



St John's LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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*

October 2025

Harvest



blessings



From Pastor Howard...

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and *ready to share*... (Emphasis mine.)

~ 1 Timothy 6:17-18

In our daily reading, Sarah and I encounter that passage every October 26. On September 28, it was part of the Second Reading for our morning worship service. Every time I see it, I wonder, "What's going on here?"

The author of 1 Timothy sounds to me a lot different from the way Jesus sounds. When Jesus gives us instructions, he tells us what to do. He doesn't tell us what to be ready to do. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." Did Jesus ever tell us to *be ready* to share? If there's a record of his having said that, I haven't stumbled over it. More than once, though, Jesus says "Share."

So why the softening in 1 Timothy? I do not know. I think I do know, though, that readiness doesn't amount to much if it doesn't lead to action.

If I'm ready to worship every Sunday, but when the alarm goes off, I decide to sleep in this week, it's not going to help my faith grow.

Same if I'm ready to commit myself to daily prayer, but never decide what part of my normal routine to drop, or shorten, so I have time to pray.

And if I'm ready, finally, to take the Bible seriously, and devote significant time and effort to reading and studying it? I'm ready! Um, first though, I want to finish the John Sandford novel I'm reading, and maybe the new Michael Connelly whodunit that just got published. Oh, and the library book group is going to be discussing *Huckleberry Finn*, which I haven't read for decades. And there's the Jonathan Haidt a friend recommended. But the Bible is definitely on my "To Read" list.

(continued on p. 3)

How about if I'm ready for a closer relationship with another disciple of Jesus, for "what Luther referred to as 'conversation and consolation'" for mutual encouragement, and reflection, and prayer, but the right person keeps not showing up? Will my readiness help my faith in Christ to strengthen?

I'm ready to tithe, of course, as soon as I can afford it.

And I'm ready to be involved in the work of the kingdom of God, doing works of mercy, and working for justice for the poor and the oppressed. But how?

I typed this in a cabin in the woods in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Across the room was my brother's chainsaw. I'm pretty sure it's ready to go. Tim keeps it tuned up, teeth on the chain sharpened. Until he comes back next year, though, its readiness is going to count for exactly nothing. (When I go after firewood, I use a bow saw. It's quieter, it doesn't pump out smelly carcinogens, and I think it's healthier to burn carbohydrates than hydrocarbons.) The readiness of the chainsaw to cut wood might be a lot like a rich person's readiness to share: the cutting, the sharing, might not happen much.

With all due respect to the author of 1 Timothy, I'd say you will be a lot more helpful to your neighbor if, instead of worrying about how ready you are to share, you just share.

What do you think?



From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Autumn has begun with a busy start at St. John's Lutheran Church. On September 7th, many volunteers participated in the second annual Rise Against Hunger event. Over the course of the afternoon, 15,000 meal kits were assembled and packaged for distribution to people in need throughout the world. This event coincided with the ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands weekend of service projects. Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthy event, as we are the hands and feet of Christ when we serve others who are in need throughout the world. Much closer to home, there are further opportunities each month to serve our neighbors in our local communities through the food pantry and Shared Bounty ministries. I encourage everyone to pray about how they can serve and help others in ways large and small, within our own neighborhoods and throughout the whole world.

Within the congregation of St. John's, the work to assemble the call committee is progressing. As we continue with the formation of the committee, we ask all those who may be asked to consider serving on the committee to take the time to prayerfully consider the call to

(continued on pg. 4)

serve. The full committee will be formally installed at an upcoming worship service once the full committee structure is filled out, and the committee's important work will quickly commence.

The Hilltop Dayschool shares the exciting news of the hiring of the next full-time administrator with the service of Jenifer Mazza beginning in early October. Jenifer was most recently a head teacher at the Elizabeth Wayne Preschool at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maumee, OH. She also worked at Hilltop Dayschool as a teacher approximately 15 years ago as well. We are very excited to have her leadership and new ideas at the Dayschool, and we look forward to growing and enhancing the Dayschool program together in the months and years to come. Please join me in welcoming Jenifer to St. John's and the Hilltop Dayschool once again, and I ask everyone to continue to pray for and offer support to Jenifer and the whole Dayschool ministry as we move forward together and continue with the important work of that ministry.

In Christ,

Kyle Henry
Church Council President



From our new Dayschool Administrator...

Dear Parishioners,

My name is Jenifer Mazza, and I am honored to introduce myself as the Preschool Administrator here at St. John's Lutheran Church. I have been blessed to work in the field of Early Childhood Education for 28 years, including the past 10 years as a lead teacher at Episcopal church in Maumee. In 2014, I proudly earned my degree in Early Childhood Education, further strengthening my commitment to fostering growth, curiosity, and faith in young children.

Family is a very important part of my life. My husband, Peter, owns and operates a successful business he began during COVID. Together we share two wonderful children-our son, Devin, who is 32 and an active member of the United States Air Force, and our daughter, Bella, who is 19 and currently pursuing her passion in the equine field while also helping with her dad's business.

I am truly grateful for the warm welcome and support I have already received, and I look forward to working together to continue building a nurturing and faith-filled program for our children and families. It is a privilege to join this community, and I am excited for all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

Jenifer Mazza

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

The food pantry is under new leadership. Please, please, please consider volunteering to ensure that this vital community resource continues. Your help is needed. Reach out to Susie Bame or Sandy Orth.

Sunday Special...

- Food Pantry ~**
- jars of turkey gravy
 - chicken or turkey boxed stuffing
 - white cake mix
 - sweetened cereal

Shared Bounty ~ 4-roll toilet paper



Thank you for supporting our new project this fall!! The personal hygiene kits are due back by Sunday, October 12. They will then be delivered to local shelters in Wood County!



In Loving Memory of...

Lee Lashaway

Northwest Ohio Antique Machinery Association



Here are a few new selections of books added to St. John's Library this month.

Adult Books

Material Witness (A Shipshewana Amish Mystery)—Vannetta Chapman

Incredibly Awesome Crafts for Kids—Better Homes and Gardens

*Come in for a visit.
Check something out.*

Children's Books

Halloween Howls (Holiday Poetry)—Lee Bennett Hopkins

The Biggest Pumpkin Ever—Steven Kroll

Skeleton Meets the Mummy—Steve Metzger

Sheep in a Shop—Nancy Shaw

Monsters, Inc.—Disney/Pixar

Zack's Alligator—Shirley Mozelle

Biscuit—Alyssa Satin Capucilli

2 in 1 books: The Good Dinosaur: A Dinosaur Named Arlo—Disney/Pixar

The Good Dinosaur: A Boy Named Spot—Disney /Pixar

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

The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill
the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).*

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and the community.

- Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV) in a powerful and practical way.
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence to provide emotional and spiritual support.

In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.

See Pastor Howard or Pastor Cindy, Nancy Nycz or Joe Nycz if you have questions or concerns.

Nancy – 419-349-1932

Joe – 419-575-3895



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!



Thank you to all of you for the kind words, cards, texts and visits during the days following the loss of my youngest son, Steve. His brothers Mike and Deb, Dave and Debbie and families appreciate the kindness and love of our church family.

Barb Hersch and family

Thanks to everyone at the church who made Mark's funeral go so well. Wonderful lunch. Thanks, Pastor Cindy, for all of your visits.

Love, The Family of Mark Schulte

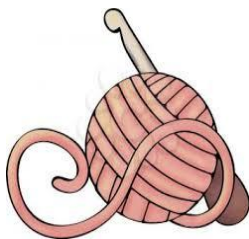


Women of the ELCA

Comforters for Lutheran World Relief will be tied on Tuesday, October 14th from 12 to 2:30 in the Parish House. These comforters are shipped to countries around the world and to places right here in the United States. Please consider joining us. No experience necessary!

**Dates to Remember: Tuesday, October 14th-Tie Comforters 12:00-2:30 (Parish House)
Monday, October 20th-Crafting Group 1:00-3:00 (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, October 20th from 1:00 to 3:00 in the lounge. Bring your latest crafting project and join us for fellowship and conversation. Please see Lynda Lees with any questions. Hope to see you there!





October Birthdays

(Those over 74 years young!)

Carolyn Staib	10/13	5474 Wagoner Road, Walbridge, OH 43465
Sharon Bitter	10/15	27609 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, OH 43447
James Goodman	10/17	514 Americas Way, #7784 Box Elder, SD 57719
Linda Polzin	10/20	26734 Thompson Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551
Pr. Bob Johnson	10/25	P. O. Box 248, 5925 Fremont Pike, Stony Ridge, 43463
Dave Polzin	10/29	26734 Thompson Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551
Doris Welling	10/31	P. O. Box 911, Luckey, OH 43443

GENEROUS GIVING

Financial Giving through 9/30/2025

General Fund Income (Year-to-Date)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$185,738	\$174,804	(\$10,934)

Benevolence Fund (Year-to-Date)

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
\$20,250	\$11,542	(\$8,708)

Improvement Fund (Year-to-Date)

Actual
\$8,237

(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.



NWOS - THE YEAR OF LISTENING

OCTOBER SCRIPTURE: PSALM 119:10

"With my whole heart I seek you,
do not let me stray from your commandments."

OCTOBER HYMN: Thy Word

OCTOBER WEEKLY LISTENING PRACTICES

Week 1: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

As the days grow shorter, venture out into the dark for an evening walk. Meditate on this verse.

Week 2: "I will not forget Your love for me..."

Have a conversation with someone this week about how God has moved in your life. Ask your companion to share their own remembrances of God's goodness in their life.

Week 3: "Jesus be my guide & hold me to your side; I will love you to the end."

Pray Luther's evening & morning prayer. Contemplate God's comfort and guidance at your rising and at your rest.

Week 4: "Nothing will I fear, as long as you are near; please be near me to the end."

Take pictures throughout this week of places you recognize God's nearness. Share those photos and tell the stories.

MILITARY CARE PACKAGE UPDATE

It is time for our annual update of our military care package program. Do you have a friend or family member that we can bless with a care package from our St. John's family during the holidays? If so, contact Pam Brackney (419) 287-3509 ppbrack@hotmail.com or the church office at (419) 837-5115. Please provide:

- Name/Rank and family members residing with them, along with a contact phone number
- Address
- Likes, interests, sizes (for all)
- Favorite restaurants

You may also provide any necessary updates for friends or family that we are already serving!

Please provide info no later than Oct 31!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

Oct 3 - 9:00 AM - Men's Breakfast @ Panera Rt. 20 - Perrysburg
 Oct 6 - 7:30 PM - Dartball Season begins
 Oct 8 - 11:30 AM - Lunch Bunch @ Sidelines in Perrysburg
 Oct 25 - Stony Ridge Trunk or Treat - Stony Ridge Community Park
 (rain date Nov. 1)
 Nov 2 - All Saints Sunday - Quiet Communion - Chapel - 3 PM
 Nov 8 - Fall Painting Party - 2 PM in the Parish Hall
 Nov 14 - Siberian Solstice! - 7 PM in the Sanctuary

New Adult Learning Opportunity!!

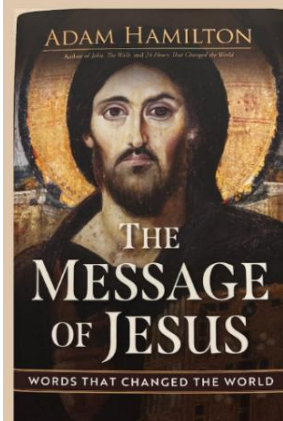
Join us for the Study of the
Book of Revelation

9 a.m. in the Lounge

Beginning
September 14



New DVD Study Opportunity!!



Tuesdays,
October 14th -
November 18th
at 10:45 AM in the
Lounge

Join Us!!

Sunday,
Nov. 2
3 PM



All
Saints
Day

Quiet Communion in the Chapel

Homebound Communion Team

A new team is being formed!

Contact Pastor Cindy or the
church office if you are
interested in joining!

We will have an initial meeting on
Sunday, October 19 @ 11:30 AM



Please
Join
Us!

Wednesday, October 8,
11:30 a.m.
@ Sidelines in Perrysburg



*Join us for a
Painting Party!*

**Saturday,
November 8 @
2 PM in the PH**

We will be painting
"Solstice Glow"

\$10 per person

will be collected to cover the cost of supplies.

**Bring a snack to share. Beverages will be
provided. Sign up in the Narthex!!**

All are welcome to attend this event! Call
the church office 419-837-5115 to register.



PLEASE JOIN US!!!

What a fantastic
opportunity to
have some
Halloween fun!

Bring your car and
share some treats
with our
neighborhood and
Dayschool
trick-or-treaters!

Or just join us for
trick-or-treating
and other fun
activities!



October 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00p Festival Choir Practice	2 8p AA	3 9a Men's Breakfast @ Panera Rt. 20	4 10a – 12a Shared Bounty
5 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	6 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJAAM 7:30p Stones 7:30p Dartball	7 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 7p Committee Meeting #1	8 7:00p Festival Choir Practice	9 8p AA	10	11
12 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	13 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJAAM 7:30p Stones 7:30p Dartball	14 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 12p Tie Comforters (PH) 7p Committee Meeting #2	15	16 9:15a Staff Mtg (L)	17	18 7:30a Food Pantry (PH)
19 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship	20 1p Crafting Group (L) Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJAAM 7:30p Stones 7:30p Dartball	21 Noon Prayers via ZOOM 6:30p Exec Committee (L) 7p Church Council (L)	22 7:00p Festival Choir Practice	23 8p AA	24	25 Stony Ridge Trunk or Treat @ Stony Ridge Community Park
26 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship Reformation Sunday	27 Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p JJAAM 7:30p Stones 7:30p Dartball	28 Noon Prayers via ZOOM	29 7:00p Festival Choir Practice	30 8p AA	31	

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.