

St. John's United Church of Christ
 1-946 St. Rt. 108
 Holgate, Ohio 43527
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January 11 Betty Retirement Reception
 January 12 Installation of Officers
 January 12 Peggy Meet & Greet
 January 26 Annual Meeting/Meal

From Pastor Jeff's Desk – pages 2-3
 Consistory President Chris Rettig – page 4
 Worship Participants – page 9
 Financial Summary – pages 12, 13
 Safe Church Training – page 17
 Annual Congregation Mtg/Meal – page 21
 Birthdays – pages 21, 27
 Poinsettia/Memorials – pages 22-26



Jan 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			OFFICE CLOSED			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Communion 11:30am - Safe Church Training 2pm - Decorating Team meeting	6:30pm - Spiritual Council	SPHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	5:30pm - Safe Church Training 6pm - Handbells 6:30pm - Safe Church Training 7pm - Sanctuary Choir	1:30pm - Van Crest Service 6pm - Finance Team 6pm - Pastoral Relations Council		5pm - Retirement party for Betty
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship/Installation of 11:30am - CEI meeting 11:30am - Peggy Welcome	6pm - Dancers 6:30pm - Consistory		6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am - Sunday School 10am - Newsletter Articles Due 10:15am - Worship		SPHALOM Delivery in am 4:30pm - SHALOM Food Pantry	6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9am - Sunday School 10:15am - Worship 11:30am - Annual Meeting		9am - Newsletter mailing 9am - Newsletter mailing	HEU cross blood drive 9am - Newsletter mailing 5pm - Social Security Benefits 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Sanctuary Choir		5pm - Social Security Benefits	

The Sentinel
 St. John's United Church of Christ
 I-946 St. Rt. 108 Holgate, Ohio 43527
 JANUARY 2025

Please Contact us at --

Office Hours: 8-12 Monday - Friday
 Church Phone: (419) 264-4401
 Pastor: Jeff McCam - Cell Phone 812-202-9273
 Parsonage Phone: 419-264-5201
 Parsonage Address: 13039 Co Rd J, Holgate, OH 43527
 Church e-mail: holgate@sentinel.net (Peggy Schulte)
 Pastor e-mail: jeffmccam@sentinel.net
 Financial Administrator e-mail: spjohn@sentinel.net (Carl Dettmer)
 Newsletter Editor e-mail: padurham203@bright.net
 Church Website: www.stjohnsuhc.org
 SHALOM Food Pantry open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M. – WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Night Schedule

Bells	6:00 P.M.
Sanctuary Choir	7:00 P.M.

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Pastor
Jeff's
Desk...

FAVORITE
PASSAGES

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Luke 1:46-55 NRSV

This scripture from Luke's gospel is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. If I had my way, this passage would be included every year during Advent, not just every three years when the lectionary cycles back around to it. Luke tells the story of how joyful Mary is to be the one chosen by God to carry the coming Messiah.

Mary sings this song when she visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is also pregnant in her old age with who we know as John the Baptist — Jesus' cousin. Mary's beautiful song of praise is commonly called the *Magnificat* - Latin for magnify. The first line of the song says, "My soul magnifies the Lord."

Why is Mary so happy about the situation she is in? The answer lies in the fact that Mary knows she is a very different choice to be the mother of the coming Savior. The blessedness that Mary celebrates stands in contrast to our culture's standards. By our standards she does not look at all blessed. She is not from a family that can afford expensive food or clothing. She is a nobody, a peasant girl from a small village. Her friends and neighbors see her as a disgrace because she is unmarried and pregnant. Mary knows this and sings in praise for what God is doing in her.

Continued On Page 3



Pastor
Jeff's
Desk...

FAVORITE
PASSAGES

Continued From Page 2

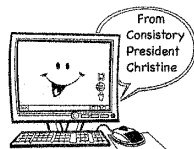
This is truly a song of hope and joy. Mary sings about the God who saves not just souls, but all of God's beloved children no matter who they are or where they may find themselves on life's journey. The God she celebrates is not content merely to point people toward heaven but points us to see God's redemptive work beginning here on earth. God fills the hungry not only with hope but with food. Rather than being satisfied with comforting the lowly, Mary's God lifts them up, granting them dignity and honor, a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation.

Do our souls magnify the Lord? How can we show others that God truly does magnify our souls? I love how during Advent and Christmas we "go the extra mile" when we pull names from the Giving Tree, put money in the Salvation Army's kettles to help the poor and give out extra food and meals. At the same time, this frustrates me. Why do we do this only during Advent and Christmas. Why cannot we "go the extra mile" other times of the year? Why not do these acts of kindness on April 8, June 19 or August 6? Celebrating the love of neighbor and loving them as we love ourselves is a way of singing Mary's song of praise all year long. Mary's song magnifies God who loves the whole world with a love that makes creation whole.

For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
 Luke 1:49

*Grace and peace,
 Rev. Jeff McCam*

REMEMBERING



First of all, thank you to the members of Consistory for having faith in me to ask that I fill the position of President. Yes, I have done it once before, but it is still a little intimidating for me. Will I be able to do what is expected of me? Can I fill these shoes as adequately as others in the past have done?

Assuming this new role takes me back to January 13, 1975. On that date, I reported to Defiance Hospital for my first day on a new job as a young registered nurse. Just as I step into the Consistory President position wondering how well I will be able to do what is expected of me, I had those same feelings as I walked into the hospital. I was beginning a position as an operating room nurse, a field in which I had no experience. I had worked as an RN for a year, but, boy, this was really stepping out of my comfort zone. With the help of the surgeons, seasoned OR nurses, and technicians, I was able to learn from their experience, become who I was meant to be, and eventually achieve national certification in the field of preoperative nursing. When you work in the OR, every day is new - new patients, new procedures, and new challenges in your life.

Each and every day we start anew. Lamentations 3:22-23 reads, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion's never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Adele Werner, in *Stories from the Mission Field*, writes: *Each morning is a new opportunity to reflect on God's work in your life. Each day your slate is wiped clean by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. As we look at our lives from the perspective of victory on the cross, we can know that God is faithful to his promise.*

If your yesterday wasn't like you wanted it to be, remember that today, you have a clean slate to start anew.

Christine Rettig



Positive Things Seen and Heard from the Congregation and Consistory

Grateful for younger Consistory members helping at the Siberian Solstice concert.

Great attendance at the Siberian Solstice concert.

Grateful to Jean Dietrich for stepping in to help Janice Rettig and Betty (Bob) Rettig with the appetizer reception prior to the concert.

Thankful for all who brought food and assisted in anyway with the appetizer reception.

The food at the appetizer reception was delicious.

Thankful for those who helped with resetting the sanctuary and choir loft after the concert.

Glad folks are supporting community events.

Shalom clients really appreciated the Christmas party in conjunction with the food pantry.

Grateful for how Peggy Schulte is getting to know us.

People seem to be enjoying the coffee and water station in the narthex.

Fortunate to have dedicated people to decorate the church for the seasons.

Congratulations to Tammy Vajen on her graduation from the Lay School of Religion.

For those watching our worship service online, the announcement slides and gathering music begin 15 minutes before the start of worship.

You can watch our service at

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLCCHolgate>



CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Election of officers was held. 2025 President, Christine Rettig; Vice-President, Ben Thomas; Scribe, Robert Rettig; Assistant Scribe, Amanda Rettig.

All positions within the Consistory, Deacons, and Spiritual Council were filled. Ministry team liaison positions were filled.

New members welcomed: Elders: Christine Rettig and Kirk Fruth
Deacons: Rory Prigge, Jay Slagle, Amanda Rettig

Outgoing members thanked: Elders: Eric Shank and Greg Nelson
Deacons: Kevin Vajen, Adam Stevenson, Carol Medina

Siberian Solstice Concert was well attended. Pre-concert appetizer reception was appreciated by all. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

Volunteers will be working on the basketball project as their work schedules will allow.

Prep is underway for the Annual Meeting on January 26.

Consistory and CE Board Installation is on January 12.

Team reports need to be to the office by January 12.

Safe Church Training, required for all Consistory members, and other leaders will be led by Amanda Rettig.

Proposal for farm profit distribution was prepared and will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Trustees are continuing to work on issues within our building.



Spiritual Council

Meeting Excerpts

DECEMBER 2, 2024

Pastor: Jeff McCam
Head Elder and Evangelism Liaison: Kay Armbruster (26)
Scribe: Bob Rettig (25) Worship and Music Liaison: Greg Nelson (24)
Communion Stewards: Greg Nelson (24) and Mike Haldy (25)
Confirmation and Backup Scribe: Eric Shank (24)

Those present: Pastor Jeff McCam
Mike Haldy (25)
*Kay Armbruster (26)
Greg Nelson (24)
Eric Shank (24)
Bob Rettig (26)
Rolie Rettig (26)
Christine Rettig (27)
Betty Rettig (as resource person)

- We welcomed Christine Rettig as an Elder joining the group for the next term. Kirk Fruth is also joining us for the next term.
- Greg shared a personal devotional message based on Luke about giving of oneself and the resulting abundance to the giver.
- Awesome to have Greg back with us in the meeting!
- Pastor reviewed his through November report. Greg thanked Pastor for his visits.
- Reorganized for the new term as follows:

Kay as Head Elder
Bob as Scribe
Kirk as Backup Scribe
Mike as Communion Steward
Christine as backup Communion Steward
Rolie as Visitation Chair
Kirk as Confirmation Liaison/CE Board Liaison
Christine as Liaison to Evangelism
Open for now - Worship and Music/Decorating Liaison



DEACONS' BENCH

December 9, 2024
Adam Stevenson, Scribe

Deacons:

Carol Medina (24), Kevin Vajen (24), Adam Stevenson (24)
Chris Coppes (25), Jared Clady (25), Ben Thomas (25)
Linda Arreguin (26), Janice Rettig (26), Mark Vajen (26)

Members Present:

Adam Stevenson (24), Ben Thomas (25), Jared Clady (25),
Janice Rettig (26), Linda Arreguin (26), Mark Vajen (26)
Others in attendance: Pastor Jeff McCarn,
New Deacons: Amanda Rettig and Rory Prigge

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by vice chair Jared Clady.

Minutes of previous November 11 meeting were approved.

Old Business

The basketball tear out will be happening when folks are in their less busy season.

The sign up sheet will be reviewed and investigated as to what areas still need volunteers.

The kitchen sink will be investigated a bit further, as it backed up again.

New Business

There is a missing slate near the North entrance, Trustees are aware, will probably be patched next year. When the new slates in 2025 are put on, that one will be replaced.

HVAC unit in pastor's office is not working correctly, Trustees will investigate and take further necessary action.

Reorganization of Deacons took place with Jared Clady as Head Deacon and Amanda Rettig Scribe. Janice Rettig is Vice Head Deacon and Linda Arreguin is back up scribe. Other liaison roles were filled accordingly.

Motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Next Deacon's meeting: January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	ACOLYTES	DEACONS
JAN. 5	Deacons	Amanda Rettig Ben Thomas
JAN. 12	Deacons	Chris Coppes Rory Prigge
JAN. 19	Deacons	Linda Arreguin Janice Rettig
JAN. 26	Deacons	Jay Slagle Mark Vajen



FROM THE SHALOM FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

INCOME

St. John's UCC October Giving	\$ 615.00
Pleasant Bend UMC	185.00
Individual Donation	200.00

Total \$ 1,000.00

Submitted by Norma Nagel



Remember Those Who Are Ill,
Undergoing Treatment,
In Grief, Or Are Recovering
With Prayers, Cards, And Visits

Within the Fellowship:

Please hold the following persons in your daily prayers...
Those on our hearts and minds

- Norma Nagel recovering after surgery
- *Donna Abshire recovering after surgery
- Jay Slagle recovering after surgery
- *Josh Barry recovering after surgery
- * Bernadette Stephens (sister-in-law of Christine Rettig) has cancer
- * Paula Greenler Shrader (former member) recovering after surgery

(*Non-member family and friends)

Other Members of our Faith Family who are dealing with illnesses

Please pray for our members and others who are isolated at home or in care facilities. They would welcome a phone call or card

Prayers for those in areas of conflict throughout the world

Those who are anticipating procedures, testing, and/or test results, or recovering from procedure



Remember Those Who Are Ill,
Undergoing Treatment,
In Grief, Or Are Recovering
With Prayers, Cards, And Visits

Within the Fellowship:

- Let us pray for those of St. John's Faith Family who are dealing with health issues or other changes in their lives.
- Let us pray for the church and its leaders and people.
- Let us pray for our service men and women and their families.

Open House for Betty Rettig,
Our Retiring Administrative Assistant
Saturday, January 11, 2025
5-8 p.m.
At St. John's United Church of Christ
to honor and celebrate Betty
Please hold the date and plan to join us!



A big thank you to my faith family for your thoughts, prayers, cards, and FOOD during my cardiac episode. Thanks to Pastor Jeff for his visits to the hospital, and to Kay for subbing for me as Sunday Elder. It was greatly appreciated.

Greg Nelson

We no longer "pass an offering plate." Your offerings and gifts may be placed in the box at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2024
CORRECTED COPY**

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Revenues and Expenses Operating Fund			
October 2024 Actual	2024 Year To Date	2024 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete YTD
\$11,894	\$153,771	\$226,450	68%
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
EXPENSES			
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$29,780	\$48,172	62%
MINISTRIES	\$5,462	\$9,700	56%
MISSIONS	\$538	\$6,450	75%
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,734	\$75,334	81%
PASTORAL	\$7,037	\$84,409	79%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,865	\$224,064	75%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	-\$6,971	-\$15,148	

Mission and Restricted Fund Gains of Note for October:
 Heifer Fund (including Kids' contributions): \$135 YTD: \$1,485
 Monthly Mission - Neighbors in Need: \$795
 Shalom Food Pantry: \$613
 Major Maintenance: \$1,877
 N.C. Hurricane Relief: \$4,835
 Youth Fund: \$320

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2024**

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Revenues and Expenses Operating Fund			
November 2024 Actual	2024 Year To Date	2024 Annual Budget	% of Year Complete YTD
\$20,016	\$170,221	\$226,450	75%
OPERATING BUDGET INCOME			
EXPENSES			
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE	\$2,022	\$31,802	66%
MINISTRIES	\$602	\$6,165	64%
MISSIONS	\$538	\$5,913	92%
ADMINISTRATION	\$5,323	\$66,494	88%
PASTORAL	\$6,944	\$73,974	88%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,429	\$184,348	82%
NET OPERATING TOTAL	\$4,587	-\$10,560	

Mission and Restricted Fund Gains of Note for November:
 Heifer Fund (including Kids' contributions): \$266 YTD: \$1,750
 Monthly Mission - Henry Co. CASA: \$715
 Shalom Food Pantry: \$670
 Missions To Go: \$1,550
 N.C. Hurricane Relief: \$550



**Remember With
Prayers, Cards and Visits
Those Not Always With Us
Especially For Services**

NURSING HOMES

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES, 1036 S. Perry Street,
Napoleon, OH 43545
Sue Mohr - #126 Geri Ripke - #221

Don Huber - Cards or notes may be sent care of his daughter
Dawn Boozer, PO Box 420, Jarales, NM 87023-0420

ASSISTED LIVING

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES, 1032 S. Perry Street,
Napoleon, OH 43545
Gib Sonnenberg - #413

TRUSTWELL LIVING AT KINGSBURY PLACE,
245 West Rosewood Ave., Defiance, OH 43512
Rose Marie Durham - Apt. 142

VANCREST NURSING HOME, 600 Joe E. Brown, Holgate, OH 43527
Herbert Fruth - #9

Janell Honeck - 6919 Mountain Creek Lane,
Missouri City, TX 77459-5786

HOME - Send a greeting to these folks or drop by and visit!

Peggy Franz	15396 St. Rt. 281	Holgate, Ohio 43527
John & Shirley Tobias	10011 Co Rd Y	Hamler, Ohio 43524
Sue Waisner	1542 St Rt 108	Holgate, Ohio 43527
Bernard Zimmer	1040 S. Perry St. Apt. 37	Napoleon, Ohio 43545

*Meet and Greet for Peggy Schulte
Our New Administrative Assistant
Sunday, January 12, 2025
Immediately after worship
At St. John's United Church of Christ
Come and meet Peggy and her family
and let her family
meet the St. John's Faith Family*



Children's Ministry **Kid's Corner** *STANDY SCHOOL, C.A. Celebrate Exuberance!*



January

- 1 - 12 Dean Houchins
- 1 - 14 Dawson Clady
- 1 - 19 Brady Fruth
- 1 - 19 Kennedy Fruth
- 1 - 26 Aiden Coulter
- 1 - 26 Luke Herman
- 1 - 26 Paige Herman
- 1 - 28 Hunter Woodring
- 1 - 30 Charlotte Kuhiman

Orphan Grain Train - Ohio

Warehouse: 500 Independence Dr.
 Napoleon OH 43545
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 74
 Reynolds Corners OH 43855

Email: OHIOOGT@tceexpress.net

Nancy Helmke, President PH. 419.758.3539
 Diann Meyer Grieser, Sec. / Treas. PH. 419.267.5710
 Clady Cline, Warehouse Coordinator/Board Member
 PH. 419.261.3409
 Vickie Grieser, Board Member PH. 419.572.9824
 Lesa Bischoff, Board Member PH. 419.261.8138

November 23, 2024

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ family,

On behalf of the Ohio Division of Orphan Grain Train I would like to express our sincere thanks for your recent donation. We thank our Heavenly Father for placing people with a heart for service in our lives, for giving them gifts to share so that others may be blessed. May we also ask for your continued prayers that God will watch over the work of the Orphan Grain Train!

Your gift will be used for hurricane relief efforts. We have sent two trailers of requested items to Caldwell OH and from there on to North Carolina. Another special collection is taking place Dec. 7 & 8 and those items will also be sent to North Carolina and Florida. Our Creator has taught us to love our neighbor and to respond in Christian love with resources that He provides, through you and many others.

Orphan Grain Train is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with people who are in need in the United States and around the world. We accept donations of clean, gently used: clothing, working appliances, gently used furniture along with medical supplies, Christian literature, and other resources to meet real needs of God's people. Shipping costs continue to be our number one expense, approximately \$11.00 is needed to ship one box.

The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for all.

Sincerely,

Diann

Diann Meyer-Grieser
 Sec. / Treas.
 Ohio Division Orphan Grain Train

This letter is your official receipt. Our Federal Employer Information Number is 31-1614650.
 Receipt dated: 11/25/24 Check #16230 in the amount of \$2365.00 Dated: 11/15/24.

In being good stewards of our resources, we encourage you to join our email list so we can save the expense of postage. If you would like to receive future information via email, please send a note to OHIOOGT@tceexpress.net **THANK YOU** for considering this.



"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
 John 14:18 (NIV)



Mission and Stewardship



**MISSION-TO-GO
 MISSION FOR JANUARY**

"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in our power to act." - Proverbs 3:27

In 2010, St. John's created *Mission-To-Go*. It has been devoted solely as monetary assistance to the members of our congregation who wish to live their faith beyond these church walls. Since the fund was started, Mission-To-Go has assisted in covering the cost of over thirty mission trips to Mexico, Honduras, Houston, Kentucky, and Mississippi.

In February, members of St. John's faith family will travel to Honduras to work on projects where there is local need. Chad Lulfs, Mike Haldy, and Mark Vajen will take St. John's message of Christian grace and service to a part of the world that is easily passed by. This is a huge thing. They will be joined by a retired pastor from Las Vegas.

The original purpose of this mission was to encourage members to become involved on a personal level by donating their time. Every dime of this fund has lived up to its original edict! The return on investment has come in the lives changed by the selfless time and talent of a small cadre of individuals.

These young(-ish) folks will carry the message for all of us in work and deed and the funds given through *Mission-To-Go* will lighten their load a bit. Consider giving to this small, but mighty, mission. If times are tough, no worries. The prayers sent with them each year are as valuable as gold.

Thank You!

I thank everyone from my church family who continues to send me cards. I appreciate and enjoy them all!

Janell Honeck



Our Nursing Home Ministry

**VanCrest of Holgate
 Worship Service**

**Thursday, January 9
 at 1:30 P.M.**

Angel Choir Needed



**Decorating Team
 will meet
 Sunday January 5
 at 2:00 p.m.
 to take down
 the Christmas Decorations**

News of Note

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Dates are: Sunday, December 22 right after Church,
 Sunday, January 5 right after church, and
 Wednesday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

All Members of 2025 Consistory, 2025 CEB, Teachers and Staff are expected to attend one of the sessions. Sign-up sheets are in the office.

**2025 Offering Envelopes
 are ready to be picked up.
 They are in Fellowship Hall.**



News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
December 8, 2024

Present: Lucy Coppes (24), Nancy Thomas (26)
Alexa Brown (26) via Telephone, Deb Stevenson (28)

Lucy opened the meeting and led Devotions.

- **Consistory Updates:** No updates.
- **Sunday School:** Winter Curriculum has arrived, please note that when Sunday School resumes in January, we will be on the lesson 7 of 15. If the board wishes to proceed immediately on realignment of Sunday School before the end of Winter Quarter (March 5, 2025), this will be a short turn around period. Christmas pageant will be on December 22.
- **Youth Ministry and Post-Confirmation group:** Things are going well! Youth went Shalom Shopping on November 24, had six participants, and bought gifts for six children. Youth group will be making cheeseballs to sell at Christmas pageant.
- **Birthdays:** Nothing new to report, cards continue to be sent to all active children at the beginning of the month.
- **Cradle Roll** – Nothing new to report.
- **Christmas Gifts for Children and Teachers:** Pre – K and Kindergarten teachers are already creating gifts for their children. Gifts for teachers and youth have been purchased, teachers will be receiving Christian themed notebooks, 1 – 6 grades will be receiving a "His name is Jesus" Booklet, Activity Bag, Ornament, crayons and small toy gift bag. Youth group will receive travel mugs with \$5 Walmart gift card.
We have reestablished contact with new church liaison Elizabeth "Liz" Bergren at Crossroad Child and Family Services.. Contact information was emailed to all existing board members with everyday items. Liz is willing to arrange pick up when she is in Ohio so that board members do not have always have to drive items to Fort Wayne.

Continued On Page 19



News and Notes

Submitted By Lucy Coppes
December 8, 2024

Continued From Page 18

- **Reminder:** All three board positions will need to be filled next month. Lucy will contact Amanda about Safe Church Training. Board is reminded that Ladies of Love need to be coordinated/ scheduled with the Cladys in January in time for promotion in the February newsletter.
- **Next meeting:** Board decided that meetings will be held on the second Sunday of the month for consistency. Next meeting January 12, 2025.

Annual Report



Annual Reports due Sunday, January 12, 2025

Written Reports The secretary will take them early!

President of the Consistory	Elders
Consistory Highlights	Memorial Team
Deacons	SHALOM
Pastor's Report	Worship and Music
Children's Music Ministry	Sanctuary and Bell Choirs
Cemetery Association	Christian Education Board
Trustees	Stewardship and Mission Team
Fellowship	Audit Team
Endowment	Evangelism Team

Financial Reports as soon as bank statements have been balanced.

Sanctuary Choir	Cemetery Assoc.	Adult Fellowship
Memorial Fund	Endowment Fund	Bell Choir
SHALOM	SHALOM Beverage & Recycle	

If your report is already complete, please forward it to the office via email if possible, or leave it in the secretary's box.



EVANGELISM TEAM ARTICLE THREE

Over the last two months, we have shared parts of an article written by Rob Moss, and published on the website www.livinglutheran.org on June 22, 2016. We want our faith family to have additional information from the article. Here are action ideas that Pastor Moss's church used to be an inviting church. Our faith family can use these ideas to become more than just a welcoming church...we can become an inviting church. Pastor Moss suggests using the words, *my church*, to start a conversation. Think about how you could modify these challenges to be relevant to our church. (Edited for space constraints)

Challenge 1:

"Just go two blocks past my church, and you'll see the grocery store."
Try using the phrase "my church" in a conversation with one person each week.

Challenge 2:

"School violence? My church is hosting a forum about that next month."
Consider one word or phrase that describes you congregation well, then use that word to finish the phrase: "My church is _____." When you start looking for opportunities to bring up your congregation in conversation, it's amazing how often they arise.

Challenge 3:

"Check out my church's volunteer day at the food pantry."
Invite one person to check out something in which your congregation is involved. This should be done in appropriate conversations when an opening naturally presents itself—it should not feel forced or manipulated.

Challenge 4:

"Would you like to join me at church this Sunday?"
Invite someone you know to come to worship with you. This seems to be the most frightening invitation for many to make. Who knows? The neighbor you invited to church just might reveal something about God that you didn't know before.

The Evangelism Team: Christine Rettig, Kay Armbruster, Jim Rettig, Lori Clady, Morgan Luffs, Joe Long



"Senior Saints" Our 80+ Members

Sue Waisner
will celebrate her
85th Birthday
on January 3

1542 St. Rt. 108
Holgate, OH 43525

Larry Hockman
will celebrate his
87th Birthday
on January 6

854 W Graceway Dr
Napoleon, OH 43545

Jay Stagle
will celebrate his
80th Birthday
on January 29

1751 Iroquois Ct.
Defiance, OH 43512-3341

Hold the Date ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2025 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

POTLUCK MEAL
MEAT, BREAD, AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

ANNUAL MEETING WILL BEGIN AFTER MEAL
(AROUND 12:15 P.M.)

Your presence will be especially important



Poinsettias

Thank You to all who provided poinsettias to decorate the church and for gifts to support other projects at St. John's!

<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Orvil and Marlyn Benskin	Steve and Deb Waisner
Quentin Espinoza	Steve and Deb Waisner
George and Marguerite Hahn	Ruth Ann Durham
Jim Armbruster and Doug Armbruster	Kay Armbruster
Loved Ones	Kathy Finkenbinder and Mary K. Altman
Loved Ones	Franell and Greg Nelson
Grandparents Everett and Pauline Tobias and Vernon and Edna Hashbarger	Mike and Sheri Plotts
Heather Ann Cutlip and Kelsey Ann Davis	Peggy Rettig
Victor and Luella Rettig, Ron Rettig, and Shirley Huber	Peggy Rettig
Larry Sidle	Christopher and Lori Clady Family
Annisah Franz	Her Family
Wayne and Mary Fruth, Lloyd and Margie Moneghan, and Audrey Buckmaster	Kirk and Lynette Fruth



Poinsettias

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<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Franklin Schnitkey, Frank Hess, and Ryan Rosebrock	Nancy, Ben, Taryn, Annabelle and Baby Boy, Rachel, and Andy
Lowell and Mary Hoellrich	Ron and Jeri Hoellrich
Ruth and Alfred Huneycutt and In Honor Of Mr. and Mrs. Paul McCarn	Rev. Jeff and Bobbie McCarn
Jim Waisner and In Honor Of Sue Waisner	Kevin, Beth, Adrienne, and Denton Waisner
<i>In Honor Of</i> Christa Jones Family and Cheryl and Brian Koenig Family	Bob and Betty Rettig
<i>In Memory Of</i> Dallas and Wilma Rettig and Edward and Elaine Beauch	Bob and Betty Rettig
Ron Lulfs	Carol Lulfs and Family
Loved Ones	Carol Medina and Pam Murchek



Poinsettias

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<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>Given By</i>
Burnell Rettig, Robert Meyer, Tim Meyer, and Annisah Franz	Charlotte Meyer Rettig
Evelyn Wallace	Dave and Linda Snyder
Betty and Nelson Yaichner	Yaichner Family
Violet Rettig and her son Michael	Don and Betty Rettig Family
Susan, Margo and Gwen	Kevin and Tammy Vajen Family



Memorials

To Other Projects
Thank You to all who provided poinsettias to decorate the church and for gifts to

CEMETERY FUNDS

In Memory Of **Thelma Breece**
Given By Fred Breece

MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of **Thelma Breece**
Given By Stephen Breece

MISSION-TO-GO

In Memory Of **Loved Ones of Both Families**
Given By Roland and Janice Rettig

OPERATING FUND

In Memory Of **Dallas and Wilma Rettig and Butler and Betty Stephens**
Given By Jim and Christine Rettig

PEACE GARDEN

In Memory Of **Betty and Nelson Yaichner**
Given By Yaichner Family



Christmas Eve



*Memorials
To Other Projects*

*Thank You to all who provided poinsettias
to decorate the church and for gifts to*



JANUARY

ROOF UPKEEP AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

*In Memory Of Clarence and Frances Prigge and
Jack and Naomi Carr*

Given By Lennis and Margaret Prigge

SHALOM FOOD PANTRY

In Honor Of The McCarn Family

Given By Edward and Diane Huneycutt

In Memory Of Carolyn Slagle

Given By Jay Slagle

In Memory Of Our Parents

Given By Tammy and Dan Martin

In Memory Of Nancy Haldy

Given By Michael Haldy

1 - 2	Sandra Frey-Latta	1 - 17	Dawn Fry
1 - 3	Sue Waisner	1 - 18	Adam Bockrath
1 - 3	Sue A. Rettig	1 - 19	Janet Stoner
1 - 4	Greg Nelson	1 - 22	Phillip Rettig
1 - 6	Larry Hockman	1 - 25	Jacob Hahn
1 - 8	Tiffany Fruth	1 - 25	Larry Maurer
1 - 8	Adam Stevenson	1 - 27	Natalie Meyer
1 - 11	Randy Lambert	1 - 29	Jay Slagle
1 - 14	Paula Maurer	1 - 30	Tori Medina
		1 - 31	Stacy LaPoint

This is the list of birthdays that are recorded in the church office. If we have missed anyone, please contact the office so we can add his or her name to our list.

If anyone, for personal reasons, does not want his or her name and birthday listed, please contact the church office and make your wishes known.

(See the Kids Corner pages for the children and youth birthdays.)




PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Contact the Prayer Chain if you have any needs.
This Prayer Chain has been updated; they will faithfully pray for you. Contact one of the following persons:
Betty (Don) R. at 419-264-4321 Kay A. at 419-966-2389
Church Office at 419-264-4401

PLAN AHEAD FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS
See Calendar on Inside Mailing Cover

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for news articles to appear in the **FEBRUARY** Newsletter is—**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 at 12 NOON**
Please leave your article in the folder in the wall file on the South Wall (Directly across from the door) of the church office marked Newsletter



JANUARY MISSIONS MISSION-TO-GO

St. John's is a member of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference United Church of Christ. Information and resources are available at www.nwoca.org, www.heartlanducc.org and www.ucc.org.

