

From Our Pastor

Happy New Year!

Let's begin by praising God. Sing it out!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

(ELW 884)



Praising God and thanking God for God's blessings is a perfect way to begin this New Year. I thank God for the blessing of serving St. John's Lutheran Church right here in Stony Ridge as your Intentional Interim pastor. The time we have spent together has filled me with many special and holy moments. I hope the same for you. **Thank-you for your loving kindness** and the many ways you exhibit your faith, through worship, prayers, serving others, generosity & fine fellowship.

As we look ahead to things happening in 2019 at this place...it is my hope and prayer that a **new lead pastor** will be called this year! It is time for the next amazing chapter to begin with an exciting & inspiring new leader in your midst. Thank-you so much to our call committee being led by Diane Boelkens. They are serving us well and we are blessed by their dedication and faith filled ways.

A new ministry will begin this year. It is called "**Stephen Ministry**." This is to support folks within our church and community going through some challenging times during and/or after a difficult time in their lives. Joe and Nancy Nycz are attending a training session in mid-January in Orlando. They will then begin to train a team of very dedicated folks to be the "Stephen Ministers" whom will give special care to those in need. Please keep this new ministry in your prayers. If you have any questions about being a care giver, or know someone who needs to receive care please see Joe, or Nancy or Pastor Cindy (that's me ☺).

Have you heard...this is the N.W.O. Synod's "**Year of Scripture?**" Bishop Daniel has shared that this is a 3-fold focus: Bible Reading (a daily discipline and habit), Bible Reflection (to help us become fluent in the language of sacred scripture), and Bible Study (a 6-session Bible Study of Sermon on the Mount).

Bishop Daniel Encourages and Challenges us to **Read through the Bible in One Year** with the rest of the Northwestern Ohio Synod. He shared that this is a community spiritual practice. He invites us to form a number



of small groups who would meet weekly, or 2x a month or once a month. This would help us: to read together, to reflect together and to learn together. Let's read through the Bible in one year together. There is also a Book of the Year...**A Compact Guide to the Whole Bible: Learning to Read Scripture's Story** (2015, edited by Robert W. Wall and David R. Neinhuis).

A Daily Bible Reading Schedule is included in this Voice Newsletter.

So, we are off to a GREAT start already for this New Year in many ways. We are especially grateful and thankful to God...for **our Savior Jesus Christ...God's best gift ever!** We have a plan to immerse ourselves in God's Holy Word with our church community and Bishop Daniel will be reading the Bible with us.

AND on **Sunday September 22nd** this year is when we celebrate **St. John's 150th Anniversary**...Bishop Daniel will be here to celebrate with us and we can share our thanksgiving for his guidance in this spiritual fulfilling practice that we have embraced.

Let's begin learning our **Year of Scripture Memory Verse** together:

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path."*

(Psalm 119:105)

God Bless You Today & Always!

May YOU feel God's Presence and LOVE!

In Christ,

Pastor Cindy Ritter





Our Vision: "Spiritual Practices for the Sake of the World"

1. DAILY PRAYER ✓

In our prayers (from the December Bulletins):

- **Luke & Dayna Ryan**, on the birth of their daughter, Rose Lynn
- **2017-2018 New members:** Brecken Schaller, Lori DeWyre, Daniel DeWyre, Katie & Joel Moenter, Jeff, Brooke & Raelyn Schulte, Aaron Tendam, Anne Noel & Michael Willford
- **Shirley Johnson**, healing
- **Tim Bihn**, healing
- **The family of Steve Levorchick**, upon his death
- **Melissa Lakner, Dayschool teacher**, upon the death of her father
- **Charlene Murphy**, recovering from surgery
- **Cathy Phister**, healing and recovery
- **Nancy Nycz**, health concerns
- **Fred Brinker**, health concerns



2. DAILY BIBLE READING ✓

The 2019 Daily Bible Reading Schedule is now available. See the green sheets beside the prayer desk in the Narthex.

Jan. 1	Genesis 1-3	Jan. 12	Genesis 35-37	Jan. 23	Exodus 16-18
Jan. 2	Genesis 4-7	Jan. 13	Genesis 38-40	Jan. 24	Exodus 19-21
Jan. 3	Genesis 8-11	Jan. 14	Genesis 41-42	Jan. 25	Exodus 22-24
Jan. 4	Genesis 12-15	Jan. 15	Genesis 43-45	Jan. 26	Exodus 25-27
Jan. 5	Genesis 16-18	Jan. 16	Genesis 46-47	Jan. 27	Exodus 28-29
Jan. 6	Genesis 19-21	Jan. 17	Genesis 48-50	Jan. 28	Exodus 30-32
Jan. 7	Genesis 22-24	Jan. 18	Exodus 1-3	Jan. 29	Exodus 33-35
Jan. 8	Genesis 25-26	Jan. 19	Exodus 4-6	Jan. 30	Exodus 36-38
Jan. 9	Genesis 27-29	Jan. 20	Exodus 7-9	Jan. 31	Exodus 39-40
Jan. 10	Genesis 30-31	Jan. 21	Exodus 10-12		
Jan. 11	Genesis 32-34	Jan. 22	Exodus 13-15		

3. WEEKLY WORSHIP ✓

- 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Christian Education
- 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship

December Attendance

Dec. 2 ~ 195 Dec. 16 ~ 189
 Dec. 9 ~ 173

PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral

Steve Levorchick on 12/18/18

Baptism

Kinzleigh Umbaugh on 12/23/18
Raideen Miller on 12/30/18

MEMORIALS

In loving memory of

Val Cochrane

Lois Cochrane and family

ALTER FLOWERS

The New 2019 Flower Calendar is located on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office. You may sponsor altar flowers in honor of, in memory of, or to the glory of God. We use two bouquets each Sunday; the cost is \$20 per vase. If no one signs up for flowers, we will use our church silk flowers as the altar flowers.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

(Those over 74 years young)

- Jan. 4 Jean Baker 24531 Stony Ridge Road, Perrysburg, 43551
Jan. 4 Mildred Perkins 28748 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, 43447
Jan. 8 Earl Hagg 6505 Five Point Road, Perrysburg, 43551
Jan. 12 Howard Bookenberger 30236 Lemoyne Rd., Walbridge, 43465
Jan. 15 Helyn Kurfess 10164 Shannon Hills Dr. N., Perrysburg, 43551
Jan. 20 Tom Sevits 25703 McCutcheonville, Perrysburg, 43551
Jan. 30 Marilyn J. Goeckerman PO Box 19, Perrysburg, 43552
Jan. 30 Janice Sheldrick 910 Pemberville Rd., Pemberville, 43450
Jan. 30 Joan Swartz 7901 Reitz Rd., Perrysburg, 43551
Jan. 31 Carrie Mitchell 1612 Smith Drive, Genoa 43430





St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting

→ Sunday, Jan. 27 ←

Lunch (served by our youth) at Noon

(Fundraiser: \$5 per person; \$10 per family)

Annual Meeting begins at 12:30 p.m.

All members of St. John's are requested to attend as we discuss church business and vote on the 2019 budget.



CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Young Adult Class Schedule

Classes for **Young Adults** will be January 6th and 20th.

Annual Meeting Meal

The youth will be hosting the Annual Meeting Meal On Sunday, January 27th immediately following the late service in the Parish Hall. We will be serving baked potatoes, salad, desserts and drinks. This meal is a fundraiser that will be used to help the youth attend Catechism Camp and the National Youth Gathering; the next Youth Gathering will be in Minneapolis, MN in 2021. We are asking for a donation of \$5 per adult or \$10 per family. We hope you will consider supporting our youth.

Catechism Students

Attention all catechism students: on Saturday, February 23rd at 1:00 p.m. we will meet at church and head to Lutherwald, where we will spend the night. That evening we will venture to Pokagon State Park and tackle their toboggan run. It is a blast!!!!!!!!!!!! The summer camp staff will be our host and Saturday activities include dinner, fireside snacks, and storytelling. Sunday we will have breakfast, devotions, and worship. We will leave Lutherwald around 9:30 a.m. and will return to the church around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday. The cost of this trip is \$40 and is due by February 3rd. If you are a high school student and would like to attend this overnight fun please talk to Christi Kieper.



St. John's Hilltop Dayschool

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin on February 1st for our currently enrolled, their siblings & church congregation members. Open registration will start on February 19th. Additional information will be sent out later in January.



Super Bowl Subs

They're Baaaack!!!!!! SUPER BOWL SUBS have returned. The youth are once again selling Sofo's subs as a fundraiser. They are selling the 8-inch subs on Sundays leading up to the Super Bowl Game on February 3, 2019. The cost of the subs is \$6. There are 3 kinds of subs offered; American (Salami, Ham, Turkey, Bologna and American cheese), Italian (Salami, Ham Mortadella, Hot Capicola, and Provolone Cheese), and Ham. Subs will be available to order on January 6th and running through January 27th. Subs must be paid for at the time of order. They will be available for pick-up on Sunday, February 3rd between services or after the late service in the kitchen.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be **January 5th from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.** at Panera Bread on Route 20 in Perrysburg. All men are invited!

Lunch Bunch

On **Tuesday, January 8th at 11:30 a.m.**, the lunch bunch will meet for a potluck and gift exchange. Please sign up in the Narthex and join us!

Book Club

All are invited to a book club on prayer beginning January 31st. More info to follow!

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 22nd

*Church Council Reorganization meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31st
Beginning at 6:30 p.m.*

This will include all Council Members (including those newly elected).

Church Council & Staff Planning Retreat on Saturday, February 2nd, from 9-3 p.m.



THE BIBLE STUDY FOR JANUARY will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 9th in the Lounge. All are welcome.

COMFORTERS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF will be tied on Thursday, **January 3rd from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.** in the Parish House. We welcome all who would like to join us in this ministry. No experience needed!

THE CRAFTERS GROUP will meet on January 14th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. If you have a hobby, such as crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, or cross stitch, bring your latest project to work on as we share conversation in the lounge.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, January 3rd – Tie Comforters

Wednesday, January 9th – Bible Study (Rebekah Circle)

PRAY FOR SPECIAL CONCERNS EVERY MONDAY AT NOON. In January, pray for hope as we begin a new year.

DONATION OF FILLER FOR MISSION COMFORTERS are always welcome, including old blankets, sheets, bedspreads, tablecloths and mattress pads. These donations may be placed in the LWR box in the coat room. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES
Sunday Specials for January

Food Pantry is collecting **oatmeal & cookies**

The Food Pantry is now serving 120 families.

Shared Bounty is collecting **dish soap**

Please place in the bin in the coatroom. Thanks in advance for your support!

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Social Ministries will not meet in January due to our meeting night falling on New Year's Day.
See you in February.

Thank you to everyone that came out to support our Chili's fundraiser. We made \$200.13!!
Another date has been requested for early 2019.

Social Ministries would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU for ALL of your support on the many fall projects that we had!! We ask and you ALWAYS provide ☺ We are blessed to witness and to serve so many from our community with you all.

LIBRARY NEWS

This is the list of books and movies that we have added for you to enjoy.

Family Movies

Noah - A narrated musical

Moses - A narrated musical

Children's Books

My Fancy Monkey

Colors by Emily Bolam

The More We Get Together

Jump! by Scott M. Fischer

The Poky Little Puppy by Janette Lowry

Daisy by Michi Tujimoto

5 Busy Ducklings



Books for Adults

The Book of Bible Promises - New International Version

Lonestar Homecoming by Colleen Coble

His Amish Sweetheart by JoAnn Brown

The Shepherd's Bride by Patricia Davids

The Amish Midwife by Patricia Davids

The library is open whenever the church is open.



THANK YOU to the LYO for serving during
Sunday's fellowship time in December.
THANKS to all who brought in cookies & snacks.
Fellowship will be serving in January.



Thank yous were received from the following:

Genacross for the gift of \$77.56

Lutheran Home of Mercy for the gift of \$132.44



Thank you for the prayer quilt, hospital visit from Pastor Cindy, cards, well wishes and prayers during my recent knee surgery. The congregation at St. John's is friendly, loving, and caring. You are the best.

Nancy Nycz

Thank you and God bless each and every one of you! Because of ALL of you, God has blessed us!! You sort socks, lift and carry canned goods, dry goods, fresh foods and eggs. You put away, keep records, pray for us, and always have a smile, no matter if your own problems are heavy. You NEVER, NEVER make us feel as we do not belong to your blessed family. So may God not only bless you, answer your prayers, but also heal you and yours. Thank you. We love you!

Gloria & Gilbert (food pantry recipients)

Thank you for all of the birthday cards!

Phyllis Bookenberger

I would like to thank Pastor Cindy for all the visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. Also, thanks to the prayer chain for all of their prayers. Thank you St. John's church family!

Tim & Patti Bihn

Thanks to everyone for their cards and prayers during my recent surgeries and recovery. I would like to thank Pastor Cindy for her many visits, communions, and phone calls. A special thank you to Barb Hersch for her visits and delivering me flowers while in the hospital and at Kingston. A special thanks to Maggie Reed for her visits, for driving me to some of my doctor's appointments, delivering the wheelchair and the altar flowers. A special thanks to the team (Barb Hersch, Maggie Reed, and Sandra Diefenthaler) for helping put the wheelchair together for me. Also, a special thanks to Council and staff for helping me count the Coins for Christ's Kids and covering my duties on council. I am on my road to recovery and hope to be back in church after the first of the year.

Shirley Johnson

We would like to thank Pastor Cindy for coming to our house to visit Alexis and the rest of our family. Thanks for the prayer quilt as well. We are adjusting well as a family of four. Also, thanks for the flower in honor of her birth.

Christopher, Jenn, Bently, and Alexis Snyder

Thank you for continuing to bless us with generous gifts. We sincerely appreciate the restaurant gift card and "Windows to the Soul" cookbook you recently sent us. We will be thinking of you with thankfulness when we use the gift card to enjoy a meal together as a family and when we use the cookbook. Thank you for your kindness and for thinking of us!

Major Tracy Prey and family

I would like to thank Pastor Cindy for bringing me communion on several occasions and giving me spiritual support during my hospital stay and recovery. I would like to thank Maggie Reed for the prayer shawl, which I found out later she made – and my favorite color – orange. Also, for their caring support and visits and not to forget the jar of apple butter Maggie delivered. All are greatly appreciated. Thank you again.

Mary Bath