

St. John's December 2024 Newsletter

Elizabeth's New Life Center Giving Tree

Please grab a tag off the Christmas tree in the coffee area (by parking lot entrance)!

Details on page 8

Helping a mother and baby in need is a blessing.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Services


7 pm & 11 pm

Christmas Day Service

Worship 9:30 am

*Order Church Poinsettias

The order forms will be in the bulletins. Return due date: Monday, December 16

A watercolor-style illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, the Virgin Mary is kneeling on the left, holding the infant Jesus who is lying on a yellow cloth. The infant Jesus is wrapped in a white cloth and has a halo. To the right, Joseph is kneeling, holding a wooden staff. The scene is set inside a rustic wooden manger with a thatched roof. A bright yellow star is visible on the roof. Outside the manger, there are several animals: a grey ox, a white goat, and a brown deer. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars and snow falling. The overall tone is peaceful and sacred.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Luke 2: 10

It's December, and this year, December and Advent begin together. I hope that you enjoy Advent or are looking forward to it, but the rest of the world around us, this is the holiday season and Christmas is coming. To be honest, Advent is about the fact that Christmas is coming, but rather than watching all the Hallmark movies, and baking nine different types of Christmas cookies, Advent is a time of anticipation, of reflection, of pausing to take a breath and recall the coming of our Lord to be with us, as a child.

Advent is meant to give us the time to take a beat, to ponder the love of God in the birth of a child. It comes again, year after year, and attempts to show us the breadth of God's love as God came as a child. Advent is the onset of God's plan of salvation. It is not the culmination but the entrance. Jesus comes as a child and we are saved from ourselves, from temptation and from selfish desires both ours and others.

G.K. Chesterton, a multi-talented man from the last century, compared Advent to a boomerang. It comes back to us. It gives us something to count on. It leads us to greater celebrations and it marks the beginning of a new Church year. So, as this boomerang returns to us once again, as we ponder the end and the beginning, as we meet John the Baptist and Mary and the Angel Gabriel, may we find the peace and comfort, the time to ponder and the time to care for family and friends, strangers and enemies as we celebrate God with us.

Advent is here. Christmas is coming. God loves you. That is enough.

Pastor Steve

Lori Holt

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

OK, we've reached the final month of 2024. I'm hoping for a lot of snow!!
Time to decorate and prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior!!

Don't forget the first Sunday of December, which happens to be December 1, and the first Sunday of Advent; DONUTS in the coffee area!!

Speaking of the coffee area, we will have Elizabeth's New Life Center tree in that same coffee area. Please take a tag to help mothers and children in need.

In addition to our weekly worship opportunities, Christmas Eve will be our traditional worship services - 7:00 is our family worship and 11:00 is our candlelight worship. These services include Holy Communion. Please join us for one of these amazing opportunities to worship and welcome our newborn Savior!!

Christmas morning we'll have worship at 9:30. Again, please join us at worship!!

December 29, the last Sunday of the month, is the first Sunday of Christmas.

"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 2:8-14

"May I make room for You in my heart, Jesus, trusting that You have already welcomed me into Yours. Amen"

Happy Birthday, Craig!!

Happy Birthday, David!!

Love in the Babe of Bethlehem,

Lori



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 fellowship!

Dorothy Love
Monthly Worship Service
10 am, Dec. 17
Pastor Steve presiding.

December
Altar Guild Volunteers
Diane Hubbell
Joyce Fishbaugh
Janet Martin

Quilting Circle
to meet
Wednesday,
Dec. 18



This year's Thrift Shop Coat Give-Away took place on October 19th and was very successful. **51 adults and 41 children received new or gently used coats.** These coats will help keep the recipients a little warmer this winter. Thank you to all who donated coats over the past year and a special thank you to Luther's Purse for purchasing 20 new children's coats for this event. We are very blessed to say that many of the remaining coats will be sent to the Carolinas and distributed there to those impacted by the hurricanes earlier this fall. The Thrift Shop is working with two local groups to make this happen. The Coat Give-Away would not be successful without the dedication of our volunteers. Thank you to all who assisted with set up on Friday and to those who helped with the event on Saturday. You are a blessing!

6 People 4 Sheriff Dept
13 People Saturday

Friday: Mary Ann, Bob, Linda, Melissa, Mick, Mary, including Sheriff's helpers.
Saturday: Norbert, Jenise, Mindy, Melissa, Mick, Mary C, Linda, Sandy, Arianna, Joshlyn, Lesia, Janice,



From Matthew 25:37-40
Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, ... When did we see you needing clothes and clothe you?' ...
The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

October Thrift Shop Statistics
Clients: 20
9 Assistance: \$316.66
11 In-kind Assistance:\$ 49.00

Quilt Shipping Donation

You donated \$435 to the shipping of the quilts sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to Mercy Mission House. We are so honored by your support of our organization. We have been able to provide over 25,000 nights of shelter because of donors like you.

Emily Neu, Director and Founder

St. John's Church Council Minutes

Date: Nov. 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: President Kaleb Headings

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Pastor Steve Edmiston

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Christmas decorations to go up Saturday Nov. 30, 2024 starting at 10:00. Usually requires approximately 1.5 hrs to do but depends on help. Requesting lots of help.

Pastor Steve motioned to post the position for Lutheran Thrift Shop Director in bulletin. Will request anyone interested in this position to notify the church office by Dec 2, 2024. Job description is available upon request. Myron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A copy of the Secretary's report was distributed with the agenda. Typographical corrections made. Ann moved to approve as amended and Wes seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURE'S REPORT: A copy of Treasurer's report was distributed with the agenda. Kaleb moved to approve as submitted and Ann seconded. Motion passed.

This report was reviewed by Dave.

Dave also suggested that Jeff Fannon be given a gift for the all the hard work he did in the interim and after Dave became Treasurer. Kaleb made a motion to give Jeff a \$100 gift certificate to The Bridge. Motion was seconded by Margy and motion passed.

STAFF REPORT:

- Pastor Report-

1. Pastor Steve had Covid last week. He followed all guidelines for safety in visits to hospital and nursing homes.

2. Annual congregational meeting and Thanksgiving service combined this weekend. Doors will be opened at 7:30 for those preparing the breakfast.

3. Jacob Cook and his wife had a baby boy.

4. Cluster Meeting hosted at St. John's was rescheduled for Dec. 4, 2024.

5. Still working on method of online giving (streaming, podcast, and radio broadcast highly listened to).

6. Looking for back up help with sound system. This has become even more urgent since Norb is off.

"Edmiston Weekend" went well and was lots of fun.

St. John's Church Council Minutes (Continues)

Volunteer Coordinator Report - no reports submitted
Thrift Shop Report - report enclosed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- *Ministry - Education & Youth:* Vandemark Farm was lots of fun. 3 attended. Planning a Christmas Party (cookies and ornaments)
- *Ministry - Music & Worship:* Deb and Becky not present for today's meeting
- *Outreach - Evangelism:* "Cards for Christ" is ongoing. Sorting out Thanksgiving meals. Will pick up the chickens 11/25/24. Discussed logistics of pick up and access to the church so can be placed in refrigerator. Distribution of these meals will be 11/26/24 &/ or 11/27/24.
- *Outreach - Parish Life:* Working on preparations for Annual Meeting meal. Ann states that P. Mullens as agreed to serve on this committee and possibly serve on council.
- *Operations - Finance:* Dave states that he found an insurance quote of approximately \$17,000 but found that this has since increased to approximately \$20,000. Budget will reflect this.
- *Operations - Property:* No report

Additional Notes:

PRAYER REQUEST:

Norb Mertz (4 cardiac bypasses)

Donna Edmiston (Pastor's sister-in-law. In ER 4 times, found had a bleed in the small vessels of the brain)

DEVOTIONS: Margy

INFORMATION:

*sign up sheets for communion assistants and devotions was passed

*Newsletter deadline: Nov 20, 2024

*Next council meeting: Monday, Nov 11, 2024 (committee summary reports needed by next meeting)

ATTENDANCE :

Present: Pastor Steve Edmiston, Kaleb Headings, Myron Koester, Michelle Cavinder, Wes Cavinder, Tatum Wernitz, John Widney, Dave Bollheimer, Ann Hubler, Margy Headings

Absent: Norb Mertz, Deb Mertz, Becky Mann

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DATE: November 17, 2024

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Steve Edmiston

CALL TO ORDER: President, Kaleb Headings

ATTENDANCE: Approximately 90 (50 required)

MEETING AGENDA:

1. The proposed budget was distributed for review. Attached copy with this report. Dave provided, in this report, the reason for changes. There were no questions. Motion made by council was passed by show of hands and passed without opposition.
2. Nominations for council were accepted.
 - Ann Hubler nominated Kathy Vogler
 - Duane Mullens nominated Patricia Mullens
 - Kaleb Headings submitted his name to remain on council.
 - Kathy Fields motioned to accept these candidates and Duane Mullens seconded the motion. Motion passed by a show of hands.

**The Quilting Ministry of St. John's is one
of God's Blessings for our church and beyond.**

It is always amazing to see the church filled with Quilts on "Blessing of the Quilt's" day. These ladies diligently prepare these quilts to go to people that need extra warmth and love from these quilts. They prepare them not knowing where or who they are going to.

After the quilts were shipped out last month, they received a request for someone in need.

Please see the story shared to them below:

We have a church member that has family ties to a **Ukrainian family**.

This family consists of the father (52), mother (45), daughter (21) and son (17).

They live off the animals they have on their property, the crops they grow and the fruit they get off of their trees. They do not have grocery stores to shop. Everything comes from what they raise or can buy/sell at a farmer's market.

Their daughter is currently in the US. She is engaged to the church member's son.

Due to the war and his age, they have sent their 17 year old son to live in Warsaw, Poland.

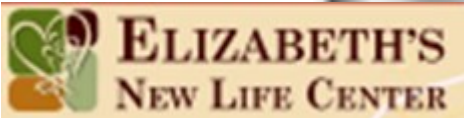
The parents remain in Ukraine. Men are to serve in the war against Russia, between the ages of 18-60 years of age. Men of this age, cannot leave the country. They hear airstrikes constantly and see the drones flying over their home into Kyiv. The father has been called to war by the Ukrainian Army, but so far has not been sent YET due to his health issues. With the power grid being compromised by Russia, each night the power to their home goes out for 6 hours at a time.

This last statement is the reason for the request of a quilt.

The **Quilting Ministry** was asked for a quilt to provide to this family. The church member knew that quilts were already sent out, but made the request anyway, just in case. As God had planned, the group kept 2 of the quilts back for anything that could possibly come up as a need.

The ladies prepared the quilts, so the family could receive one for the father and one for the mother, to keep them warm on the nights when the power goes out. They stitched them with a long arm quilt for more extra love. They prepared a beautiful card to go along with the quilts, along with a picture of the quilts being blessed. What a blessing for them to actually send quilts to someone with a connection to our church.

Thank you to our Quilting Ministry!



Giving Tree

"It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost." Matthew 18:14

It's fun and as easy as 1-2-3!

1. **STOP** by our tree and select an ornament.
2. **SHOP** for the baby item listed.
3. **DROP** off your gift at the designated collection site.

STOP, SHOP, AND DROP FOR LIFE!

*Please attach your ornament to your **UNWRAPPED** gift and return by:

DEC 20 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
LYNN PITCHFORD
 (937) 492-8041
LPITCHFORD@SIDNEYSTJOHNS.COM



ELIZABETH'S NEW LIFE CENTER
 Ashley Holthaus
 ENLC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
 (937) 991-0163
aholthaus@enlc.life

All items will be donated to Elizabeth's New Life Center to stock the baby boutique or layetts. Elizabeth's New Life Center provides positive solutions to unexpected pregnancies by offering free pregnancy tests, ultrasound scans, consulting/mentoring, prenatal care and material assistance.



SCAN TO SHOP OUR AMAZON REGISTRY

Giving Tree

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

PLEASE RETURN UNWRAPPED GIFTS BY: DECEMBER 20, 2024
 ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 QUESTIONS? CONTACT: LYNN PITCHFORD
 (937) 492-8047 LPITCHFORD@SIDNEYSTJOHNS.COM

ENLC Contact: Ashley Holthaus, Development Officer- Sidney
 (937) 991-0163 | aholthaus@enlc.life

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ELIZABETH'S NEW LIFE CENTER



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. ?

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

Fair Haven, 2901 Fair Rd., Sidney, Oh 1150

Residents: *None at this time*

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

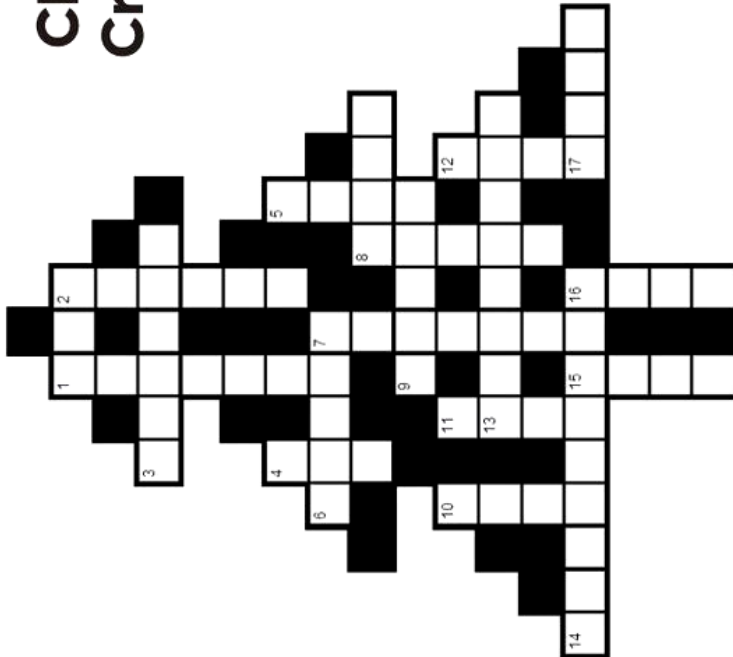
Resident: LeRue Gooder, Rm. 506
Phyliss Blust, Rm. 508
Linda Steenrod, Rm. 802

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

Pamela Morgan Rm. 307
Doris Conrad Rm. 300

*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!*

Christmas Crossword

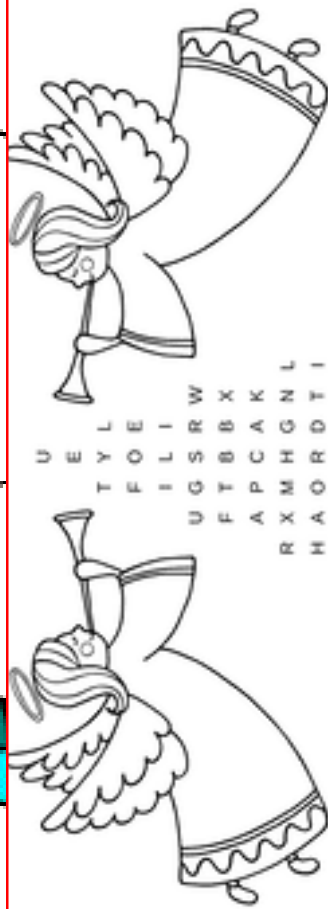


ACROSS

1. Pumpkin or mincemeat
3. Santa's ride
6. Celebration
8. Newborn
9. Northpole crew
13. Word of praise
14. Words on a Christmas card
17. It's opened on Christmas

DOWN

1. Alternative word to 17 across
2. Christmas drink
4. Christmas dinner centerpiece
5. Dec. holiday
7. Christmas warmer
8. "Jingle _____"
10. Christmas tree
11. O. Henry's "The Gift of the _____"
12. What carolers do
15. French Christmas.
16. Snow glider




U E L
T Y L
F O E
I L I
U G S R W
F T B B X
A P C A K
R X M H G N L
H A O R D T I
R Q L I F O R
J A V F E P O H F O Y T A H S H N N T I D I N G S W T S N
E S N E C N I K N A R F T T R R A K S L O R A C W U Q
E W G O O D W I L L I M R B G I E D P E E H S
Z M A N G E R Z Y A A Y Z E O H Y G H T E
Q G L P Q U W C F S M W I S E M E N J
C O D G A V J T E G H O Q Y Q
H O L D N E R B L J O T X
A O R S G E J S D I I
C R W O I E D O V N B
Y Y I N W R L I Y D A
H R U N T E E T R M F K C
M K W N H Y A H C E S U D
N J Y P J N T T R C L L
X L B E O J P O O A W Y
S A H S I G T G E K
B S E Y R P
S Y P O G O
I H J T
N

WORD LIST

ANGEL
BABY
CANDLE
CAROLS
CHARITY
CHRISTMAS TREE
DONKEY
FAITH
FRANKINCENSE
GABRIEL
GIFT
GLORY
GOLD
GOODWILL
HOPE
INN
JESUS
JOSEPH
JOYFUL
JOY TO THE WORLD
MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
NATIVITY
PEACE
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
STAR
TIDINGS
WISE MEN

Homemade
QUIETS MADE EASY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Child Sunday school, 9:30 Youth Group, 9:30 am Coffee Time, 9:30	2 AA, 12 pm	3	4 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	5	6 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	7 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
8 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Child Sunday school, 9:30 am	9 AA, 12 pm Church Council Committee Mtg, 6 p Church Council, 7 p	10	11 AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	12 Senior Lunch, 12 pm Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	13 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	14 Worship, 6 pm, NA, 8 pm
15 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	16 AA, 12 pm	17 Dorothy Love, 10 am	18 Quilting, 9 am AA, 12 pm PB&J, 5:30 pm	19 Bells Practice, 6:30 pm Giving Tree Ends	20 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	21 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
22 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	23 AA, 12 pm	24 Office Open until 12 pm Christmas Eve Serv., 7 pm & 11 pm	25 Office Closed AA, 12 pm Christmas Worship Serv. 9:30 am Christmas Day	26 Office Closed Bells Practice, 6:30 pm	27 Office Closes, 12:30 pm AA, 12 pm	28 Worship, 6 pm NA, 8 pm
29 Worship, 8:30 & 10:30 am Adult & Children Sunday school, 9:30 am	30 AA, 12 pm	31 New Year's Eve	JANUARY 1 Office Closed AA, 12 pm New Year's Day	2 Office Open, 8 am		
Church Office Open						Church Office Open
Mon-Thurs. 8-3 pm						Mon-Thurs. 8-3 pm
Fri., 8 am-12 pm						Fri., 8 am-12 pm