

# *St. John's Lutheran Church*

---

St. John's Lutheran  
209 Broad St. PO Box 203  
Montpelier, Ohio 43543  
419-485-3736

Paul Gruetter, Pastor  
567-201-3455  
Philip Sandi, Intern  
818-415-9727

[stjohnsmontpelier@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsmontpelier@gmail.com)

[stjohnsmontpelier.org](http://stjohnsmontpelier.org)

---

## *January Newsletter 2022*

---

---



# Shut-Ins and Homebound

Marcella Henry  
Hillside Country Living  
09876 Co. Rd, 16  
Bryan, OH 43506

Myrtle Cook  
Evergreen Nursing Home  
924 Charlie's Way  
Montpelier, OH 43543

Larry Eriksen  
Fountain Park, Room #203  
1433 N. Main St.  
Bryan, OH 43506

Luella Rockey  
07949 St. Rt. 107  
Montpelier, OH 43543

## Serving in Worship during January

Sign-up sheet being passed around during worship!

### **Acolytes**

2: Anna Burt  
9: Olivia Thompson  
16: Shelby Terry  
23: Jess Hendricks  
30: Anna Burt

### **Lay Readers**

2: Dave Jaessing  
9: open  
16: open  
23: Olivia Thompson  
30: open

### **Greeters**

2: open  
9: Brandon & Erika Shoup  
16: Lexy Robson, Joan Becker  
23: Olivia Thompson  
30: Jason Luke Family,  
Kim & Allyson Hutchison



## January Birthdays

---

4-Stefanie Brigle  
4-Jacqueline Carlson  
4-Cole Dewire  
4-Kaden Sapp  
5-Valerie Steinke  
5-Alexander Clark  
9-Glenda Rockey  
10-Breanna Henry  
10-Bethany Watkins  
12-Connie Gilbert  
14-Jenna Bumb  
15-Chase Henry  
16-Graier Shoup

16-Nevaeh Woods  
19-Laura Rings  
19-Chris Whitis  
21-Evan Whitis  
23-Charles Elser  
24-Michael Elser  
24-Tate Hill  
25-Laurie Steinke  
25-Robin Willson  
27-Karen Taylor  
28-Hannah  
    Brehm-Gutting  
28-Dick Lawson  
31-Anna Baker



## January Anniversaries

---

3-Juston and Amanda Hoover  
4-Ed and Kristen Ewers  
21-David and Alyssa Flower  
22-David and Sharon Deetz

## *In Sympathy*

Mary Steinke went home to be with our Lord on December 3. Our hearts go out to her family and friends in Christian love.

### **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You**

Luella Rockey wishes to thank Shalom Circle for the many cards they have sent and also the other cards she has received. She really enjoys them.

Thank you to all who made Linda Poynter's memorial service special and to the funeral team for the delicious meal.

The family of Mary Steinke would like to thank our St. John's family for all the love and support given to us over these past few weeks. We especially want to thank the deacons, Shawn Hendricks, Jeanne Willson, the ladies on the altar guild and the funeral committee, Dave and Sharon Deetz, Pastor, Joy, and Philip for your part in the celebration service of her life.

Thank you to all who contributed to the flood bucket challenge. We now have 10 more buckets to send to the NALC Disaster Relief.

### **Intern Philip's Prayer Initiative for St. John's for the New Year**

Daily prayer begins at 7:00 - 7:30 am for the morning session here at the church. For those who can (be very mindful about your health situation) fast from 7 am to 12 noon. And be prayerfully abstaining from anything that is not godly even while at work.

We will meet again at the church as daily prayer ends between 12 noon-12:30 pm. We begin on Saturday January 1, 2022 to Friday January 7, 2022. On the closing day come and present your financial gifts to God for his blessing and protection. Give as you love the Lord. Money collected will be used for the work of the church as Church Council directs it. God loves you!



So far, a chalice cover and a linen cloth for the altar are to be ordered. Robin will ask Pastor if there is anything else that would be needed. The remainder of the money will be saved for kitchen remodel.

Bev will check on additional flood buckets collected.

**Secretary of Community – No Report**

**Old Business** – Robin dipped the remaining buckeyes. A total of 3168 buckeyes were made this year. At the Craft Show and the sales from Tashia Thompson’s FB post, a total 2226 were sold.

A note will be put in the bulletin to advise prices and availability of the remaining buckeyes.

**New Business –**

Donations for various organizations will be decided at the January meeting.

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting will be on 1/2/22 at 9:00 am at the Church.

Respectfully submitted by Lexy Robson.



**St. John Lutheran Church  
Montpelier, Ohio  
Church Council Meeting December 12,2021**

**Present:** Jim Engels, Lonnie Gillen, Jeanne Willson, Ric Clark, Mike Timbrook, Kent Hutchison, Jim Thompson, Merlin Wright, Kati Burt, Megan Hill, Sara Luke, Dale Gearhart, Shawn Hendricks, Pastor Paul Gruetter, and Intern Philip Sandi.

- 1. Meeting Called to Order:** Vice President Jim E. called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.
- 2. Approve the Agenda:** No Agenda was available to approve at this time, but was later brought to the meeting for Vice President Jim.
- 3. Devotions:** Given by Kati Burt from Parish Ed. (Trustees in January)
- 4. Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Paul.
- 5. Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The November 14, 2021 Church Council Minutes, previously emailed, were read by council members. Motion to approve the November 14, 2021 meeting minutes made by Shawn and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** Given by Lonnie. **Treasurer Notes – November** (Copies of the November Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in an orange/yellow folder by the front entrance.)
  - The Clearing Account collected \$700 for Intern Philip and paid out \$700.00. In addition, a plane ticket was purchased in October to fly to Texas for \$184.80 and we are still waiting to be reimbursed by the NALC.
  - A five-year review of the Memorial Fund resulted in some discrepancies which were corrected this month.
  - A memorial received in 2018 for \$495 was designated for the Men's Group and was disbursed to them this month.
  - A memorial received in 2019 for \$1,745 was incorrectly deposited into the Building Fund. This was corrected by transferring money from the Building Funds back into the Memorial Fund.
  - Merlin asked about the Harvest Fest offering. Lonnie said she would have to check for the total. Motion to put the Harvest Fest funds into the general funds since we are behind in our offering made by Mike and second by Shawn. Motion

approved. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report made by Shawn and seconded by Dale. There was some confusion about what motion people were voting on due to talking during the voting. Motion to rescind the Harvest Fest fund put into the general fund made by Jim T. and second by Kati. Motion approved. More discussion will be continued at the January council meeting.

## **7. Board Reports:**

- **Deacons** – given by Mike. Present were Ric and Mike.
  - There were 4 Sundays in November. The attendance for the 8:00 a.m. service had an average of a little over 23 and the 10:00 a.m. service an average of a little over 80 with a total average of 103 plus per Sunday. Mike reported that the Harvest Fest potluck meal had 28 people attend. He thanked Josh and Jodi Fiser for the donation of meat and rolls.
  - The Christmas decoration in the sanctuary and Nativity scene were put up by Mike, Ric and Nathan Baker.
- **Elders** – Given by Kent. Present were Merlin and Kent. Jim T. arrived later.
  - Set the communion schedule January and will send to Jeanne.
  - Continued discussion on the Prayer Room. Merlin has looked at some options for a table for the room. They were quite expensive. Merlin is going to see if we can get a table made for less cost.
  - Elders completed the Pastoral Review with Pastor Gruetter on Wednesday, November 18.
  - Worked on Elder's Year End Report and will send to Jeanne.
- **Parish Education** – Given by Megan. Present were Kati, Megan., and Sara.
  - Christmas Gifts – Kati will purchase gifts to give to kids on Sunday, December 19: oranges, candy, and an activity.
  - Christmas Program on December 19<sup>th</sup> at both services – students to come at 7:30 a.m. Shawn will do breakfast with the help of Junior High and High School students;

cookies and punch will be served after the program and Megan will purchase punch; Megan will ask Sue Dewire and Riki Timbrook about making cookies.

- First Communion – Parker Stump, Rowen Saneholtz, Braxton Henry, and Kolbee Thomas are eligible for class with Merlin Wright; looking into dates in February with Merlin.
- Quake – Kati is reaching out to Junior High and High School students to see who wants to attend; it will be February 25 – 27, 2022; Early Bird registration ends January 5<sup>th</sup> for \$95 a night.

● **Trustees** – Given by Dale. Present were Dale, Shawn, and Lonnie.

- Discussed looking into replacing carpet at the first of the new year.
- Will be looking to use memorial funds for repairing windows.
- Some memorial funds and donations might be available to be used to redo the west parking lot.
- Shawn will continue to look into a security system.
- Jim T. brought up about the narrow cement walk next to Broad Street in front of the church is sinking and could be a tripping hazard when getting out of a car. Dale suggested maybe just removing it and change into grass.

**8. Pastor's Report:** Given by Pastor Paul.

- For the month of November worship services: 8 Sunday services, 1 seasonal service, 3 sermons, 1 funeral. In person visits: 5 home, 7 office or elsewhere Attended 7 meetings and 8 other events. Taught 7 classes. Assorted other contacts – telephone, Facebook, etc.
- Pastor asked council for approval to attend the NALC Pastor's Retreat February 15-17 in Orlando, FL. He would leave February 14 and return the 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is \$125. Flight and hotel cost are not known yet. It should come out of the Professional Expense line in the budget. Motion to approve Pastor Paul attending the NALC Pastor's Retreat February 14 – 17 in Orlando, FL made by Dale and seconded by Shawn. Motion approved.

**Intern Report:** Given by Intern Philip Sandi.

- For the month of November: made 3 personal visits, 2 visits with Pastor Paul; preached 2 times (1 outside the church – Montpelier Ministerial Community Thanksgiving service)); led 4 worship services; taught 3 catechism classes; and attended a NALC Ohio District meeting and a Montpelier Ministerial meeting
- Intern Philip shared since he started here as an intern on February 7, he would like to use his vacation time in January.
- He is working on preparing for the NALC call process to become a pastor.
- Intern Philip would like to start an initiative for prayer and fasting the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January. Members of St. John's congregation who are willing would meet at 7 a.m. for 30 minutes of prayer and again at 12 noon. The fasting will be from 7 a.m. till 12 noon. The last day, January 7, give whatever you want to the treasurer of the church, and not let others know.
- Pastor Paul mentioned he will be on vacation December 27 – January 2, so Philip is in charge of leading the congregation for this and those who are willing to participate. Motion to approve Philip's Prayer and Fasting Initiative made by Dale and seconded by Kati. Motion approved. Secretary Jeanne will send out an email to church members and also put it in the bulletin.

**9. Committee Reports:** There were no committee reports.

**10. Approve All Reports:** Motion to approve all the board reports made by Kati and seconded by Ric. Motion approved.

**11. Half-Time Prayer:** Given by Intern Philip

**12. Old Business:**

- Men's Group sponsored a BBQ pork chop dinner to support the Building Fund on Saturday December 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and there are park chops left in the deep freezer for sale at \$7 each.
- The lights are finished in the Fellowship Hall/ Social Room and thank you to Jason Luke, Shawn Hendricks, Nathan Baker, and Matthew Luke.

- Another thank you to Jason Luke for hanging the TV on the wall in the Prek-2<sup>nd</sup> classroom.
- Shawn will keep looking into the security system to see who comes in at the west door during the week day.
- Vice President Jim E. reminded us we still need 1 elder and 1 Vice President for 2022.
- It will cost \$277 for One License for 1 year for copyright permission for streaming our worship service.

### **13. New Business:**

- Pastor Paul stated installation of the new council officers can be January 9.
- Intern Philip suggested council should discuss having the Vice President and President be a 2-year term.
- Beverly Blosser needs to be accepted as a new member by transfer. Motion to accept Beverly Blosser as a new member by transfer made by Jim T. and seconded by Merlin. Motion approved.
- Pastor Paul presented the standard housing allowance and tax resolutions as he does every year. The first resolution is designate the housing allowance for Pastor to be \$18,000 to satisfy the 2022 IRS requirements. Motion to approve housing allowance resolution made by Kent and seconded by Jim T. Motion approved.
- Pastor Paul also presented the second resolution about his expenses reimbursement policy. He turns in expenses and gets reimbursement. This is to satisfy tax requirements. Motion to approve Pastor Paul's reimbursement expenses made by Shawn and seconded by Kati. Motion approved.
- Kent shared that FCA sends out a request for funds at the end of the year and if the church is interested, to let him know who to send it to. It helps pay for scholarships and to help the school Huddles.
- Dale again suggested we continue the discussion about what to do with the Harvest Fest offerings.
- Lonnie stated if anyone wants to make a donation to the church from their retirement IRA funds, they should talk to their broker. Tell the broker you don't want to touch the

money and to send the check directly from the account to the church.

- Mike shared we should thank Nathan Thompson for being President this past year. Everyone was in agreement.

**14. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Shawn and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.

**15. Lord's Prayer:** The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.  
Next meeting is Jan. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

