

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

## Welcome Friends!

New Member Installation, Oct. 1, 2023

*Dawn Bair*

*Michelle Cavinder*

*Walter Cramer*

*Rev. Charla Grieves*

*Phil, Erin, Preston, Carleigh,  
McKinley, Morgan, & Kennedy Groves*

*Gary Reed*

**Sunday, November 19**

*You're Invited:*

**One Thanksgiving**

**Worship Service/Child Sunday**

**School: 9:30 am**

**Annual Meeting: 10:30 am**

**Pancake Breakfast: Following the meeting**

**Thanksgiving Meal**

**Donation**

Details on page 7



**I will give thanks  
to you, Lord,  
with all my heart.**

**Psalms 9:1 (NIV)**



## Thanks Be To God

It's November. Now, part of me wants to ask what happened to August, as the year just seems to be flying by. Another part of me can't wait, because Daylight Savings Time ends and I get my hour of sleep back. The truth is, it's November and November is coming just like it's supposed to after October and right before December and it is a pretty remarkable month.

Yes, first of all we get the hour of sleep back but November is also the month when we celebrate. We celebrate the Saints. We celebrate the Saints around us, our sisters and brothers, all the baptized. We also celebrate the Saints who have gone before us. These are the Saints we yearn for and miss. These are the Saints we mourn and grieve. These are the Saints we celebrate as we remember the lives they shared, the stories we remember, the joy they brought with them and left behind. November is remarkable because we celebrate.

November is also remarkable because we give thanks. That is really the big thing about November here in the U.S. We have Thanksgiving. We are encouraged to give thanks. As Christians, we give thanks every time we come to the altar for Holy Communion but this time everyone is encouraged to pause and ponder the things for which we are grateful. We sit around tables surrounded by family, or we sit alone. We sit around table laden with food or search high and low for anything to eat. We struggle with addictions, with lack of warm clothes, with needed employment, with many things. And yet – we are called upon to give thanks to God. It's not for the addiction or hunger; it's not for even the food and family, although they are worth our gratitude. For me, Thanksgiving is about our gratitude for God's presence with us in the love of Jesus. We can feel it in so many ways but we are encouraged to give thanks for it.

Finally, November also gives us an opportunity to look forward. As a congregation we will meet in an Annual Meeting and elect new council members and approve a budget that will guide us in ministry next year. Meetings can be a hard thing to get excited about but walking together into the future, into God's future, is worth getting excited about. Also, that Sunday (November 19) we get pancakes. I don't know about you but pancakes always make me happy.

November is remarkable and it is my prayer that you will spend your November with us here at St. John's as we celebrate, give thanks, and look to the future together.

Pastor Steve



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Yes, it's November!!! Can you believe it? The World Series is over. Football season is going strong!!

November 5, DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!!

AND more importantly, November 5 is All-Saints' Sunday, as we remember our loved ones who have gone to the Church Triumphant. Please join us in worship.

If you don't vote early, PLEASE remember to vote Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 am - 7:30 pm!!

November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day, a tribute to military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Thank you.

This year our Thanksgiving worship service is Sunday, November 19. We will be having one blended worship service at 9:30 due to our annual meeting after worship. This will be followed by a pancake breakfast!! How cool is that!! Pancakes, mmmmm!! Again, please join us for this wonderful day!!

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23. As Christians, we should be giving thanks always, not just on Thanksgiving. But you all know that. Have a great day with family and friends, remembering our blessings from God, eating delicious food and watching football. OK, we can give thanks for football, too!! But, seriously, have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Lord, Thank you for all the blessings You have given us. You've given us more than we can imagine. You have blessed us with wonderful family and friends. Please make us a blessing to them, too. In Your Name, Amen.

Love in Christ,

Lori



**Coffee Time!**

Every *first Sunday of the month*, 9:30 am, we will be having a fellowship gathering in our church "Christ and Coffee" bar for coffee, donuts, and fun! Next gathering time: **November 5.**





Thrift Shop customers come from all walks of life and many different locations. There are those who work in the service industry, such as restaurants. Others are retired, work in offices or spend their days on the factory floor. We also have customers who visit from other parts of Ohio, from other states, and sometimes even from other countries.

One woman who shops with us from time to time is originally from France. She moved to the U.S. for personal reasons and occasionally makes the Thrift Shop part of her shopping routine. Another woman who has spent time at the Thrift Shop is from the continent of Africa. A job brought her to the Sidney area and gifts for her family brought her to the Thrift Shop. Much of what she purchases is sent home to Africa.

One of the blessings of the Thrift Shop is the opportunity to talk with customers and hear their stories. A family came into the shop not long ago. They are Christian missionaries in the central American country of Costa Rica. They were in town visiting family and stopped at the shop while they were in Sidney. They talked about their home country and how places like the Thrift Shop don't exist there. They also talked about the Costa Rican currency, and showed the colorful notes. They left behind a *1000 clones note* which was worth a little less than \$2!

We are reminded at the Thrift Shop that no matter who we are or where we come from, we are all God's children. And it brings to mind the children's song,

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"...

*Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red and yellow, black and white  
They are precious in His sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

The Thrift Shop's annual coat give-away is scheduled for Saturday November 4th. It will be held at the Thrift Shop this year so we won't need to haul coats across the parking lot to the church basement. If you can help with set up on Friday November 3rd or help with the coat give-away on Saturday the 4th, please contact Mary at 937-492-0337.

September Thrift Shop Statistics

Clients: 13

12 Assistance: \$249.00

1 In-kind Assistance: \$2.75

Mary Cooke, Director



Ps33 Music presents  
*Emmanuel*  
The Promise Revealed

Community Worship Gathering  
with the  
Ps33 Community Worship Choir

Sunday, November 12, 2023  
3:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Church  
500 N. Downing St.  
Piqua, Ohio 45356

Go to [ps33music.com](http://ps33music.com) for information about joining the Ps33 Music Community Worship Choir.

Or contact Glenda Nelson:  
[glenda.ps33music@gmail.com](mailto:glenda.ps33music@gmail.com) / (937) 265-0141

Choir rehearsals take place on Sundays,  
2:30-4:30 pm, beginning October 1, 2023  
at St. Paul's Church



# St. John's Church Council Meeting Minutes

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 9, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President, Kaleb Headings

**OPENING DEVOTION:** Pastor Steve Edmiston

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Addition: New business: Budget review. Old business: Annual Congregational meeting. \*Tina Ike moved to approve as amended, Becky Mann seconded. Motion passed.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### **Budget Review**

Per Thomas 2024 budget was provided last month and no changes have been suggested. Thomas will educate the new council members in 2024 so they understand that funds are available to be reallocated if a project needs funded that is not covered. \*Pastor Steve moved to approve 2024 budget proposal to be taken to congregation for a vote, Margy Headings seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>. \*Wes Cavinder moved to have one service at 9:30 with annual meeting following and a pancake breakfast gathering held afterward, Pr. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Wellman construction update**

Progressing well, first installment has been paid.

#### **Annual Report prep**

Reminder for committees to prep statement of 2023 activity to be included in January annual report.

#### **Thanksgiving Meal prep**

Per Linda, she provided an outline for this activity to assist future committee members. Details will be published as needed in the bulletin.

#### **Council replacements**

Goal to provide list of people at the next council meeting.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** A copy of the Secretary's report was distributed with the agenda. \*Deb Mertz moved to accept the report as submitted, Linda Fogt seconded. Motion passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** A copy of the Treasurer's report was distributed with the agenda. \*Linda Fogt moved to accept the report as submitted, Norb Mertz seconded. Motion passed.

Additional notes from Thomas: Revenue up in the last month, staff is under budget for expenses, can cover next payment to Wellman prior to needing to borrow from Memorial Committee, investment portfolio is strong, exec committee approved paying Mary at Thrift shop half rate for September per her vacation time.

### STAFF REPORTS

**Pastor Report:** Report reviewed by Pastor Steve. Points reviewed: funeral (1), new members welcomed (13), youth group 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at Vandemark Farms \*tickets provided by Ron & Nita's\*, Thurs Oct 19 will be the 90 minute Bible walkthrough. Council discussed Christmas services and agreed to Sunday Dec 24 being single service in morning at 9:30, with Christmas Eve services at 7pm (family) and 11pm (candelight), and Christmas Day service on Monday at 9:30.

**Volunteer Coordinator Report:** Report given by Kaleb on behalf of Lori Holt. Points reviewed: contact church for needed shut-in visits, call to join PB&J, Wired for Christ disbanding.

**Thrift Shop Report:** No report submitted. Per Linda, coat giveaway will be later in October, details to follow.

# St. John's Church Council Meeting Minutes Continues...

## Minutes: COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Ministry – Education & Youth:* Per Pr. Steve, youth going to Vandemark Farms.

*Ministry – Music & Worship:* Per Deb, 12 people are singing Reformation Sunday, possibly will have New Horizons out of Botkins singing on All Saints Sunday.

*Outreach – Evangelism:* Per Linda, Cards for Christ has 1300 so far - will drop off end of November, added note in bulletin to reach out to new attendees in church, Thanksgiving meal needs will be communicated in bulletin.

*Outreach – Parish Life:* Per Wes, Donut Sunday going well, working on congregational meeting breakfast details.

*Operations – Finance:* Per Thomas, budget is ready.

*Operations – Property:* Per Norb, reviewing needed work around building.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**DEVOTIONS:** Becky Mann

## INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for communion assistants and devotions.

Newsletter deadline: Tuesday, Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

Next Council Meeting: Monday November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. Exec mtg 6:30.

## ATTENDANCE:

Wes Cavinder, Pr. Steve Edmiston, Joyce Fishbaugh, Linda Fogt, Kaleb Headings, Margy Headings, Tina Ike, Becky Mann, Thomas Martin, Deb Mertz, Norb Mertz, Tatum Werntz, John Widney. Excused: Jacob Cook, Jen Maier.



## Cards from Christ

Fall is just around the corner, kids are back in school, the football season is in full swing and it's time to work on **Christmas Cards!**

St. John's will once again be collecting Christmas cards for the 2023 'Cards from Christ' project. 'Cards from Christ' is the Ohio Christmas Cards for Inmates ministry. Its goal is to provide a Christmas card to every incarcerated man and woman in the Ohio prison system.

We will be collecting cards between now and Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> in drop off boxes just inside the sanctuary. 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 ... **Store-bought cards only, no envelopes (just cards), no trifolds, no pockets, no pop ups, no glitter, no loose pictures or messages, no trinkets, keepsakes or gifts, no full names (just first name, please), no addresses, no phone numbers, no crayon, INK ONLY.**

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 about the wonderful God we serve.



## Thanksgiving Meal Donations

Donating and delivering Thanksgiving meals to our community is a great way St. John's can contribute. How to help:

**Please call the church if you know of a family with address & phone # in need of a meal.**

1. Green bags will be provided in the sanctuary starting Saturday and Sunday, November 4 & 5.
2. Please fill it with the shopping list below.
3. Drop off your filled bags at the church classroom by Wednesday, Nov. 15.

This food will provide a family of four with *all the fixings* for a nice meal for the holiday!

If you want to join in the delivery of the meals, please call the church office at 937-492-8047.

**Meal Donation Due Date: Wed, November 15,  
2:45 pm**



### SHOPPING LIST:

- 2 boxes of stuffing mix
- 1 box of instant mashed potatoes
- 2 cans or boxes of chicken or beef broth
- 2 cans meat (chicken or beef)
- 1 lg. bag of noodles
- 1 can or jar of gravy (or gravy mix envelopes)
- 2 cans vegetables
- 2 cans of fruit
- Pie filling & pie shell or graham cracker crust & pudding
- **OR** cake mix and can of icing
- 1 bottle of apple juice or jug of apple cider

**Please purchase un-refrigerated items!**

## St. John's Info!

Joy Circle  
Oct. 21  
Tuesday, 1 pm  
Parlor

Altar Guild  
Volunteers  
November  
Cindy Ohlsen  
Lisa Biegel

Youth Meeting  
6 pm Sunday, Nov. 19

Quilting Circle  
to meet  
Nov. 15, 9 am  
(Rescheduled)

Senior Group  
Thursday, Oct. 9

Dorothy Love  
Monthly Worship Service  
10 am, Nov. 21

Pastor Steve presiding.

Please stop by and join us for worship!

### Sunday, November 5

Daylight Savings  
time Ends  
"Fall Back"



St. John's,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,715 to New Choices. Your contribution will help ensure that our essential services, such as emergency shelter, 24 hour crisis hotline and court advocacy are available to victims of domestic violence in Shelby County.

Danielle Sweltzer  
Executive Director

### Area Youth Choir Coming to Worship November 5

Recently, I asked a friend if she knew the secret to Kristin Vaubel's success in drawing so many local youth--from all different faiths--to join a Christian choir. "It's simple," my friend replied. "Kristin just loves the Lord!"

You will witness first-hand a deep love of the Lord when Kristin and her youth choir join us in worship at St. John's on All Saints Sunday, November 5 at the 10:30 service only.

In addition to leading and singing with this Christian choir, Kristin teaches piano, guitar ukulele, and voice at her New Horizon Studio in Botkins.

It is so encouraging to see so many local youth commit to spreading the love of God through their singing!! And just wait until you hear them sing! They are on fire for Christ!

Not wanting any credit nor attention, Kristin will tell you, "I just love my kids! They inspire me in my own walk of faith!"

Please join us November 5th as we worship along side Kristin and her kids to praise God!

A free-will offering will be taken for the choir at both entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**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  
AM

*"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  
Erika Montgomery, 2333 Apache Dr., Sidney, Oh 45365  
Rhonda Vance, 1302 Spruce St., Sidney, Oh 45365  
Dick Wilson, 5577 Heathrow Dr., Powell, Oh 43065-7970

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

*Residents:*

Marilyn Brulport-E14, Wayne Brockman, E-20  
and Christine Weber-A03

**Dorothy Love Apartments: 2400 N. Kuther Rd., Sidney, Oh**

Margaret Ike, Apt. 213

Jeanne Mears, Apt. 301

Gary & Judy Paul, Apt. 324, Sidney, Oh 45365

**Dorothy Love Homes:**

Jerry Gibbs, 701 Bennett Circle, Sidney, Oh 45365

**Koester Pavilion**

Mildred Hughes, 3232 N. Co. Rd. 25-A, Room 35, Troy, Oh 45373

**Birchaven Village Home**

Helen Dill, 15100 Birchaven Lane, Birch 40, Findlay, Ohio 45840

**Fair Haven, 2901 Fair Rd., Sidney, Oh 45365**

Residents: None at this time

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

Resident: LeRue Gooder, Rm. 506

Phyliss Blust, Rm. 508

**Heartland**

Pamela Morgan, 275 Kienle Drive, Room 409, Piqua, Oh 45356

**Vancrest Assist. Living, 1035 Hager St., St Mary's, Oh 45885**

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 capacities, while at the same  
time enjoying Christian fellowship. Please  
consider ways that you can get involved!*

