



## Epiphany Home Blessing

What do we do in our homes? For many of us, that is the place that we first experience love, where we learn to care for each other, and where our faith in God begins and grows. Jesus, too, taught, cared for people, and ate with others in many homes.

On or around Epiphany, we get to take the time to bless our homes, to remember God's presence in them, and to dedicate our lives and our homes to God. This is a perfect time to involve the whole family, from the youngest to the oldest, in prayer together. Below, you will find an example outline of a worship service and home blessing.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Following this command, we gather to ask for God's blessing on this home and to remember that we and everything that we have belong to God. We take chalk and write the blessing on the doorpost.

\* Article continued, pg. 2

## Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will take place immediately after worship on Sunday, January 21st. All confirmed members of St. John's are asked to attend. We will discuss important ministries for 2018.

Plus, a world famous pot-luck lunch will follow the meeting! Drinks will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. Don't miss this important meeting of the congregation and fellowship time to follow.



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### Special points of interest:

- Altar Flowers
- Ministry Leaders
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Annual Reports Due
- January Calendar
- Poets Corner

The three Wise Men,  
C Caspar,  
M Melchior,  
B and Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who became human  
20 two thousand  
18 and eighteen years ago.  
++ May Christ bless our home  
++ and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen

(The blessing will be written ++20CMB18++)

God is love, and with God in our hearts we get to know and experience the amazing love that is so freely given. Christ, God's son who became human so we could better understand this tremendous love, is present in the love and care we share with each other in our daily lives together.

Let us pray, God of heaven and earth, you revealed Christ to every nation by a star. Bless this house, all who live here, and those who visit. Fill us with the light of Christ, that we can share your love with others and care for each other and our sisters and brothers around the world. May all who come to this home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

I hope that this home blessing helps you grow closer to each other and to our Lord.

Walking with you in Christ,  
Pastor Stacy



Thoughts for the New Year:

- I won't look back; God knows the fruitless efforts, the wasted hours, the sinning the regrets: I'll leave them all with Him who blots the record, and mercifully forgives and then forgets.
- I won't look forward. God sees the future, the road that is short or long will lead me home. He will be with me for every trial, and burden that may come.
- But I'll look up into the face of Jesus, for there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled. There is where I will find joy and love, light for darkness, peace and hope fulfilled.

*"...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus!"*

*Philippians 1:6*

## Your Prayers needed

Prayer is one of the most beautiful and meaningful gifts we can offer one another. Occasionally there are folks in this congregation, or friends or relative of members, in need of prayer for various reasons. Your prayers are needed for:

**Polly Scheid DiCocco** – undergoing cancer treatments

**Kris Quartermaine** – undergoing cancer treatments

**Becky Johnson** – daughter of Don and Vicky Johnson diagnosed with Mantle Cell lymphoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer.

**Maya** – Granddaughter of Ray and Barbara Vance recovering from major surgery.



### ST. JOHN'S HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

**Ruth Bruns:** Parkvue Health Care Center, #217

**June Gorga:** At Commons of Providence

**Jean Hlavin:** Parkvue Place, Sandusky (Pastor Bill's mother)

**Rachel Kalizewski:** Gaymont Nursing Home, Norwalk (Renee Barkhimer's mother)

**Ruth Knupke:** At home, Huron

**Jean Nottke:** At home, Huron

**Lois Oltman:** At Parkvue Health Care Center, #107

**Margaret Ommert:** At home, Huron

**Joan Zorn:** at The Meadows

**Eloise Mitchell:** At Commons of Providence

**Irma Moon:** At Admiral's Pointe

**Harriett Schlessman:** At the Willows at Bellevue Rm #518



Addresses and contact information may be found in the congregational directory unless they reside in a nursing home. Thanks for caring!

# Thank You!

## Annual Reports

Thank you to everyone for the cards and generous Christmas presents! They were greatly appreciated and so are each of you. We are so thankful to be part of the St. John's family as we serve Christ together. **Pastor Stacy and family**

Thank You members of St. John's for the Christmas gift. It is a pleasure to serve St. John's congregation. Thank you for the gift and I look forward to continued service to our Lord and the members of St. John's.

**Sandy Thompson**

**Thank you Members of St. John's:** Thank you to everyone for the Christmas cookies - they were so good! Like Mom used to make. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Lois Olman**

**ST JOHN'S FAMILY THANK YOU** from all of the nursing home residents who benefited from your Christmas gifts. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, each wish was granted ..... to include a live plant ! God's LOVE lives here!!!!!!



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

We continue our study of Revelation in the new year. We gather on Thursdays at 9 am at the Huron Public Library. You are invited!

Reports can be placed in the "Annual Report " envelope at the back of the church OR e-mailed to sandy8110@gmail.com or send via US Mail to 2009 Jeffries Rd. Huron OH 44839 Thanks so much for your assistance.

## Second Tuesday



Every second Tuesday of the month from 5:30-7, you are invited to be a part of a small group. We will gather for prayer, Scripture reading, fellowship, food, and games. Multiple groups are forming, and they require a small commitment from the group members. It is our hope that as we gather each month (only missing when really necessary), we will grow closer to each other and to our Lord. We will have people who know where we are in our faith journeys and places in life, and we will be there for each other, lifting each other up and encouraging one another. Would you like to participate? Currently, we are looking for hosts and for group members. A group (any age can participate) will meet at Melinda and Ron Zorn's house. At this gathering, appetizers are provided and you are invited to bring a dessert to share. Young families will meet at the parsonage, where kid-friendly dinner will be provided. Please sign up on the welcome table.

## January Birthday

## Altar Flowers

Jan. 1 —Heather Welch  
2 —Vicki Johnson,  
Helen Williams  
3 —Doreen Ross,  
5 —Jean Nottke,  
Jacob Bechtel  
9 —Scott Riley  
Pastor Stacy  
11—Nathan Harlan  
Jacob Deehr  
17—Sandy Thompson

20—Brant Davie  
21—Amelia Bliss  
22—Preston Luman  
23—Brittany Semon  
Harriett Schlessman (100)  
24—William Lucht  
25—Don Johnson  
26—Mia Scovanner  
29—Nancy Osbun

## January Flower Donors

7-  
14-Rollie & Myrna Schlessman  
in memory of Janet  
21-John & Judy Miller in  
memory of Jeanette Walz  
28-

## A Message from Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

Dear Friends in Christ,

A blessed First Sunday of Christmas and a joyful New Year to each of you! 2018 is the Year of Prayer, and my prayer for the new year is that we grow strong in the practice of Daily Prayer. Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith; Prayer and Scripture are the foundation stones for a life of discipleship. 2019 will be devoted to prayer.

Our Year of Prayer memory verse will be Philippians 4:6 **"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"**. When we are in each other's company, I would love to hear you resite this beautiful verse.

Below is a book that I wish to commend to you in order that you may prepare to lead the Year of Prayer in your families, parishes, and communities.

### **Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home by Richard Foster.**

This is a classic primer on prayer, where Pastor Foster introduces us to 21 different forms of Christian prayer. He divides his bestselling book into 3 parts:

- Part One, Moving Inward: Seeking the Transformation We Need;
- Part Two, Moving Upward: Seeking the Intimacy We Need;
- Part Three: Moving Outwards: Seeking the Ministry We Need.

I encourage you to pick up a copy.

2017: The Year of Grace Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8 **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"**

Bless you,



Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin



## Celebration Event

We began the new year with a special celebration Sunday, January 7, 2018.

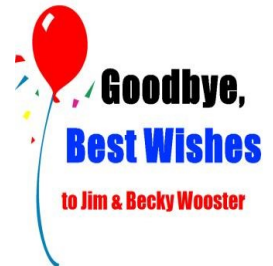
First, we welcome three new members, Greg Finkenbine and his daughter, Holly Finkenbine to the St. John's family. Greg and Holly have been attending regularly and Greg is a new choir member. They transfer from St. Paul Lutheran, Sandusky.

Also, Harriett Schlessman transfers from St. John's Lutheran, Monroeville. Harriett resides at The Willows at Bellevue.



Second, we celebrate with Cole Ruggles as he starts his Catechism studies. Cole received a Bible from St. John's congregation to help him with his upcoming studies.

Third, Jim and Becky Wooster will be leaving St. John's around mid January. They move to Columbus. We will miss them but send our love and support with them.



Please take time to welcome, congratulate and bless the journeys ahead for these members of St. John's.

## Youth Program 2017





**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 5, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bob Krawetzki called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PRAYER:** Pastor Stacy opened with a prayer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Krawetzki, Ann Voight, Peg Kingsley, Ray Witt, Kevin Young, Paula Hoffman, Colleen Shupe, Jerrie Krawetzki, Jim Moore, Pastor Stacy. Guest: Sheriff Paul Sigsworth

**EXCUSED:** Bonny Ambos, Barry Laird and Jake Deehr.

Bob Krawetzki introduced Sheriff Sigsworth, whom he had contacted when several members of the congregation expressed concerns about our vulnerability to someone coming into our church with the intent to harm the congregation. Sheriff Sigsworth gave several suggestions:

Lock the doors whenever anyone is inside the church

Post a sign on the church door that this congregation does have members who legally carry concealed weapons.

Consult an attorney about the personal liability that the above statement could create for church leaders.

NASA guards are armed and very close to our church. The Sheriff's dept. would call them immediately if they received a 911 call from St. John's. The police department is also quite close to our church.

Hire an armed guard from the Sheriff's dept. to stand guard during a church service. Cost is \$35 per hour.

Conduct ALICE training: Run, Hide, Fight. The Sheriff's dept. would provide this service to us and other interested churches in the area.

**MINUTES:** November Council minutes were approved as written by council on motion from Ray Witt and seconded by Paula Hoffman. The motions passed by unanimous voice vote.

**REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** As of October 31, 2017 YTD Revenue----\$ 108,924

YTD Expenses----\$128,027

YTD Net---- -\$19,103

Colleen Shupe also reported that as of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we have pledges to the Windows Fund for \$25,688. We have received a grant of \$1000 from the Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation which is for the new storm windows. Peg Kingsley will write a thank you letter to the Foundation. Ray Witt moved and Peg Kingsley seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted as written. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Pastor Stacy:** Written report submitted. Ann Voight moved and Kevin Young seconded that the pastor may carry over one week of unused vacation, including a Sunday, into the next year. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Deacons:** Jerrie Krawetzki reported that she makes sure we have fresh flowers on the altar when there are none donated for that day.

**Trustees:** Written report submitted. Ray reported that a 10 foot ladder has been purchased and worked really well when changing the outdoor sign message. Windows Creations came out and measured the windows for the new storms. Painters have done no further work on the church. Back up lighting within the church has all new batteries installed. The sidewalk project is postponed until spring when the work will be hired out.

**FLAME:** Very thorough written report submitted. The future of Dinner Church will be decided at the next meeting.

**Good News Amen:** New pamphlets containing updated information about St. John's have arrived. We received these pamphlets from Life Touch.

**Worship Team:** Written report submitted. Christmas Eve 10:30 AM service will be carols and readings.

**Finance Team:** Written report submitted. Peg reported that the Finance Team is requesting that all those who use church credit cards are to use a form for reporting their expenditures to the treasurer. Those forms have been emailed to all team leaders. Council members should give some thought about paying our treasurer for the amount of time and effort it takes to do this important job for St. John's. We will discuss this during 2018. The Finance Team also recommends that the church and parsonage insurance policies need to be reviewed by the Property Team to ensure that we have up to date coverage and that the cost is the best we can find. Ron Zorn submitted a list of insurance companies that we can look into. Kevin Young took the list and will report back to Council his findings by some time in March. Kevin moved and Paula seconded that we give \$100 Christmas gifts to the janitor, organist and church secretary. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Bob Krawetzki will purchase gift cards. Peg reported that while planning the budget this year all teams have received the amounts they requested for 2018. Pastor Stacy's salary will be upgraded in compliance to the ELCA recommendations.

**Faith/Life Team:** Written report submitted. Paula reported that the Christmas Party held on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> was a successful event. She stressed that we need to engage more participation from our congregation in these kinds of activities, especially those involving young children. She will cover the cost of any items not purchased for the Giving Tree from the Faith/Life budget.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Sandy needs all annual report information no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will ask Sandy to put the news about receiving the grant of \$1000 in the Sunday bulletin.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jim Moore has looked into having two cameras installed in the sanctuary from which we would video to the upper room and the basement. The cost would be \$1300 and we would need also to purchase a DVD recorder and a flat screen TV. This would greatly help when there is overflow at funerals and any other functions, as well as making the church service available to the nursery. We will send this to the Finance Team for consideration and bring it back for Council discussion. Jim also asked if there had been any report on the NE synod meeting in May of this year which was held at Bowling Green. He shared an email that the Bishop sends out weekly which we can subscribe to if we wish to learn more about what is going on within our synod during the year.

Jerrie moved and Ann seconded that we adjourn our meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. We prayed the Lord's Prayer before departing.

**Announcements:** The next Council meeting will be held on January 2, 2018 at 7 PM in the Upper Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Kingsley, Secretary

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**Day Camp:** Summer may be far away, but it's never too soon to plan! We are planning for another year of Vacation Bible School through LOMO (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio) with Zion, Huron! **Day camp week will be June 18-22.** Please mark your calendars!



Also, if you are interested in attending a summer camp this year at Mowana or LMC, please contact Pastor Stacy. Family camp will be June 29-July 1, and youth camps run much of the summer. Additional information is available at [lomocamps.org](http://lomocamps.org)

A FAMILY OF  
DISCIPLES,  
FAITHFULLY MAKING  
CHRIST KNOWN

# January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	3 Choir Practice – 7:00 pm	4	5	6
7 Flowers: Celebration Sunday Fellowship	8 Quilting Session 9:00 am	9 Second Tuesday Small Groups 5:30 pm	10 Choir Practice – 7:00 pm	11 Cross-roads 3:30-6:00 Joytime at St. Pauls 6 pm	12 	13
14 Flowers: Rollie & Myrna Schlessman	15 	16 	17 Worship Team-6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	18 Faith Life 6:30 pm	19	20
Pastor Stacy attends Sawmill Rostered Ministers Retreat—Jan. 16-18						
21 Flowers: John & Judy Miller	22 Quilting Session 9:00 am	23	24 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	25	26	27
Annual Meeting following worship and potluck						
Pastor Stacy away on vacation—Jan. 22-26th.						
28 Flowers:	29	30	31			



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Phone: 419-625-2192  
E-mail:  
stjohncal@gmail.com

Website:  
www.stjohnlcsandusky.com



St. John's Lutheran Church  
106 Scheid Rd.  
Sandusky, OH 44870

A Family of Disciples,  
Faithfully Making Christ Known!

Church: 419-625-2192  
stacylauer@gmail.com (Pastor)  
Sandy8110@gmail.com (Admin.)  
www.stjohnlcsandusky.com

**Sunday School 9:00 AM**  
**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

## First Quarter Team

Allison & Kevin Young  
Judy & John Miller  
Sandy & Chuck Thompson

**January 7th**  
Communion Glasses  
New Member Fellowship

**January 21st**  
Annual Congregation Meeting  
Communion Glasses

Teams will be in charge of  
communion glasses, fellow-  
ship, and altar cloths.  
Contact Allison Young if you  
have any questions.



**Quarterly Ministry Team**

### Acolyte

Jan. 7— Wade Ruggles  
14— Cole Ruggles  
21—  
28— Cole Ruggles

### Psalm Reader

Cole Ruggles

### USHERS

Jan.—Dave Zorn

### LAY READERS

Jan. 7—Jim Wooster  
14—Linda Miller-Moore  
21—Jim Semon, Sr.  
28—

### COMMUNION ASSIST.

Jan. 7—Ann Voight  
Jan.21—

### New Flower Chart Posted!

There are many open  
dates just waiting for  
you to sign up.



## Ministry Opportunities!

### Poet's Corner by Jerry Bauer

#### Gifted and Sent

"As the Father has sent me, even so I am  
sending you." John 20:21b

Who you are  
God's gift to you,  
so you can be God's gift to the world,  
sent by Jesus  
to do  
what you best do.