



St. John's Newsletter
December 2025

Merry Christmas

2026 Offering Envelopes
Are in the coffee area (parking
lot
entrance) for pick up. Thank you.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Services

7 pm & 11 pm, December 24

Christmas Day Service

Worship 9:30 am, December 25

Elizabeth's New Life Center Giving Tree

Please grab a tag off the Christmas tree in
the coffee area (by parking lot entrance)!
Helping a mother and baby in need is a
blessing.

Details on page 8



It gets dark really early these days. I know that I get excited by the extra hour of sleep that comes when Daylight Savings is over, but it gets dark really early these days. That is true in the reality of the sun going down, it is equally true metaphorically as we look at the world around us. There are wars and conflicts, there is crime and greed, there is violence and vengeance, and we are given daily doses of it all in the news and around us. It gets really dark these days.

Into this darkening month, into our darkening lives comes light. That is the great good news I get to share. Christ, the light of the world, comes to be with us brightening our darkness, relieving our worry, saving us from despair.

As we gather in the Advent season, we move from dark to light, from worry to joy, as we anticipate Christmas, the coming of Emmanuel. When we gather together, finding warmth in the people around us as we light the Advent candles, we hear the stories from the gospel and we discover the light that comes to us all. Jesus came to be with us so that we might have the light of God's love to chase our darkness and gives us hope, real hope.

So, join us in worship this Advent season. Travel with us from darkness to light, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our savior once again. Also, join us for Christmas worship as we welcome Emmanuel, God with us. Blessings to you all this Advent and Christmas. Peace be with you all.

Pastor Steve

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Happy December! We've now reached the last month of the year.
As Advent season began the last week of November, it continues into December.

December 7 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 14 is the 3rd and December 21 is the 4th. Please be sure to join us for these wonderful worship opportunities filled with the anticipation of Christmas!!

However, before Christmas, we have Christmas Eve. There is 7:00 worship and then the 11:00 candlelight service. Please join us as we welcome Christmas by attending one of our Christmas Eve services, complete with Holy Communion!

Our Christmas Day worship service will be at 9:30. Please be sure to be there!!

December 28 is the 1st Sunday of Christmas. These will be wonderful worship opportunities so please be sure to be there at all of these services.



"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in the manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." ~Luke 2:6-14 KJV

May the glory of the birth of our Savior bring light into our lives always! Amen.

Happy Birthday, Craig!!

Happy Birthday, David!!

Love in the Babe of Bethlehem,
Lori

**Altar Guild Volunteer
December
Joyce Fishbaugh
Janet Martin
We Need Volunteers!
Sign up today!**

Quilting Circle
to meet
Wednesday,
Dec. 17
(Changed)

Coffee Time!
Every *first Sunday of the month*,
9:30 am, we will be having a fel-
lowship gathering in our church
"Christ and Coffee" bar for cof-
fee, donuts, and fellowship!

**Dorothy Love
Monthly Worship
Service 10 am
Dec. 16**



Happy Holidays! 110 coats were given at our Coat Giveaway with half of them being children. We also had gloves and hats as well as scarves. It was an exciting time with all our awesome volunteers Linda, Nancy, Norb, Sherri, Mary Ann, Karen, Pam, Mic, Bob as well as our celebrity Mary Cooke.

We had 15 families sign up for our Thanksgiving Meal Boxes and about 90% of them were our customers that support the shop. It is so wonderful to be able to bless them back.

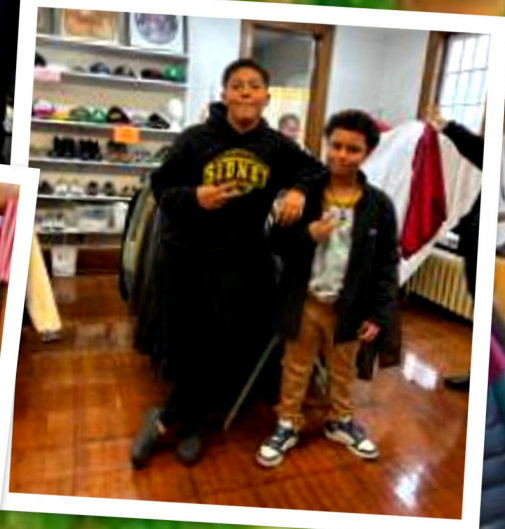
We will be doing a Santa Workshop this year on Saturday Dec 6 at 10-1. If you would like to volunteer or know kids that would like to get their siblings presents, please let us know.

Psalm 107:1 says: "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

In kind: \$149.25 for 24 people

Cash assistance: \$341.85 for 20 people

**St. John's
Thrift Shop
Coat Giveaway
Highlights**



St. John's Church Council Minutes

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Date: November 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: by Vice President Wes Cavinder

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Pastor Steve Edmiston

AGENDA REVIEW: Pastor Steve motioned to approve agenda as submitted. Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Christmas Decorating:

Will be done Saturday, Nov. 29 at 10:00 AM.

Pastor Steve noted that lots of volunteers will be needed to help and he will be unable to be there. Decorations are on the first floor. Pictures have been taken to assist in placement. Bob Vogler usually gets the tree and advent wreath up ahead of this decorating.

OLD BUSINESS:

-Establish a Christmas Decorations Purchasing budget- Pastor Steve thinks a committee is needed to head this up for next year's decorations. Lynn has some ideas and names. Ann has volunteered to head this up. Budget is \$1303.95. Dave questioned whether youth and their budget could be tied into decorating. Pastor Steve suggested the possible purchase / use of a banner to replace the garland on the balcony.

-2026 budget: Approximately a 6% increase (\$41,8214.00). Ann motioned to approve this proposal. Pat seconded the motion. Motion passed

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A copy of the Secretary's report was distributed with the agenda. Kathy moved to approve as submitted and Ann seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed. Josh moved to approve the report as submitted. Kaleb seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORT:

- Pastor Report- Presented by Myron Koester
 1. Trip to visit his sister went well
 2. Marriage - Ben and Erin Snavley
 3. Pastor Steve has been called to be Vice Pastor at St Jacob's (Anna) to attend council meetings and officiate funerals until a replacement is found.
 4. Edmiston Day (family tradition) was fun.
 5. Joy Circle is formally disbanded. Plan to use the last bit of money left as gift for church and quilting group.
 6. Performed memorial service for Mildred Hughes
 7. Looking for recruits for council
 8. St. John's insurer sent an email stating that 3 breaker panels needs to be replaced. There was a quote for \$4040 (Area Energy and Electric). Pastor Steve motioned to approve. Josh seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 9. Bob Leonard notified council that Mark Ferree is to be replaced on Memorial Committee by Jeff Roeth. Pastor Steve motioned to approve this replacement. Kathy seconded the motion. Motion approved.
 10. Travelling to Illinois on Wed and back on Sat to visit Stacey's mother so will miss helping with Christmas decorating.
- Volunteer Coordinator Report - no reports submitted
- Thrift Shop Report - Financial report enclosed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1 *Ministry - Education & Youth:*
2 Will try to have Christmas party for youth on Dec. 13, 2-5:00PM. This will be for youth up to 4th grade. There will be snacks, music, etc.

3 *Ministry - Music & Worship:*
1. Nov.15 the bell choir will be performing at the evening service. Also, will perform Nov. 23 and Dec. 21
2. Deb announced that she plans to retire from Bell Choir soon.

Outreach - Evangelism:
1. Still working on Cards for Christ
2. Thanksgiving meals are coming together. Still gathering names for families in need. All the bags have been picked up. Bags need to be turned in by Nov. 19

Outreach - Parish Life:
Working on Congregational Meeting breakfast/brunch

Operations - Finance:
See Treasure's Report

Operations - Property:
Only Midwest Maintenance from Piqua is interested in project for face of church. (\$26,000). Josh may try to get a priced locked in for spring (April) and then bring it to the council.

Additional Notes:

PRAYER REQUEST: Judy Harvey

DEVOTIONS: Kathy Vogler

INFORMATION:

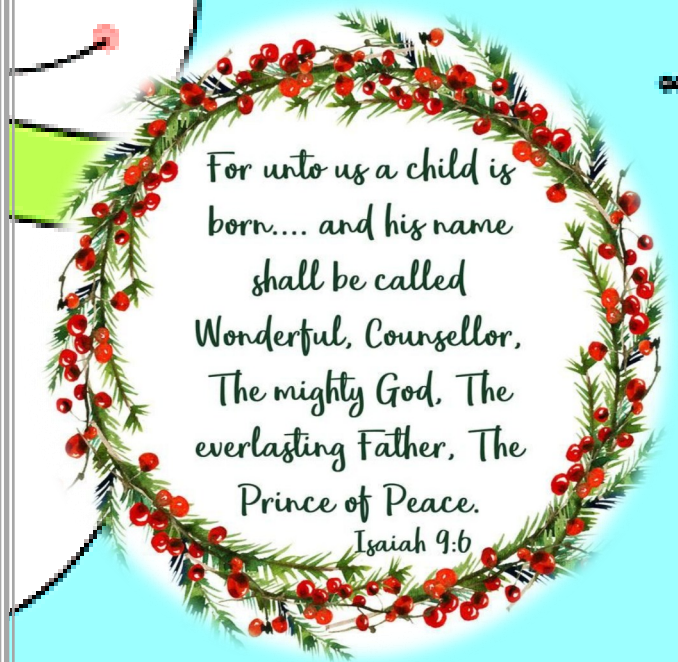
*sign up sheets for communion assistants and devotions was passed

*Newsletter deadline: Tuesday, November 25, 2025

*Next council meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025 -7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE :

Present: Wes Cavinder, Ann Hubler, Kathy Vogler, Kaleb Headings, Dave Bollheimer, Pat Mullen, Michelle Cavinder, Deb Mertz, Pastor Steve Edmiston, Josh Ward
Absent: Margy Headings, Myron Koester



Many thanks to all of you who helped with donations to the diaper drive for the Right to Life, the quilting shipping for Lutheran World Relief, and the Thanksgiving meals. Every time you give so generously and we are so thankful for each and every one of you.

Blessings to you this Christmas season.



WINTER

ANGEL	EGGNOG	HOLLY
BELLS	ELVES	ICICLE
CANDLES	FAMILY	JINGLE
CANDY	FROSTY	JOY
CARDS	FRUITCAKE	LIGHTS
CAROL	GIFT	MANGER
CHESTNUT	GREEN	MARY
CHIMNEY	GREETINGS	NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS	HAPPY	
DASHER	HOLIDAY	



WINTER



1. an area of land on a mountain that is used for skiing
4. a thin layer of ice that forms on the ground when the air becomes cold
6. wind ____ factor
8. someone who spends the winter months in a warm place
10. a walled structure made with snow and used for children's wintertime play
13. brief but intense snow with strong winds
14. when part of your body freezes or almost freezes
16. a snow storm with strong winds
17. hanging piece of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water
19. an enclosed area with ice for skating
21. bad weather with large amounts of snow or ice and often strong winds
22. a long sled with a curved front used for sliding over snow

2. a large, open vehicle that is usually pulled by a horse over snow or ice

3. brief and light snowfalls
5. frozen or partly frozen rain
7. weather prediction
9. — sking
11. In the winter, bears ___ in their dens.
12. this type of ice on roads can be difficult
13. a surface that can be hard to move or
15. 2 or 3 large spheres of snow stacked
18. a piece of clothing worn in the winter
20. unable to feel anything in a part of your
the cold





ELIZABETH'S NEW LIFE CENTER

Gift Cards	Amazon or Walmart
Layettes	Cotton Receiving Blankets Infant Beanie and Mitten Sets Cotton Flannel or Terry Burp Cloths Colorful or Patterned Multipack Onesies Multi-Pack Infant Socks
Diapers	Diapers (Sizes Newborn, 3 and up) Pull-ups (All sizes) Wipes Diaper Genie Pail and Refills Diaper Cream
Equipment	Car Seat / Stroller Booster Seat/ Portable High Chair Infant Swing / Pack'n Play Exersaucer / Walker Infant Bath Tub / Sound Machine Nursing / Boppy Support Pillow Cool Mist Humidifier / Baby Monitor Potty Seat . Potty Chair
Misc	Bibs Clothing Newborn to 5T Infant Hooded Bath Towels and Washcloths Backpack Style Diaper Bags Infant Toys, Rattles, and Teethers Infant Grooming / Healthcare Kits Baby Proofing Safety Kits Infant /Toddler Shampoo, Soap and Lotion



Questions? Contact:
St. John's Lutheran Church
937-492-8047

Please return unwrapped items by December 19, 2025

ENLC Contact: Lori Ernest
(937) 226-7414 | lernest@enlc.life

SCAN TO SHOP OUR
AMAZON REGISTRY



**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

*God's Vision,
Our Mission*

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

Elaine Boughner, 736 Stratford Dr., 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

Christine Weber-A03

Brenda Riddle, A-23

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

Margaret Ike, Apt. 213
Jeanne Mears, Apt. 301
Gary Paul, Apt. 324
Dick Clark, Apt. 303N
Shirley Sparks, Apt. 117

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

Residents: *Ellen Freytag*

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

Resident: LeRue Gooder, Rm. 506
Phyllis Blust, Rm. 508
Linda Steenrod, Rm. 802
Nick Miller, Rm. 306

Ayden Health Care (Piqua) 275 Kienle Drive, Piqua, Oh 45356

Pamela Morgan Rm. 307

*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
Church Office Open: Mon-Thurs. 8-3 pm Fri., 8 am-12 pm	1 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	2 Office Closes, 3pm	3 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	4 Office Closes, 3pm- Senior lunch, 12 pm Bells, 6:30 pm	5 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm	6 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
7 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Child Sun- day school, 9:30 am Donut Time, 9:30 am	8 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm Church Committee Meeting, 6 pm Church Council Meeting, 7 pm	9 Office Closes, 3pm	10 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	11 Office Closes, 3pm Bells, 6:30 pm	12 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm	13 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
14 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	15 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	16 Office Closes, 3pm Dorothy Love, 10 am	17 Office Closes, 3pm Quilting, 9 am AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	18 Office Closes, 3pm Bells, 6:30 pm	19 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm	20 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
21 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	22 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	23 Office Closes, 3pm	24 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship, 7 pm/11 pm	25 Office Closed AA, 12 pm Christmas Worship Serv, 9:30 am Christmas Day	26 Office Closes, 12pm AA, 12 pm	27 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
28 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	29 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	30 Office Closes, 3pm	31 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm New Year's Eve	Jan. 1 Office closed		