



**For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord.**

**Elizabeth's New Life Center
Giving Tree**

Monday, Nov. 27, in the Christ & Coffee Bar is a Giving Tree. Please take a tag off to give a baby and mother a blessing. Each tag gives a needed item. These items are donated to Elizabeth's New Life Center, in Sidney, to help many mother's with baby items. Please return those items by Sunday, Dec. 17, to the church office or leave them by the Giving Tree. Details page 3.

Thank you so much!



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DEC. 23, 6 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 24

ONE 9:30 AM ADVENT

WORSHIP SERVICE

AND

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

7 PM & 11 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

WORSHIP 9:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE WEEKEND

SATURDAY, DEC. 30, 6 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 31 8:30/10:30 AM

***ORDER CHURCH POINSETTIAS**

**THE ORDER FORMS WILL BE IN THE
BULLETINS. RETURN DUE DATE:
THURSDAY, DEC. 14**

***CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 10 AM



December is a time of endings and beginnings. For some it is the pinnacle of joy while for others it is a time of renewed grief and sadness. As the temperatures outside drop and the wind blows colder, the warmth of God's love and the presence of family and friends can be a tonic for the winter weather but for some it is cold and only gets colder. December is a time for us to spend in hope.

Even as December is the final month in our calendar, as the year draws to its conclusion, Advent arrives also in December. Advent begins a new church year. Advent is a time of preparation and hope. We prepare for the many ways Jesus comes into our lives and we rest our hope on the promises of God made real and true in Jesus our Lord.

As we move through Advent, discovering hope and peace, joy and love we are also moving toward Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth, of the incarnation of God. While that brings joy to most, let us also remember those for whom this time is a reminder of loved ones lost, of opportunities lost, of sadness. If we are those for whom joy comes in great supply, please stand by our sisters and brothers for whom joy is lacking. God is with us all.

In fact, let us join together in glorifying our God in the month of preparation, celebration, struggle and survival. As the angels proclaimed good news, may we live that same good news of God's love for all. As the shepherds told all who would listen of the gift of our savior, may we show to all we meet, the same gifts of care and love. As we begin the ending of the year may we also begin our new church year with compassion, grace, mercy and love. These are the gifts the world needs most to see. God bless you all this December and may the joy, peace, hope and love of God fill all our days.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

P.S. Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year, so we will have one Sunday morning service at 9:30 for Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will also have service at 7pm and 11pm on Christmas Eve as well as a 9:30 service Christmas morning. Join us for all.



*We three kings
of orient are
Bearing gifts
we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star*

Lori Holt

Happy December, Brothers and Sisters!!

Yes, the calendar has reached the last month of the year. It brings Advent and Christmas!!

Advent worship services are December 5, 10, 17 and 24. Christmas Eve morning worship will be a single service at 9:30. Please join us at each of these as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior!

Christmas Eve evening worship will be at 7:00 and 11:00 candlelight. Please join us for one of these services filled with Christmas songs we all know and love.

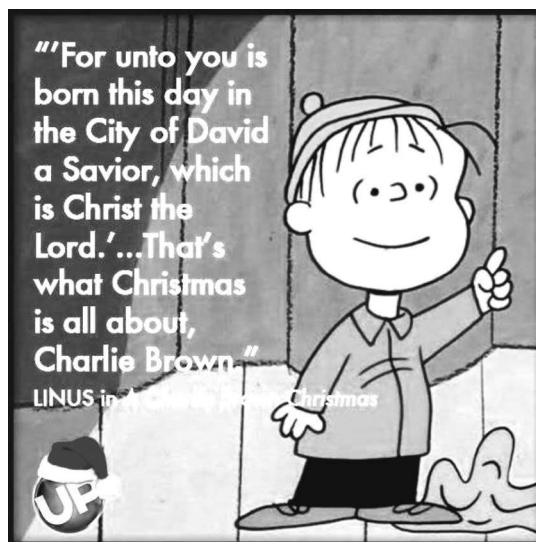
As we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth, our Christmas morning worship will be a single service at 9:30. Please join us!

Our worship on December 31, will be our celebration of the first Sunday of Christmas with our 8:30 and 10:30 services.

Saturday evening worship will still be on December 23 and 30.

As you may know, I go to the theater to see many movies. On November 16, I went to Piqua to see a movie called 'Journey to Bethlehem.' It was a musical version of the nativity story. It was just wonderful! Also in Piqua in December they are showing Max Lucado's 'Because of Bethlehem.' It will be December 5, 6 and 7 each showing at 7:00 pm. This looks wonderful. I can't wait to see it! Please consider going to see it, too!

Father, thank you so much for sending your Son to us. Amen.



A very blessed Christmas and New Year to you all.

Happy Birthday, Craig!

Happy Birthday, David!!

Love in the Babe of Bethlehem,

Lori

St. John's Church is happy to participate in the **Elizabeth's New Life Center Giving Tree Project** to benefit Women's Center -Sidney, a pro-life, non-profit pregnancy resource center that helps women to navigate unexpected pregnancies. The consultants at the center encourage each mother to **choose life** for her child, providing her with assistance in her spiritual, material, educational, and medical needs. These material needs include baby clothes, diapers, wipes, bottles, and many other essential infant care items. We ask that your family shares the joy of Christmas by donating an item listed on the **Giving Tree** ornament, (hanging on the slim Christmas tree in the Christ & Coffee bar, of your choice or wish list provided. The items do not need to be gift-wrapped; they are used to help those in need throughout the year. Please return your donated item by December 17, 2023. For more information please contact: Lynn Pitchford 937-492-8047.



The Thrift Shop's Annual Coat Give-Away was held on Saturday November 4th. This year's event was held at the Thrift shop rather than in the church basement. This change saved a lot of time and effort hauling coats and racks back and forth across the church parking lot. And the Coat Give-Away seemed to run very smoothly in its new location. The Coat Give-Away was well attended with 43 families participating. The cooler November temperatures likely played a role in the positive attendance numbers. 103 people received new or gently used coats which will keep them warm this winter.

To the volunteers who helped with set up on Friday ... THANK YOU!

To the volunteers who helped with the event on Saturday ... THANK YOU!

To those who donated coats ... THANK YOU!

We are also very grateful to the Luther's Purse members who purchased and provided many new children's coats for this event. Children's coats aren't donated to the Thrift Shop as often as adult coats so thanks to Luther's Purse, every child who attended, left with a warm coat.

October Thrift Shop Statistics

Clients: 30

18 Assistance: \$320.77

12 In-kind Assistance: \$44.50

"May the gifts of Laughter, Kindness and Love be with you at Christmas and throughout the year."

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Mary Cooke

Annual Coat Giveaway was a success!



St. John's Church Council Meeting Minutes

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 13, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President, Jacob Cook

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Steve Edmiston

AGENDA REVIEW: Addition: New business: Holiday offerings, New Year's service schedule, Thrivent Choice dollars. *Margy Headings moved to approve as amended, Kaleb Headings seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Replacements

Ann Hubler and Michelle Cavinder will be on the ballot. We would still like to target 2-3 more people.

Holiday Offerings

Three holiday offerings will be donated to special causes (Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas day).

*Pastor Steve moved to donate Thanksgiving offering to Compassionate Care and Christmas offerings to Mercy Mission House, Linda Fogt seconded. Motion passed. It was requested to include mission statements of those programs in the bulletin.

New Year's Eve Schedule

New Year's Eve is on Sunday. It was decided to keep the standard Sunday service schedule.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Some congregants use the Thrivent Financial services and they can choose to have their Thrivent Choice Dollars paid out. Thrivent cannot designate the account those go to, instead those dollars are deposited into a standard Church Thrivent account. To move those dollars to a requested account, we require a motion be made to council. That can be accomplished by reaching out to any council member to make that request.

*Linda Fogt moved to transfer \$82 choice dollars from Thrivent account to account #7045, Women of ELCA (quilting), Margy Headings seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget review

Budget will be presented to congregation as approved in October meeting.

Annual Congregational meeting

Meeting will be held on Nov 19th after 9:30 service, to be followed by a pancake breakfast.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: A copy of the Treasurer's report was distributed with the agenda. *Tina Ike moved to accept the report as submitted, Kaleb Headings seconded. Motion passed.

Additional notes from Thomas: Mary did not get reimbursed for September per her request and opted to leave those dollars in as a cushion for future months; staff is doing an excellent job of keeping under budget; we are overall under budget with operating expenses being low and property insurance being high; 2nd payment has been made on capital project, we will likely need to borrow against Memorial committee for 3rd payment; reminder that Vision Fund is for maintenance and Capital Fund is for Roof project. *Joyce Fishbaugh moved to have \$12,100 transferred from Vision Fund #7037 to Capital Improvement Fund # 7015, Wes Cavinder seconded. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Report: Renewal of wedding vows held; 90 min Bible review was held; Advent and Christmas activities being planned; Christmas weekend service schedule - Sun Dec 24 at 9:30a for 4th Sunday of Advent, 7pm and 11pm for Christmas Eve, and Mon Dec 25 9:30a for Christmas morning; Darin Davis requested a new wheelchair be procured that would better fit in elevator - Margy will check options and present at next meeting along with an AED unit; reverse advent calendar opportunity reviewed but not pursuing at this time; next month's council meeting is open to new members to review the structure and expectations; Pr. Steve will be out a week in January visiting relatives but will be back for Sunday services.

Volunteer Coordinator Report: No report submitted.

Thrift Shop Report: No report submitted. Per Linda, coat giveaway was successful on Nov 4th in the store. A total of 103 coats were given to 43 families. A big THANK YOU to Luther's Purse who purchased new coats on sale in the Spring to include in the give-away.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ministry – Education & Youth: Per Joyce, Thanksgiving cards were sent to shut ins from the youth. Per Tatum, still working on meetings. Vandemark Farms tickets were provided.

Ministry – Music & Worship: Per Deb, New Horizons group sang last Sunday, she is arranging a string quartet and Bells to play in December.

Outreach – Evangelism: Per Linda, Cards for Christ has 2700 so far - will drop off end of November, 34 Thanksgiving meals have been gathered and 34 families identified – there are 16 more bags possibly coming in, and 50 chickens being purchased from Davis Meats. **A special note that this congregation is very generous!!**

Outreach – Parish Life: Per Jen, review of pancake breakfast plans after annual meeting.

Operations – Finance: Per Thomas, reviewed and signed reports.

Operations – Property: Per Kaleb, met with Ed and Frank Langenkamp to review the project with Wellman Bros – they are satisfied that Wellman was doing a good job. Frank and Ed requested not to be paid and wanted to donate their services.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEVOTIONS: Norb Mertz

INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for communion assistants and devotions .Newsletter deadline: Tuesday, Nov 22nd

Next Council Meeting: Monday December 11, 7pm. Exec mtg 6:30.

ATTENDANCE:

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

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2023

WELCOME AND OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Steve Edmiston

CALL TO ORDER: President, Jacob Cook

QUORUM REQUIREMENT: Quorum of 50 voting members required to hold meeting. Confirmed by count, 70 present.

FINANCE REVIEW: Presented by Treasurer Thomas Martin via hand outs and monitors.

THANK YOU to Congregation for their generosity.

Capital project update: Wellman completed phase 1 of project for the exterior. \$62,000 was raised with no loan.

We would like to verify outside has no leak issues before starting Phase 2 for the interior next Spring/Summer.

A reminder that donations need to be designated to Capital Project, NOT Building fund (which is for standard maintenance).

Budget Proposal:

Goal is to keep at same level as 2023.

Great job this year from congregation and staff to fund and stay in budget.

Reviewed breakdown of areas. Budget is overall just under last year's by \$130.

Questions:

What is Synod support about? Answer: Synod requests funds from churches to help fund their budget – we typically budget a 3% increase per year. They usually ask for more, but we keep it at 3% and vote in council whether to provide extra at end of year if we have the buffer.

Interior work details? Work will be done on interior damage that was caused by leaking of exterior such as plaster repair on ceilings etc.

*Kermit Dorsey moved to accept the Budget proposal as presented, Dwayne Mullen seconded. Motion passed.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Those going off council are Jacob Cook, Joyce Fishbaugh, Linda Fogt, and Tina Ike. Jacob Cook reviewed those who have agreed to join council: Ann Hubler and Michelle Cavinder. Myron Koester volunteered to join for a 3 yr term. Tina Ike spoke to the benefits of joining council. *Steve Holt moved to accept the 3 nominees onto council, Kermit Dorsey seconded. Motion passed. We ask congregation to prayerfully consider joining council as we would like to have 1 additional person to keep at the same number we have this year.

DISMISSAL

St. John's Info!

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: December 3.



Altar Guild Volunteers December

**Diane Hubbell
Joyce Fishbaugh
Janet Martin**

Youth Meeting
6 pm Sunday, Dec. 17

Dorothy Love
Monthly Worship Service
10 am, Dec. 19
Pastor Steve presiding.
Please stop by and join us for worship!

Joy Circle
Dec. 19
Tuesday, Noon
Perkins, Sidney

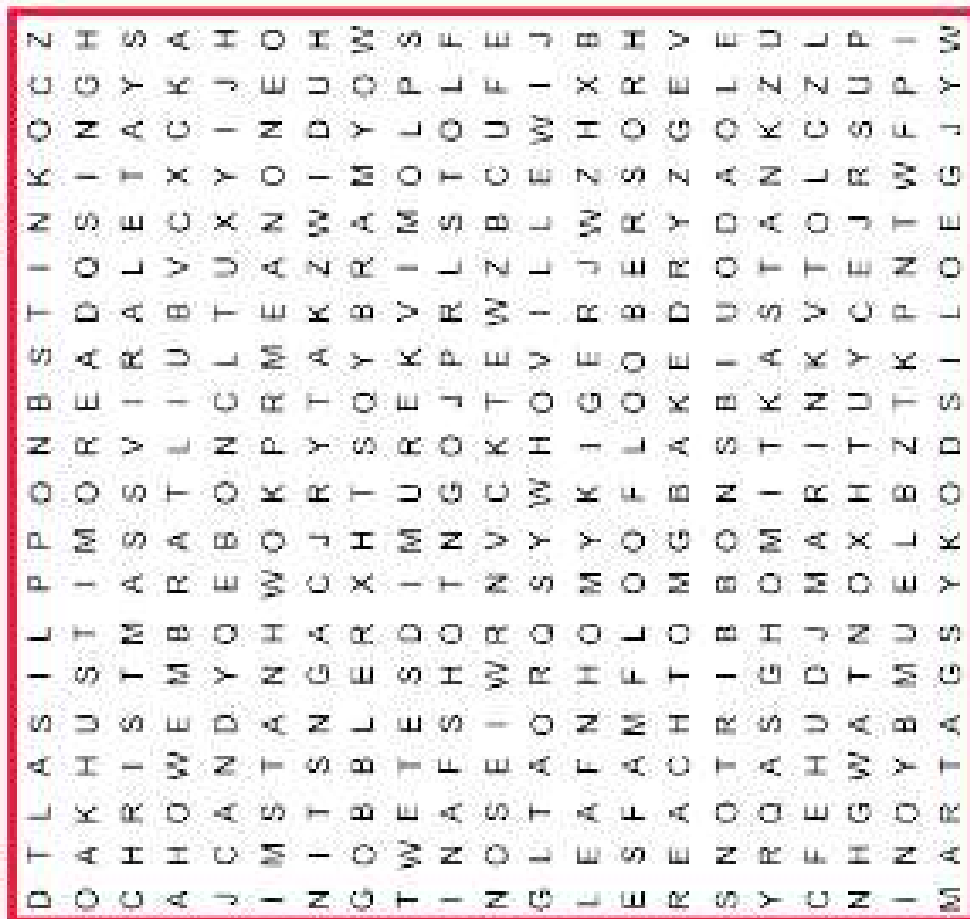
Quilting Circle
to meet
Dec. 27, 9 am

GRINCH Word Search

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VILE
WHO HASH
NOISE
CHRISTMAS
FLOOFLOOBERS
ROTTEN



**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!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	DECEMBER					
3 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	4 AA, 12 pm	5	6 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	7 Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	8 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	9 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
10 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	11 AA, 12 pm Church Committee, 6 pm Church Council, 7 pm	12	13 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	14 Senior Lunch, 12 pm Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	15 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	16 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
17 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	18 AA, 12 pm	19 Dorothy Love, 10 am JOY Circle, 12 pm	20 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	21 Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	22 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	23 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
24 One Morning Worship, 9:30 Children Sunday school, 9:30 am Christmas Eve Serv., 7 pm & 11 pm	25 Office Closed Christmas Worship Serv. 9:30 am AA, 12 pm Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27 Quilting, 9 am AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	28 Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	29	30 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
31 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am New Years Eve	Jan. 1 Office Closed AA, 12 pm New Years Day					Church Office Open Mon-Thurs. 8-3 pm Fri., 8 am-12:30 pm