



St. John's Newsletter  
January 2026

# Celebrate Epiphany and The Baptism of Our Lord

2025 Annual Reports  
Due January 2026  
Thank you!

Christmas Decoration Clean-up and Storage  
Saturday, Jan. 10, at 10 am, Church Sanctuary  
Help needed!



Pastor Steve Edmiston

**January**, in the church, is a little like winter wheat. I was told by a farmer once that winter wheat needed a cold snap, below a given temperature, or the seeds would not germinate. So the seed get planted in the fall and the farmers await that cold snap (now let's not blame the farmers for the cold, they plant because they know it gets cold). As the air and the ground begin to warm we see the consequence of the cold, the wheat begins to grow.

January at church is a time when we wait, not for cold, but for the presence of Jesus. The season of Christmas lasts until January 5 and in those twelve days we celebrate Jesus coming to the world, as a child. On January 6, we celebrate Epiphany and remember the coming of the Magi signaling Jesus' ministry and salvation is for the entire world. The first Sunday after Epiphany, we remember Jesus' baptism. We kind of jump from being a child and toddler to his adult entry into his ministry. This happens because we have only one story in the Bible about Jesus' growing up. After the baptism, we enter another green season, more common time, we get to meet Jesus.

Epiphany and the season after are about seeing how Jesus is made manifest to disciples, to Pharisees, to the lame and sick, to the hungry and poor, to you and to me. It is like when we see wheat begin to grow after the winter cold. For us we get to see Jesus as he manifests the love and presence of God, as he shows the people around him the grace and comfort, the challenge and calling that come from God to us all.

Cold comes. It's January in the northern hemisphere, so it comes. As the community of Christ, as children of God, we get to gather this January marveling at the presence of Jesus who brings God's love fully and unconditionally. We get to hear his call to Peter and Andrew, to you and me. We get to follow Jesus into the world empowered by the love that God gives us every day. Join us this January, let the seed of God's love take root in us all.

Peace,  
Pastor Steve





**Lori Holt**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Here we are in January of a brand-new year! 2026!  
And I'm STILL wondering what happened to 2014!!

On January 4, we will be continuing our Christmas celebration!!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations  
Saturday, January 10, at 10:00. If you're feeling  
moved to help, that would be awesome!!

January 11, we'll be celebrating the Baptism of our Lord. January 18  
and 25 will be the second and third Sundays after Epiphany! Please join  
us for all these worship services, at whichever service: Saturday at 6:00  
pm, Sunday Contemporary at 8:30 or Sunday Traditional at 10:30.

We need volunteers for Altar Guild. If you feel moved to serve the  
church, please contact the church office! Thank you so much!

Don't forget to make your New Year's resolution!

May God bless us into this new year, may we stay faithful to Him and  
keep Him I our hearts, and continue to serve others in His name. Amen.

Happy Birthday, Seth!!!

Love in Christ,  
Lori



**Altar Guild Volunteer**  
**January**  
**Linda Fogt**  
**Ann Hubler**  
**We Need Volunteers!**  
**Sign up today!**

*Quilting Circle*  
to meet  
Wednesday,  
Jan. 28  
9 am

**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 fellow-

**Dorothy Love**  
**Monthly Worship**  
**Service 10 am**  
**Dec 20**



Our Santa's Workshop was a huge success with twenty-one children participating. They had a great time shopping for their siblings as well as their parents. Now I cannot say that about the volunteers due to the chaos and I even thought for a minute they may mutiny!! The volunteers were Bob, Mary Ann, Norb, Mary, Jim, Patty, Mic, Karen and Linda.

Please pray for all to come back next year!

The true meaning of Christmas is in Matthew 1:21 "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Ways You can Help  
Our Community



In Kind: 18 for \$162

Cash Assistance: 24 for \$281





## St. John's Church Council Minutes

### St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Date: December 8, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER:** by President Myron Koester

**OPENING DEVOTIONS:** Pastor Steve Edmiston

**AGENDA REVIEW:** Pastor Steve motioned to approve agenda as amended (added to new business). Kathy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Fred Billing has volunteered to serve on council. Pastor Steve moved to add Fred to council. Kaleb seconded the motion. Motion passed. Steve Holt and Bob Loomis were accepted at the congregational meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

All circuit breakers have been replaced during the last week.  
Had some issues with snow removal but these issues have been rectified.

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

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

#### **STAFF REPORT:**

Pastor Report- Presented by Pastor Steve

1. Marriage Nov 15 - Chris Fritz and Olivia Pitchford
2. Funerals for Doris Conrad and Sean Yeager
3. Christmas party for youth Saturday, Dec 12, 2025
4. Christmas Eve services 7:00PM and 11:00PM and Christmas morning at 9:30 AM.
5. Pastor Steve and Stacy will be out Dec 29- Jan 1 to visit Mom.
6. Pastor Steve will be attending the Pastor's Conference in Columbus Jan 20-22, 2026.  
Volunteer Coordinator Report - no reports submitted

Thrift Shop Report - Financial report enclosed.



## Church Council Part 2

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Ministry - Education & Youth:**  
Meeting to discuss youth Christmas party

**Ministry - Music & Worship:**  
No report

**Outreach - Evangelism:**  
1. 7450 Cards From Christ delivered  
2. 50 Thanksgiving boxes were distributed

**Outreach - Parish Life:**  
  
1. Pleased with turn out for Congregational Meeting breakfast/brunch (44).  
  
2. Next will start working on Lenten meals.  
  
3. Seeing shrinking numbers on Donut Sunday so considering having a donut/cookie combination. Pastor Steve asked to given the decision on this before the next Donut Sunday so he can make an appropriate announcement.

**Operations - Finance:**  
See Treasure's Report

**Operations - Property:**  
1. Electrical work handled.  
2. Will be accepting MMI proposal

### Additional Notes:

**PRAYER REQUEST:** JoAnn Koester and the family of Steve Hubbell.

**DEVOTIONS:** Pat Mullen

### INFORMATION:

\*sign up sheets for communion assistants and devotions was passed

\*Newsletter deadline: December 22, 2025

\*Next council meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026 - 7:00PM

### ATTENDANCE :

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

Thanks to the Lutheran Church  
for their generous donation of food  
boxes. Your compassion nourishes  
both body and spirit and reminds  
us all of the power of community  
and faith in action!

STAR HOUSE

Wes C  
Thanks  
Devon  
Hoover  
Thank  
you  
guys  
for  
the  
food  
boxes  
Mike Sturt  
Sean  
Holtman  
Don King  
Thank you!  
Lillian  
Thank you  
so much!!  
Tracy Kie's  
all  
dum

Thank you to everyone for  
your time and/or your gift  
donations to people in our  
community. You helped:

Elizabeth New Life Center  
Right to Life  
The Gideons  
Lutheran World Relief  
St. John's Thrift Shop  
And the list goes on!

You did that and we  
appreciate all of it!  
God's blessings to you





O C D A D F T U N A H J I P Q H K H O R N S U Q P G  
 K H G D F J G F E M F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 P E T A Y J D I S W E R C A B U O B L B R L O G C Z  
 A E W W Y J G F E M F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 U R C F G F E M F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 G S Y U H F E M F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 P K Q U O D R Q A F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 R I O O D R Q A F I S O C A L E V A Q P Y S R J S K  
 M S Z E F W G E R N Y I O S Y B X J T O M N Z X  
 Y L T B Y F O R B L O Y S E P I C K T P B O W N Z X  
 Q J S J R K L O Y S E P I C K T P B O W N Z X  
 P M Q X O S P P B E C O U K S U T B D K S T  
 E Z L S G H A M B E C O U K S U T B D K S T  
 J D B T V G L M L B C E L U S M P Y O S N T  
 G V I O I U S H L I W G M U C O I N O W Y D  
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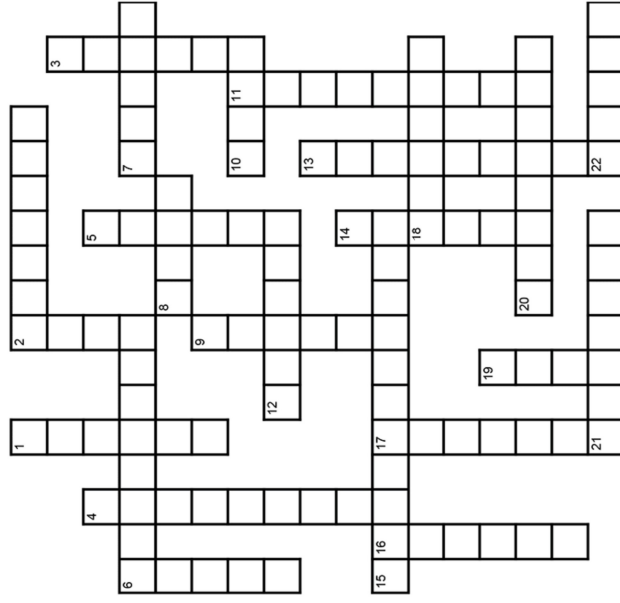
Noisemaker	Resolution	Celebrate	Fireworks
Countdown	Calendar	Midnight	Bubbles
Cheers	Party	Cheer	Clock
Horns	Ball	Kiss	Time

Across

2. Knitted top.
6. Snowstorm with winds.
7. Month that winter ends in.
8. When the air moves.
10. A sudden blast of wind.
12. Shake from the cold.
15. Tells you how cold it is outside.
18. Rather cold.
20. Month that winter starts in.
21. He might have a carrot for a nose.
22. Keeps you neck warm.

Down

1. Turned into ice.
2. It goes downhill fast.
3. A short coat.
4. What bears do in the winter.
5. Opposite of summer.
6. Shoes for snowy days.
9. Frozen trickle of water.
11. Ice crystal.
13. December 25th.
14. Area around the North Pole.
16. Used to warm a room.
17. Winter hand warmers.
19. Temperature (in Celsius) at which water freezes.



Hobo Crauman Quaster Thermometer Mind Winter Zarn



**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 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 pm				1 Office Closed Senior lunch, 12 pm <i>Happy New Year</i>	2 Office Closed AA, 12 pm	3 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
4 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	5 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	6 Office Closes, 3pm	7 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	8 Office Closes, 3pm	9 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm	10 Christmas Decora- tions Cleanup, 10 am Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
11 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	12 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm <b>Church Committee Meeting, 6 pm Church Council Meeting, 7 pm</b>	13 Office Closes, 3pm	14 Office Closes, 3pm Quilting, 9 am AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	15 Office Closes, 3pm	16 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm	17 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
18 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	19 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	20 Office Closes, 3pm <b>Dorothy Love, 10 am</b>	21 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	22 Office Closes, 3pm	23 Office Closes, 12pm AA, 12 pm	24 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
25 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	26 Office Closes, 3pm AA, 12 pm	27 Office Closes, 3pm	28 Office Closes, 12 pm AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	29 Office Closes, 3pm	30 Office Closes, 12pm AA, 12 pm	31 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm