are special in God's eyes.

**A special thank you** to all those that helped with vacation bible school on Aug.

**11. The volunteers are:**

Joyce Fishbaugh

Karen Adkins

Brenda and Bill McCroskey

Linda Fogt

Ann Hubler

Shirley Sparks

Stacy and Pastor Edmiston

Kathy Iwanski

Gabrielle Wilson

Myron Koester

Lynn Pitchford

Deb and Norb Mertz

Bob and Kathy Vogler

**Thank you for your mission support. We appreciate your partnership.**

**SOS Stewardship Team  
(Southern Ohio Synod)**

### Mercy Mission House Volunteering

If you are interested in volunteering, once a month, to **drive those in need to and from the Mercy Mission House for lunch or supper**, please contact the church office. The vehicle used is similar to our church van. There are two pick up/drop off places in town. They are putting together a schedule when volunteers have signed up.

The Mercy Mission House will be opening in October. It is a great way to serve the community and make new friends.



**ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

120 W. WATER STREET  
SIDNEY, OHIO  
45365

PHONE: 937-492-8047  
FAX: 937-492-2462  
HTTP://WWW.SIDNEYSTJOHNS.COM

**ST. JOHN'S  
THRIFT SHOP**  
319 SOUTH OHIO AVE.  
SIDNEY, OH 45365  
PHONE: 937-492-0337

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**

SATURDAY, 6:00 P.M.  
SUNDAY, 8:30 & 10:30 AM  
  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30

*"Go therefore and make disciples  
of all nations, baptizing them in  
the name of the Father and of the  
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and  
teaching them to obey everything  
that I have commanded you. And  
remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age."*

**Matthew 28:19-20**

**Please pray for our Homebound Members and mail them a card to:**

Doris Conrad, 2360 Wapak Ave. #106, Sidney, Oh 45365  
Helen Dill, 15100 Birchaven Lane, Apt. 116, Findlay, Ohio 45840  
Mildred Hughes, 2016 Fair Oaks Dr., Sidney, Oh 45365  
Erika Montgomery, 2333 Apache Dr., Sidney, Oh 45365  
Rhonda Vance, 1302 Spruce St., Sidney, Oh 45365  
Karl & Jean Reinhardt, 2515 Apple Ridge Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

**Dorothy Love, 3003 W. Cisco Road, Sidney, Oh 45365**

*Residents:*

Norma Durnell-W15, Gail Shively-A01,  
Marilyn Brulport-E14, and Christine Weber-A03

*Dorothy Love Apartments:*

Fran Brockman, 2500 N. Kuther Rd., Apt. 224  
Wayne Brockman, 2500 N. Kuther Rd., Apt. 317  
Ruth Weimer, 2500 N. Kuther Rd., Apt. 223

*Dorothy Love Homes:*

Jerry Gibbs, 701 Bennett Circle & Shirley Gibbs-E09  
Jeanne Mears, 408 Holmes Place

**Fair Haven, 2901 Fair Rd., Sidney, Oh**

Residents: Teresa Fultz

**Masonic Home, 421 Hillman, 2655 W. National Rd., Springfield, OH 45504**

Resident: Patricia Ann Fogt

**Landings of Sidney, 1150 Russell Road, Sidney, Oh 45365**

Resident: Vivian McDermitt, Room 603

**Piqua Manor, 1840 W. High St., Piqua, Oh 45356**

Resident: Paul Shreffler



*God's Vision,  
Our Mission*

*At St. John's, we are given the opportunity to worship  
God, study His Word, and serve Him in many capaci-  
ties, while at the same time enjoying Christian fellow-  
ship. Please consider ways that you can get involved!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>September</div></div></div>						
5 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult Sunday school, 9:30 am WFC, 9:30 am	6 Labor Day, Office Closed AA, 12 pm	7 PB&J, 5:30 pm	8 AA, 12 pm	9	10 Office Closes, 1 pm AA, 12 pm	11 Worship, 6 pm,
12 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult Sunday school, 9:30 am WFC, 9:30 am	13 Staff Meeting, 9am AA, 12 pm Committee Mtg, 6 pm Church Council, 7 pm	14 PB&J, 5:30 pm	15 AA, 12 pm Catechism, 6:30 pm	16 Vietnam Wall Word of Prayer, 8 am Bible Study, 6:30 pm	17 Office Closes, 1 pm AA, 12 pm	18 Worship, 6 pm
19 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult Sunday school, 9:30 am WFC, 9:30 am	20 Staff Meeting, 9am AA, 12 pm	21 Dorothy Love, 10 am JOY Circle, 1 pm	22 Quilting Circle, 9 am AA, 12 pm Catechism, 6:30 pm	23 Bible Study, 6:30 pm	24 Office Closes, 1 pm AA, 12 pm	25 Worship, 6 pm
26 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult Sunday school, 9:30 am “Blessing of the Quilts”	27 Staff Meeting, 9am AA, 12 pm	28 PB&J, 5:30 pm	29 AA, 12 pm Catechism, 6:30 pm	30 Bible Study, 6:30 pm	