



St John's LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Stony Ridge, OH 43463

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Pastor Cindy Ritter

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The Year of Listening ***Memory Verse***

*"Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live."
~ Isaiah 55:3a*

September 2025





St John's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2025

The VOICE Newsletter

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From Pastor Cindy...

Greetings Friends in Christ,

In September...the beginning of a new school year we have many things to look forward to here at church. Our new Sunday School classes and a ministry event "Rise from Hunger" take place on Sunday September 7. The "God's Work our Hands" focus of the ELCA is being lived out right here in this place.

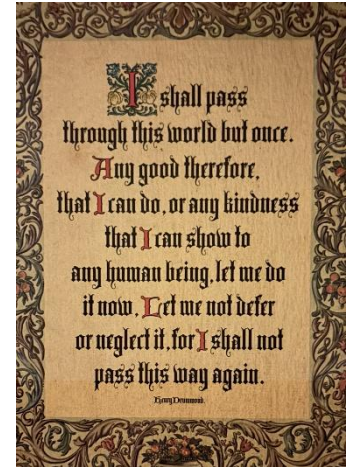
As I reflect on the many wonderful things happening at this place I believe we are doing good and showing kindness to many folks in our midst and beyond. Thank you to each one of you who lift up prayers for our Church and Dayschool. Thank you to each of you who volunteer at this place in so many ways. And I have great appreciation and much JOY being part of this church staff and on leadership teams also.

Great things will be taking place in the near future. We will have a Call Committee in place. Hooray! Please keep these people and this process in your prayers. We will have a new Dayschool staff providing excellent care for these beautiful children in our midst...I am so very grateful for this precious longtime ministry focus in our church along with so many other vital ministries for our community and beyond.

The quote: "One of humanities greatest weaknesses is setting limits to God's power and goodness," is from Blessed Solanus Casey. I love these words. They enable each of us to remember that with God all things are possible.

Peace & Blessings,

Pr. Cindy Ritter



From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The start of September brings about the resumption of the Sunday School season, which kicks off with Rally Day on Sunday, Sept. 7. We give a special thanks to all our volunteer Sunday School and

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Catechism teachers who make such an impact on our people through our Christian educational programing. Also included in this are our adult Sunday School classes and Bible studies as well. Additionally, we will be holding our second Rise Against Hunger event on this same day at 2:00 PM. During this event, we will assemble and pack several thousand meal kits for people in need throughout the world. This event coincides with the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands weekend of service projects. I invite everyone to set aside time as you are able to come and participate in this event as we work to fulfill the needs of those throughout the world who have less, just as Jesus instructs us to do.

Taking a brief look back, a special congregational meeting was held on Sunday, Aug. 17, during which the congregation voted to approve projects to replace the asphalt parking lots on the church campus and to install an air conditioning system for the narthex and several Dayschool classrooms. Thank you to everyone who participated in the meeting. Further details on the specific timing of both projects will be shared in the future as soon as they are identified. All of the funds for both projects will be taken from the Improvement Fund.

Two very important components of reorganization within the congregation are ongoing as well. The congregational council has taken the first steps to begin forming the call committee to begin the process of searching for our next called pastor. As we move forward with the formation of the committee, we ask all those who may be approached to consider serving on the committee to take the time to prayerfully consider the call to serve. Furthermore, the reorganization efforts of the Dayschool continue as well. The interim Dayschool board continues to actively search for a new full-time administrator. Any inquiries or recommendations for this position can be directed to any member of the interim board (composed of Pastor Cindy, Pastor Howard, Kristy Williams, Sandy Orth, Shirley Johnson, and Kyle Henry). Shirely Johnson has agreed to serve as the Dayschool treasurer for the next year, and we express our sincere thanks for her ongoing service and dedication to the Dayschool and congregation as a whole. As has been mentioned many times before, the Dayshool is a very important part of the ministry of St. John's, and we are focused on ensuring that it is best positioned to continue to grow and fulfill its important work in our community.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry
Church Council President



Spread the Word!

We have limited space available in our Preschool and Pre-K classrooms for Fall. Contact St. John's Hilltop Dayschool or the church office 419-837-5115 for more information.



Please Join Us!
Wednesday, September 10
11:30 a.m.
@ Shawn's Irish Tavern in Waterville



ATTENTION DARTBALL PLAYERS!

If you've ever thought about trying out dartball, here's your chance!

- Men, women, teens welcome
- Monday evenings @ 7:30 p.m.
- Season begins Monday, October 6
- Practice session on Monday, September 29 @ 7:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room! Come try it out!!

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Sunday Special...

Food Pantry ~ • jars of turkey gravy
• chicken or turkey
boxed stuffing

Shared Bounty ~ 4-roll toilet paper



NEW PROJECT!!!!!!

The social ministries voted to discontinue the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. In place of this project, we will keep our gifts local and have the congregation put together hygiene kits to be given to local shelters for men, women and children. We will have the shoeboxes and items for you to take and help fill your boxes in early September. We would like to get these to the shelters by early October.

Susie has been able to order some items from the food bank that we will have available for you to help fill your boxes and we will use our shoeboxes from Operation Christmas Child.

Suggested items are....

- Soap/body wash • toothpaste & toothbrushes • shampoo & conditioner
- deodorant • hair brush/comb • band aids • hand sanitizer • razors, shaving cream • washcloths/disposal face clothes • nail clippers/nail files • Chapstick
- feminine hygiene items • socks & laundry detergent pods.

Think about cards or a card game too to throw in as a way to pass time. Keep in mind that these items will need to fit in the shoeboxes.



In Loving Memory of...

Michael Hannan

Bill and Carolyn Staib



Come in for a visit.

Check something out.

St. John's Library is located in the educational wing by the north doors. It is free for anyone to use. There is a variety of adult books—devotionals, inspirational, prayer, bibles/bible study, biographies, leadership, mystery, and so on. There are family movies and CDs. There is a complete section of Veggie Tales that can be enjoyed by little ones, as well as school-age kids. There are also many children's books—animals, fairy tales, adventure stories, family life, holidays of the year, humor and comedy, Disney/Pixar, etc. The library is open whenever the building is open during the week for Hilltop Dayschool and/or Sunday church services. Books and materials can be checked out using the honor system with directions posted by the card catalog.

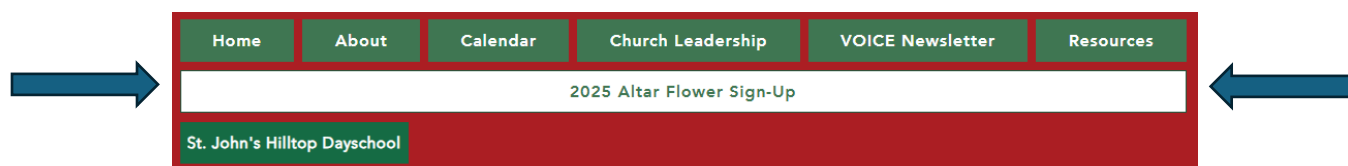
Come in whenever you get the chance. Browse the many different categories. Take home something of interest to you or a family member.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS!!



Please check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in placing flowers this month!

You can place your Altar Flower requests online! Just go to the Home Page of our website and click on the link for 2025 Altar Flower Sign Up. Or you can call the church office at 419-837-5115.



*Christ caring for people through people***STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Christ Caring for People Through People

Are you hurting? Facing a difficult time?

Life can be hard – whether you're grieving a loss, navigating a major life change, feeling overwhelmed, or just struggling to find peace. In those moments, it helps to have someone by your side.

Stephen Ministry is here for you.

This is a one on one, confidential care ministry where a trained Stephen Minister will walk alongside you – offering a listening ear, a caring heart, and spiritual encouragement. They're not there to fix you or preach at you, but to be a steady, compassionate presence as you process what you're going through. You don't have to carry your burdens alone. Whether your pain is fresh or something you've been holding onto for a while, Stephen Ministry is a safe place to begin healing.

What to Expect:

1. A confidential, judgement - free space
2. One-on-one meetings with a trained caregiver, as many times as you need
3. Support that's grounded in faith, hope, and compassion
4. Encouragement to help you focus on your needs and next steps

You are not alone. Let us walk with you. If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, please reach out, we're here to help. See Pastor Howard, Pastor Cindy, or Nancy and Joe Nycz.

Nancy 419-349-1932

Joe 419-575-3895

Nancy and Joe Nycz's email: joe.nycz@gmail.com,

Sunday Morning Christian Education ~ 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School

3 years old – 3rd grade

Catechism

6th, 7th, & 8th grades

4th & 5th Grade

Adult Class

Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, September 9th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House. Please consider joining us for this important mission project. No experience necessary.

Dates to Remember: **Tuesday, September 9th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)**
 Monday, September 15th-Crafting Group (Lounge)

Donations of filler for mission comforters are always welcome, including old blankets, sheets, bedspreads, and tablecloths. These donations may be placed in the LWR box in the coatroom. Thank you in advance for your donations. If you have material you'd like to donate for the tops of comforters, donations would be greatly appreciated.



Crafting Group

The Crafting Group will meet on Monday, September 15th from 1:00 to 3:00 in the lounge. Bring your latest project and join us for fellowship and conversation. We would love to grow our group. See Lynda Lees with any questions.



WE NEED COOKIES!!!

The Fellowship Committee is asking for donations of cookies for our weekly after-service fellowship in the Narthex. You can drop them off in the kitchen with a note that says, "Cookie Hour".

Thanks!



September Birthdays

(Those over 74 years young!)

Sep 1	Arlene Baker	911 Sunflower Court, Pemberville, 43450
Sep 2	Maggie Reed	26145 Luckey Road, Walbridge, 43465
Sep 3	Susie Bame	8281 Five Point Road, Perrysburg, 43551-9221
Sep 9	Richard Keppler	7367 Reitz Road, Perrysburg, 43551-9631
Sep 13	Judy Reitzel	566 E. Front Street. Perrysburg, 43551
Sep 15	Jeff Wellman	3 Callander Court, Perrysburg, 43551-1893
Sep 17	Walter Minarik	23781 Bradner Road, Genoa, 43430-9567
Sep 19	Patricia Anderson	139 Helen Drive, Rossford, 43460-1114
Sep 21	Paul Swartz	25691 Wood Creek Road, Perrysburg, 43551
Sep 30	Jim Umbaugh	3213 Weston Drive, Kokomo, IN 46902

GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 8/24/2025

General Fund Income (Year-to-Date)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$165,100	\$149,754	(\$15,346)

Benevolence Fund (Year-to-Date)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$18,000	\$10,797	(\$7,203)

Improvement Fund (Year-to-Date)

<u>Actual</u>
\$6,857

(Copies of most recently approved financial reports are available in the Narthex and by request.)

Visit us online at

www.stjohnsstonyridge.net

or scan the QR code to set up electronic giving. Click on the "Give Generously" tab to enter your information and offering. Financial gifts can, of course, be sent by mail too. We are grateful for your continued support of our ministry.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Sep 5 @ 9AM – Men's Breakfast at Panera on Rt. 20

Sep 7 RALLY DAY! – 2PM Rise Against Hunger event in the PH – Sign up in the Narthex

Sep 12-14 St. John's Fall Camping @ Sauder Village

Sep 15 @ 1PM - Crafting Group in the Lounge

Sep 29 @ 7:30 PM – Dartball Practice in the Gathering Room

Oct 6 @ 7:30 PM – Dartball Season begins

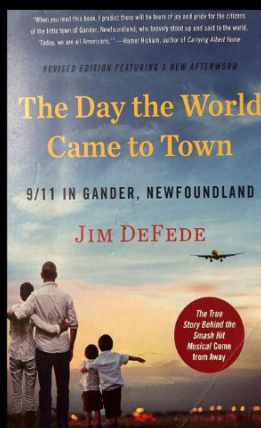


COMING IN NOVEMBER Fall Painting Party

Join us and create this beautiful painting to
brighten the Christmas season!

Watch for more details to come!!

Another new Book Study Opportunity!!



**Tuesdays,
September 9
and
September 23
at 10:45 AM in the
Lounge
Join Us!!**

New Adult Learning Opportunity!!

Join us for the Study of the
Book of Revelation

9 a.m. in the Lounge

**Beginning
September 14**





September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy LABOR DAY	2 Dayschool begins Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7p Committee Meeting #1	3	4 8p AA	5 9a Men's Breakfast @ Panera Rt. 20	6 10a – 12a Shared Bounty 12:15p Private Event (PH)
7 Rally Day! 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 2p Rise Against Hunger (PH)	8 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	9 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7p Committee Meeting #2	10 7p Boy Scouts	11 8p AA	12 St. John's Fall Camping at Sauder Village	
14 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 12p Private Event (PH & Shelter House)	15 1p Crafting (L) Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	16 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 6:30p Exec Committee (L) 7p Church Council (L)	17 7p Mutual Ministry	18 9:15a Staff Mtg (L)	19	20 7a Food Pantry Wedding
21 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	22 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	23 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	24	25 8p AA	26	27
28 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	29 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	30 Noon Prayers via ZOOM				

Committee Meetings: Please schedule all meetings with the office administrator so the proper room is reserved to accommodate all groups. Call 419-837-5115 or email officeadministrator@stjohnsstonyridge.net.