



St John's LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Way of Love 2026

Memory Verse:

"We love because he first
loved us"

1 John 4:19

September 2026





From Pastor Cindy...

**Be Strong and Courageous!
Do Not Be Afraid or Discouraged.
For the Lord Your God is With You Wherever You Go.**

(Joshua 1:9)

Greetings Dear Friends in Christ!

These important words from scripture, Joshua 1:9, are on the "Backpack Tags" that we gave our school-aged children as we blessed their backpacks in late August. They are a reminder that Jesus...Emmanuel...is God With Us. (Matthew 1:23)

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew we hear Jesus say, "I AM with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) As I read these words they give a sense of comfort and peace to know that we are never alone. We always have our Lord God...who is the Father...Son...and Holy Spirit with us...always...to be our constant companion forevermore. Because of God's constant presence with us, we are able to pray to God anytime and anywhere. We may PRAISE the Lord, PRAY for others or ourselves in need, THANK the Lord for our many blessings, and ASK the Lord to guide us, and HOLD us when we are afraid or need strength to get through the day.

Our God who is with us always...LOVES us so much. God is LOVE. This reminds me of some words I have prayed with many folks during homebound communion from the Lutheran Book of Prayer, "Create in me Faith in Your Love." So, how can we have a deeper faith in God's LOVE?

(continued on pg. 3)

As our youth go back to school now in the fall...might we also go back to learning some new things about our Lord that will create in us a deep faith in God's LOVE? To Love and to be Loved is the best gift in the whole wide world! I say Be Strong and Be Courageous! Try some new ways to learn more about God's Love.

Check out these opportunities for learning, fellowship, fun and growing into a deeper relationship with God:

1. I am leading the 2026 Bible Study created by Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and the Northwestern Ohio Synod Staff, "The Way of Love." There will be 5 sessions on Mondays in the church lounge- the 2 times being offered are 11am or 6pm. They begin on Monday September 26th . These same studies will be offered on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:11pm beginning September 30th . All are welcome! Be COUAGEOUS & try something new.
2. Bishop Beaudoin has also recommended a book for us all to read. It is "Love is the Way" by Bishop Michael Curry. I will host a 2-session book study on Zoom on September 16th & 23rd . Join us. All are welcome.
3. Beginning in November we will have a refresher class on "Luther's Small Catechism on Mondays and on Zoom to learn more about our Lord and our faith in Him. Stay tuned for more information on that.

Remember folks that God is with us wherever we go! Imagine the JOY that we feel and the JOY that God feels as we spend more time with our LOVING LORD.

See you in worship and Bible Studies soon!
(And please know that Pr. Howard teaches
Sunday School at 9am each Sunday)

Peace & Blessings,
Pr. Cindy

From the Council President...

Back in late June or early July I was talking with a fellow member at church about the weather. He (a long-time farmer) was talking about rain and said something to the effect that the rain for the summer was essentially done and we already had most of the rain the crops would get for them to make it to harvest. Well, within the next week or two we had over seven inches of rain! I do not write this to remind that member of his words (I have already done that in person a couple of times) but because it serves to remind me of how we are often surprised in our personal lives and the life of our congregation. We think and hope we know how things will turn out. We know that July and August are normally dry months. We expect our family and friends to live healthy, happy lives until a ripe old age. We think we know how a meeting will go, what will happen with our committees and groups, how our search for our next Pastor will proceed. However, things often go differently than we expect or hope. The good news is we do not face trials and the unknown alone.

I am reminded of a prayer I have used a number of times over the years, especially when a new group or task force at church begins. The prayer is a part of the Holden Evening Prayers and is a part of the Evening Prayer or Vespers in our current and previous Lutheran Hymnals (ELW and LBW). It was included in the Collects and Prayers of the old red hymnal when I was a child (SBH). It can be used to ask for help or reassurance at any time – the start of a great new venture or just facing the next day. The current wording in the ELW is on page 317:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,

John Henry
Church Council President

ATTENTION 2026-27 Catechism Students!!!

We will be doing a "deep dive" into the New Testament. Our focus will be on the life and teachings of Jesus, the history of the birth of the church, the writings of the believers and the forecast of things to come.

All I ask is that you bring your Bible and a desire to learn about your religious background. (kind of like Ancestry.com).

See you when we begin on September 13th, upstairs in the Parish Hall. ~ Dave Polzin

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Sunday Special...

- Food Pantry ~**
- jars of turkey gravy
 - boxed stuffing
 - 32 oz chicken broth
 - cereal (any kind)

Shared Bounty ~ men's and women's deodorant



In Loving Memory of...

Barb Karam

Tim & Patti Bihn

Mary Bath

◆ Jan Rucki ◆ WELCA

Steve Swartz

Tim & Patti Bihn

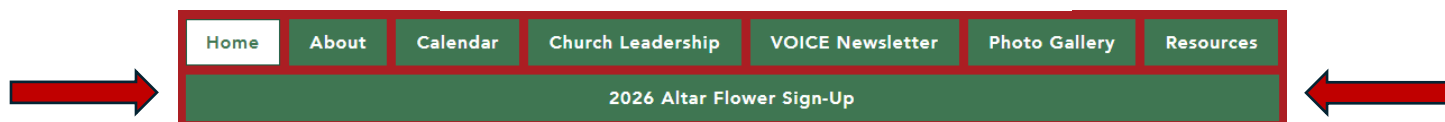
SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS!!



Please check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in placing flowers this month! *The cost for flowers is \$25 per vase.*



You can place your *2026 Altar Flower* requests online! Just go to the Home Page of our website and click on the link for 2026 Altar Flower Sign Up. You can also scan this QR code or call the church office at 419-837-5115.



Calling All Students 8th grade - HS Seniors (and their parents)

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in
Minneapolis, MN

June 28 - July 2, 2027

Priority registration begins October 21, 2026

We are exploring the possibility of joining with other area churches to attend as one large NW Ohio group. We need to know who is interested in attending this awesome event. If you want more information or would like to attend, contact the church office or talk to either of our pastors.

Call: 419-837-5115 or email: officeadmin@stjohnsstonyridge.net

ST. JOHN'S HILLTOP

September 2026

A New School Year Begins!

As summer comes to an end, we are excited to begin a new school year at St. John's Hilltop Day School! Our first day with the children will be August 31, and we are looking forward to welcoming both new and returning students.

We are excited to share that our classrooms are growing! Our Toddler classroom has 7 students, Preschool has 14, and Pre-K has 6 students. Our Grade School program currently has 7 students from Lake and 3 students from Eastwood.

We are still enrolling for our Pre-K classroom! Children must turn four by August 1 to be eligible. Pre-K is such a special year as children prepare for their transition to kindergarten. If you know a family with a child who will be entering their last preschool year before kindergarten, we would love to invite them to come visit us, tour our classrooms, and learn more about our program.

Our teachers and staff have been working very hard to prepare for the new school year. Each classroom has been thoughtfully prepared to feel welcoming, comfortable, and like a home for our new and returning students. We would love for you to stop in and see all the work that has been done!

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our congregation for voting to approve the new playground fence. We are currently waiting for the fence installation to be placed on the schedule. As soon as we have a confirmed installation date, we will share that information with the congregation.

As we begin another school year and continue to grow our program, please keep St. John's Hilltop Day School, our teachers, our students, and our families in your prayers. We are grateful for the continued support and encouragement of our church family and look forward to all that this new school year will bring!

Women of the ELCA

We are planning to tie comforters for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday, September 15th from 12:00 to 2:30 in the Parish House **but this date is subject to change. Watch the Weekly Voice for any updates.** Please consider joining us for this important mission project. No experience necessary.

**Dates to Remember: Tuesday, September 15th-Tie Comforters (Parish House)
Monday, September 21st-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 reconvene on Monday, September 21st from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Lounge. Bring your latest project and join us for fellowship and conversation. We'd love to see some new additions to our group. Please see Lynda Lees if you have any questions.



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch group will begin meeting again in October. Date and restaurant to be decided. Please watch the Weekly Voice and bulletin board for updates.





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 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>
\$104,577	\$153,705	\$49,128

Benevolence Fund (Year-to-Date)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$17,100	\$11,388	(\$5,712)

Improvement Fund (Year-to-Date)

Actual
\$21,027

(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 4 @ 9AM – Men's Breakfast at Panera on Rt. 20

Sep 5 @ 10AM – Shared Bounty (PH)

Sep 7 – LABOR DAY – Church Office Closed

Sep 11-13 St. John's Fall Camping @ Sauder Village

Sep 13 RALLY DAY!

Sep 15 @ Noon – Tie Comforters (PH) *This date is subject to change. Watch for updates in the weekly VOICE.*

Sep 20 @ Noon – Lunch with the Church Family at Ol' Zims – Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office 419-837-5115. Reservations will close Sept. 6.

Sep 21 @ 1PM – Crafting Group (L)

Sep 28 @ 7:30 PM – Dartball Practice in the Gathering Room

Oct 2 @ 9AM – Men's Breakfast at Panera on Rt. 20

Oct 3 @ 10AM – Shared Bounty (PH)

Oct 5 @ 7:30 PM – Dartball Season begins

3rd Annual Rise Against Hunger Mission Project

Saturday, October 17
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We need **60** volunteers!

Please join us! Register with this
QR code or sign up in the Narthex.





St. John's Fall
Camping Trip
Sauder Village
September
11-13

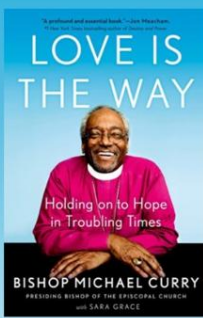
See Pustays or Orths
 for more info!

PLEASE JOIN US!!

Let's Eat Lunch!
'Ole Zim's'
WAGON SHED
Sunday, SEPT. 20
@ NOON
Sign-up Coming Soon!

New 5-week Bible Study
coming this Fall...
The Way of Love
Mondays @ 11am or 6pm
SEPT 21 & 28
OCT 5, 12 & 19
Sign up in Narthex or
call the church office

BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY
IN SEPTEMBER



Join this 2-session book study
 on ZOOM @ 7:11PM
 Wednesday evenings
 Sept. 16 & 23
 See Pr. Cindy for more details
 or call the church office
 419-837-5115



Dartball

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 5
- Practice session on Monday,
 September 28 @ 7:30 p.m. in the
 Gathering Room! Come try it out!!

Mark your Calendars for our
Fall Painting Party!!!
Saturday,
October 10 @ 2PM
St. John's Parish Hall
Cast your vote to help us decide
which fall picture to paint. See
the display in the Narthex!



September 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 NOON Prayer via ZOOM or in person – Chapel 7p Comm Mtg 1	2	3 8p AA (PH)	4 9a Men's Breakfast @ Panera on Rt. 20	5 10a Shared Bounty (PH)
6 10a Worship Reservation deadline for Ol' Zims	7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	8 NOON Prayer via ZOOM or in person - Chapel 7p Comm Mtg 2	9 7p Festival Choir	10 8p AA (PH)	11 Fall Camping at Sauder Village	12
13 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship RALLY DAY	14 <i>Send in your OCT VOICE articles!</i> Practice in (S) 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	15 NOON Prayer via ZOOM or in person – Chapel Noon – Tie Comforters (PH) 6:30p Exec Comm (L) 7p Church Council (L)	16 6p Dayschool Board 7p Festival Choir	17 9:15a Staff Meeting	18	19 7:30a Food Pantry
20 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship Noon Lunch @ Ol' Zims Noon – Private Event - PH	21 11a & 6p Bible Study (L) 1p Crafting Group (L) 1:30p SOAR (Gathering Rm.) Practice in (S) 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones	22 NOON Prayer via ZOOM or in person - Chapel	23 7p Festival Choir	24 8p AA (PH)	25	26
27 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	28 11a & 6p Bible Study (L) Practice in (S) 6:30p JJJAAM 7:30p Stones 7:30p Dartball Practice	29 NOON Prayer via ZOOM or in person - Chapel	30 7p Festival Choir			

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@stjohnsstonnyridge.net.