

Celebrate Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord

Christmas Decoration Clean-up
Saturday, Jan. 6 at 10 am
Church Sanctuary

2023 Annual Reports
Due January 2024
Thank you!

Have a blessed new year!



THE Baptism OF THE Lord

Many of us hunker down in January. We find our favorite blankets. We remember what a fireplace is for. We recall just how good hot chocolate tastes. As the temperature drops, as the winds blow, we hunker down.

As a new calendar year begins we pause, in the cold, reflecting on the Christmas just passed and looking forward to the year to come. The month of January stands as a time in-between. On January 6, Christmas is over as Epiphany arrives. Epiphany is that season where we discover all of the ways that God is “manifest” in Jesus our Lord. The visit of the Magi, the Baptism of Jesus, these and other stories make God’s love manifest in the life of Jesus. January is also that time when we are moving toward Lent. Ash Wednesday comes in February and we begin, again, our journey through Lent to the festival of Easter.

During this month of cold and windy days, may we never lose sight of the love of God in our lives. Jesus came as a child so that God would know us fully. Magi came to show us that God’s love reaches out to all people, everywhere. The Baptism of Jesus inspires our baptisms and shows us the truth that we are God’s beloved and with us God is well pleased. As we walk with Jesus at the beginning of his ministry, calling his disciples and healing the sick, may we discover God’s love manifest to us, and through us to all.

January can feel like it takes forever. May this month fill you with wonder, love, and grace so that we can all love God and love our neighbors.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

Lori Holt



Happy January, Brothers and Sisters!!

Can you believe it? 2024 is here!! Now we're at the time when New Year's Resolutions are beginning. Have you made one? Every year I say I'm going to exercise, eat better and lose the weight I gained when I quit smoking almost 16 years ago. If you see me, you know I still haven't kept that resolution!! Well, there's always this year!! I'll give it another shot!!

Oh, I almost forgot, WINTER'S HERE!!! I'm pretty much alone in my love for all things winter. Cold and let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!! Yeah!!

Last month I mentioned the movie 'Max Lucado's Because of Bethlehem'. Steve and I went to see it. It was amazing. What a way to bring in the Christmas season! I finished the book of the same name. I love reading Max Lucado. I usually end up crying because I feel like he's writing directly to me. If you've ever read one of his books, perhaps you know just what I'm saying. Now I can finish A Love Worth Giving; another of his books, which I'd already started before the Christmas season.

Please join us as we take down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary on Saturday, January 6, at 10:00. The more the merrier and the quicker it goes!!

After we celebrate the Baptism of our Savior on January 7, Epiphany will be celebrated the rest of the month! Please join us in worship all of January as we celebrate this amazing season after Christmas!

I'll again extend the invitation to join our musical ministry. P B & J can always use more voices! If you feel so moved by the Spirit, please contact me here at the church!! Thank you!!

May God bless us all as we enter this New Year. Amen.

Happy 16th Birthday, Seth!!
Love in the Babe of Bethlehem,
Lori

Council of Religious Education News

CORE is so very thankful for your monthly donations. So many good things are happening, and we could not do it without your support!

We have a new teacher, Mariah Ward teaching our 3rd and 4th grade students at Northwood. She teaches four days a week. She teaches eighteen, 40-minute classes per week. Total of 226 students. Her classes are held on a new trailer that was purchased in August. Shavon Puckett continues as our teacher at Longfellow and Emerson with 251 students that are 1st and 2nd graders. She teaches 5 days per week and has twenty - 40-minute classes.

The bus at Longfellow also has new window coverings and both trailers Emerson and Northwood) have new signage to identify that they are CORE classrooms.

This is the Emerson trailer with an excited class of students! Also, a new Northwood trailer and more students!

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10



Christmas Greetings

It was December. The holiday spirit was abundant and Christmas was approaching quickly. A man came into the Thrift Shop seeking assistance. He and his family had fallen on hard times and he came to the Thrift Shop just hoping to get some clothes. The director who normally handles these situations was away. But most volunteers who work at the register know they can offer three sets of clothes to an individual seeking help even when the director is not available. So, this man was given the opportunity to select clothes for each of his family members.

When the man returned to the checkout counter, he only had clothes for his children. He insisted that he didn't need clothes for himself or his wife. As the volunteer filled out the standard paperwork, the man asked about a blue bowl he saw on the shelf and wondered if there was any way he could get it for a Christmas present for his wife. He didn't have money for it but knew it was something his wife would really like. Without hesitation, the volunteer gave him the bowl and only asked that he return to shop at the Thrift Shop when times were better for him and his family.

November Thrift Shop Statistics

Clients: 42

34 Assistance: \$512.00

8 In-kind Assistance: \$61.00

MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON BRING YOU HOPE; WISHING YOU ALL THE JOYS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



St. John's Church Council Meeting Minutes

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

December 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: President, Jacob Cook

OPENING DEVOTION: Pastor Steve Edmiston

AGENDA REVIEW: Addition: New business: Medical supplies/needs, Annual reports. *Deb Mertz moved to approve as amended, Jen Maier seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Synod Benevolence

Synod has requested a higher benevolence than what we have budgeted. Council agreed earlier in the year to review the Synod request to determine whether to cover the gap. After discussion it was determined to keep the donation level as budgeted with no increase.

Medical supplies/needs

In the November Pastor's report, it was noted that a new wheelchair had been requested that would fit in the elevator better. Margy Headings investigated options and is reporting out that Bunny's recommends a transport chair as it has smaller wheels and the chair is only needed to move in and out of the elevator. They carry a model for \$149. Margy will arrange purchase for 2 chairs per council agreement. Additionally, Margy checked into an AED unit. Her recommendation is a ZOL brand which uses standard batteries for \$1934. *Jacob Cook moved to purchase the recommended AED unit and all necessary components, Pastor Steve seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Reports

Committee heads are to provide reports by deadline Lynn provides and/or by January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Council Replacements

Welcome to two new members attending meeting tonight: Michelle Cavinder and Ann Hubler. Jacob reviewed council's basic structure. Council members are encouraged to continue recruitment for 1-2 additional members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A copy of the Secretary's report was distributed with the agenda. *Kaleb Headings moved to accept the report as submitted, Margy Headings 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: Short on budget for November but still positive year to date; \$62,156 paid to Wellman, next phase of project starts in the summer; investments are trending down – they are in bonds so they are low risk; Thrift Shop sales are strong, coat give away went well; Mary's salary is not part of the budget as it is tied to Thrift Shop performance – she has opted to keep the same salary for 2024 – this can be revisited at any time.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Report presented by Pr. Steve: Advent has begun; reviewed holiday service schedule; traveling the week between Christmas and New Year's and will be back by the 31st; will be out in January on vacation tentatively Jan 22-26; Lent plans are starting; people in Hospice – Paul Scheffler, Judy Paul, Joe Maier (father of RJ Maier).

Volunteer Coordinator Report: No report submitted.

Thrift Shop Report: Financial report submitted; Thomas reviewed Thrift Shop notes in Treasurer's report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ministry – Education & Youth: Per Joyce, no Sunday School on December 24th. Sunday School students selected and bought 2 goats and a flock of chicks with ELCA gifts.

Ministry – Music & Worship: No report.

Outreach – Evangelism: Per Linda, along with the Senior Center, St. John's congregation supplied 5708 Cards for Christ. St. John's gave out 54 Thanksgiving meals.

Outreach – Parish Life: Per Jen, pancake breakfast was a success serving around 75 people. With the remainder of the annual budget, Parish Live is sponsoring organ flowers for Christmas Eve service and will sponsor candy canes.

Operations – Finance: No report.

Operations – Property: No report.

Additional notes – Committee outlines were provided to continuing council members to review and return at next meeting with their committee interest for next year. It was noted that Evangelism committee should be the liaison to Thrift Shop.

PRAYER REQUESTS

DEVOTIONS: Tina Ike

INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for communion assistants and devotions.

Newsletter deadline: Tuesday, Dec 22nd

Next Council Meeting: Monday January 8, 7pm. Exec mtg 6:30.

ATTENDANCE:

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

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: January 7.



Altar Guild Volunteers January

**Shirley Sparks
Linda Fogt
Ann Hubler**

Youth Meeting
6 pm Sunday, Jan. 21

**Dorothy Love
Monthly Worship Service**

10 am, Jan. 16

Pastor Steve presiding.

Please stop by and join us for worship!

Joy Circle
Jan. 16
Tuesday, 1 pm

Quilting Circle
to meet
Jan. 24, 9 am

Harry Potter

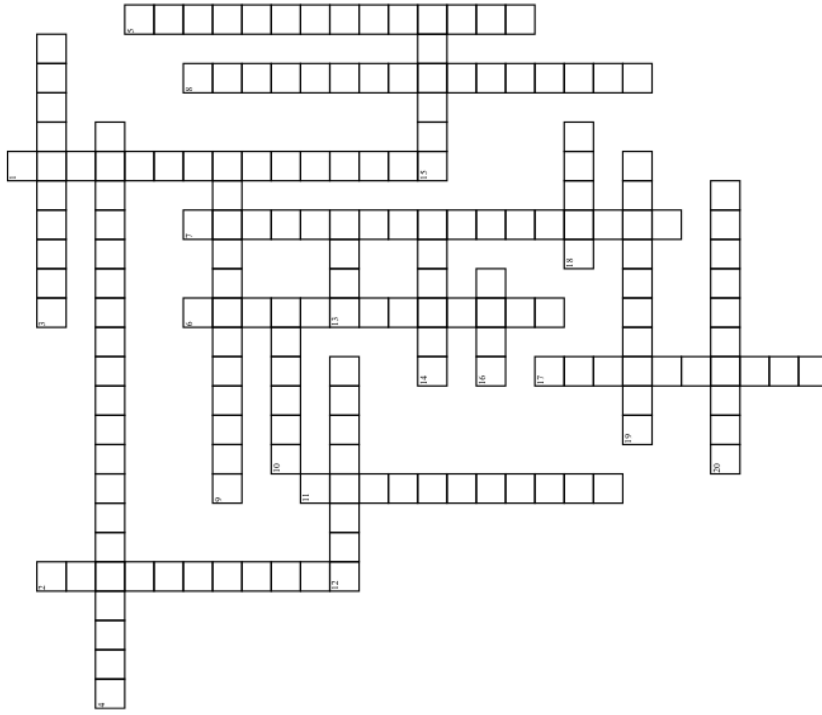
Word Search Puzzle

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G R A N G E R S L R R N Y H Z R F
P P U N C B Q A O U O R V P F M K
V U N Q H U U B V I D M M F I W N
Q H Y P A I V T M E U G U P R E S
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ALBUS	HARRY	QUAFFLE
AZKABAN	HERMIONE	QUIDDITCH
BLUDGER	HIPPOGRIFF	RAVENCLAW
BROOMSTICK	HOGWARTS	RONALD
BUTTERBEER	HUFFLEPUFF	SORCERER
DUMBLEDORE	JK ROWLING	VOLDEMORT
FANTASY	MUGGLE	WEASLEY
GRANGER	POLYJUICE	WIZARD

Harry Potter



Across

3. What school house is Harry in?
4. What is the name of the group that Harry joins?
9. Who is Hogwarts's school nurse?
10. Who was Professor Umbridge trying to get fired?
12. Who is Sirius Black's House elf?
13. What are the end-of-term exams called?

Down

14. What position does Ron play on the Quidditch team?
15. What is Bellatrix Lestrange in relation to Sirius Black?
16. What is at the end of the corridor in Harry's dreams?
18. Who is Ron's sister?
19. Why did Harry have to go to the hearing?
20. Who is the headmaster of Hogwarts?
1. Where do the children break into?
2. Who dies at the ministry?
5. Who is Harry's least favorite teacher?
6. Who is he-who-must-not-be-named?
7. Who is the Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher?
8. Why could Harry see the horses pulling the carriages?
11. Who is the main character?
17. Who is Harry's godfather?

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 W. WATER STREET
SIDNEY, OHIO
45365

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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
Dick Clark, Apt. 303N

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

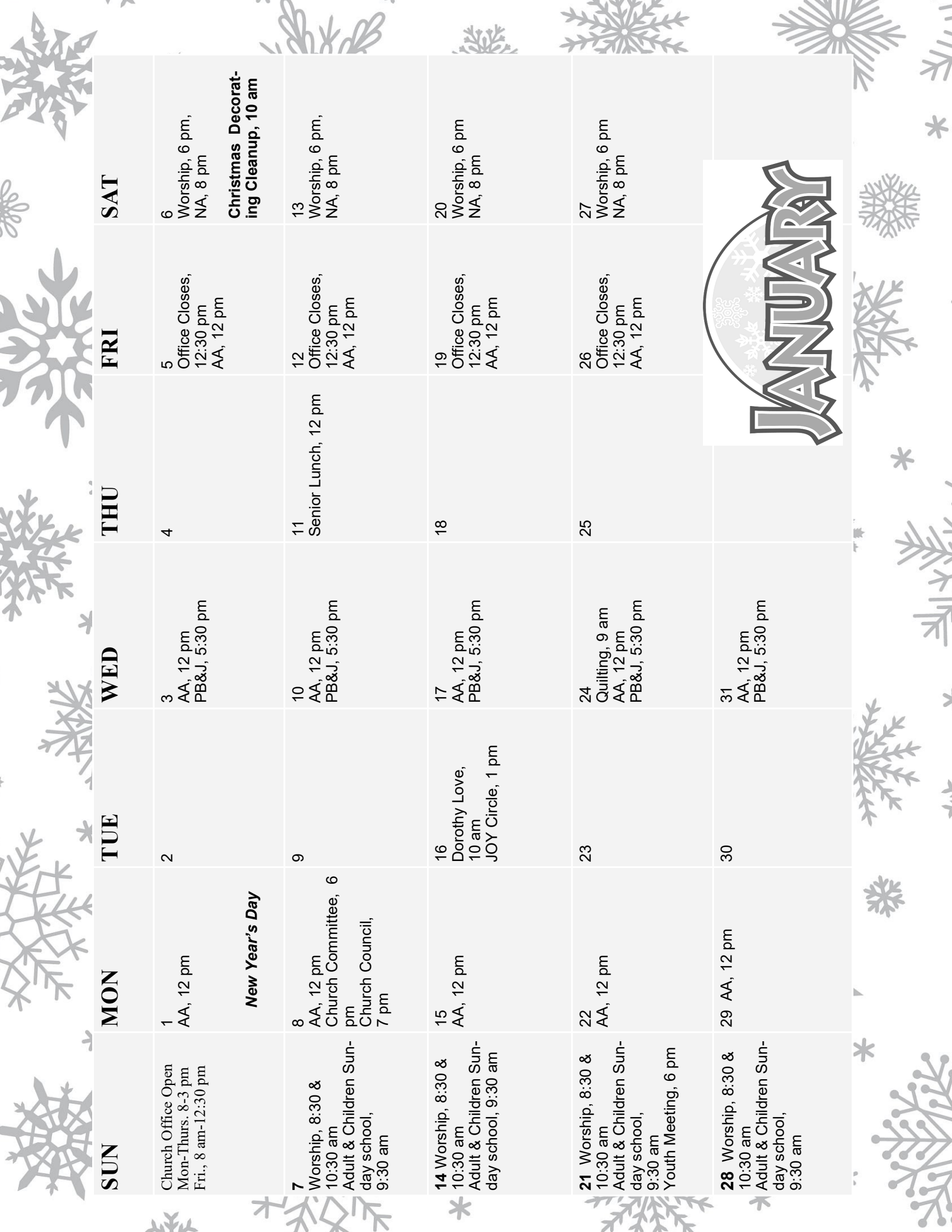
Pamela Morgan, 275 Kienle Drive, Room 409, Piqua, Oh 45356

Vancrest Assist.

Living, 1035

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
Church Office Open Mon-Thurs. 8-3 pm Fri., 8 am-12:30 pm	1 AA, 12 pm <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	4	5 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	6 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm Christmas Decorat- ing Cleanup, 10 am
7 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	8 AA, 12 pm Church Committee, 6 pm Church Council, 7 pm	9	10 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	11 Senior Lunch, 12 pm	12 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	13 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
14 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	15 AA, 12 pm	16 Dorothy Love, 10 am JOY Circle, 1 pm	17 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	18	19 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	20 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
21 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am Youth Meeting, 6 pm	22 AA, 12 pm	23	24 Quilting, 9 am AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	25	26 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	27 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
28 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sun- day school, 9:30 am	29 AA, 12 pm	30	31 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm			