

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran
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Montpelier, OH 43543
419-485-3736

Paul Gruetter, Pastor
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stjohnsmontpelier.org

March 2022 Newsletter

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Homebound and Shut-Ins

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 March

Sign-up sheet is passed around during worship!

Acolytes

2: 7:30 pm Olivia Thompson
6: Jess Hendricks
9: 7:30 pm Shelby Terry
13: Anna Burt
16: 7:30 pm Jess Hendricks
20: Shelby Terry
23: 7:30 pm Anna Burt
27: Olivia Thompson
30: 7:30 pm Shelby Terry

Greeters

6: Hill Family,
Kim & Allyson Hutchison
13: Sue Dewire,
Doran & Stacy DeMara
20: Olivia Thompson
27: Jason Luke Family

Lay Readers

6: Michael Kidston
13: Ed Kidston
20: open
27: open



March Birthdays

1 – Dennis Steinke
1 – Grant Hake
2 – Kim Hutchison
9 – Harrison Rose
11 – Hallie Henry
11 – Malorie Rose
11 – Sharon Tarr
11 – Olivia Thompson
12 – David Clark
12 – David Deetz
17 – Joel Saneholtz
18 – Betty Rjngs

19 - Vonda Henry
20 - Ann Perkey
24- Mike Esterline
24 - Cory Luke
25 -Charlie Wright
26 - Kim Bumb
26 - Abigail Luke
27 - Becky Kunkel
28 -Jennifer Clark
28 - Nancy Elser
29 - Abbie Henry
31 - Tim Henry

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

7 – Mike and Lexy Robson
16 – Dean and Connie Cogswell
29 – Corey and Julie Steinke

Rejoicing

We give thanks and praise to God at the baptisms Sunday, February 13 of Kolbee. Cashe, Kendyl, Taitym Thomas who are the children of Chase and Tiffany Thomas. Also Harrison and Malorie Rose who are the children of Nathan and Katie Rose. We welcome them into the body of Christ and the mission we share.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten meals and services

Lenten services will take place every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. starting with Ash Wednesday on March 2 and continuing through April 6. Lenten suppers will be offered starting on Wednesday, March 9 and will begin serving at 6:00 p.m. prior to the service. The sign-up sheet for groups or individuals willing to provide a meal has several openings. The High School Youth have signed up for March 9 and 30. March 16, 23, and April 6 are still available. The sign-up sheet is located in the hallway by the office. If you or your organization would like to prepare a Lenten meal on Wednesday nights during Lent, please sign the Lenten Supper Chart and please note your menu on the chart.

Daylight Savings Time

Sunday, March 13, is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time. Set your clock ahead one hour Saturday, March 12 so you can be on time for worship.

WOTC Blanket Workshop Day Change

The women have decided to change the date of the next fleece tied blanket workshop from March 16 to Saturday, March 23 starting at 9 a.m. in the Social/Fellowship room. Anyone is welcome to come, not just women.

Philp Sandi Info

Several people asked about Philip's information to keep in touch. His email is philipsandi@gmail.com and his phone number is 763-443-1813. Philip Sandi's temporary address is: 1632 9th Avenue, Conway, SC 29527.

Mission Trip

Our next mission trip to Birmingham, AL will be June 5-11, 2022 and again we will be working with Next Step Storm organization. Keep that week open if you wish to join our group. If any questions, contact Dave Jaessing at 419-551-1547.



The WOTC Board Meeting from February 6 was not available at the time of the newsletter printing. It will be included along with the March 6 Board Meeting minutes in the next April Newsletter.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

Following the 10 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary

- 1. Call to Order:** President Jim Engels called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.
- 2. Opening Prayer:** Pastor Paul Gruetter gave an opening prayer.
- 3. Motion to Approve the Agenda:** Copies of the 2021 Annual Reports and the 2022 Congregational Meeting Agenda were handed out to the congregation by the Deacons. While the reports

were handed out, President Jim Engels thanked outgoing 2021 President Nathan Thompson and Church Council members for leading the church in another trying year. He commented that most of our programs and Sunday attendance is picking up and it's good to see people's faces again. He thanked all the outgoing members of 2021 church council. He also thanked those in the church that help in other ways such as the organist, and all people that help make the church operate. Motion to approve the January 30, 2022 Congregational Meeting Agenda made by Shawn Hendricks and seconded by Mike Timbrook. Motion approved.

4. **Motion to forego reading and approve the minutes of the last Congregational Meeting:** Congregational Minutes from November 2, 2021 were listed in the 2021 Annual Report. Motion to forego the reading of the November 21, 2021 minutes made by Kati Burt and seconded by Bill Hill. Motion approved.
5. **The 2021 Annual Reports:** The congregation reviewed the reports in the packet.

Pastor's Report: President Jim pointed out on Pastor's report that our average attendance before COVID was 125 and then the fall of 2020 it was around 65. By the fall of 2021 we were pushing an average of 100. President Jim also pointed out we had our third Intern this year.

Treasurer's Report: President Jim commented that for the most part, we stayed under our budget with our expenses and over all the church ended the year in good financial shape. Lonnie Gillen pointed out about the \$15,000 that was donated for the carpet.

Deacons: No comments were given.

Elders: Elder Merlin Wright added to the report that a few weeks ago, Ann Kidston asked the elders about a place for a prayer room. A room that was private and would encourage us to speak to the Lord. It is a work in progress right now. The room will be located at the top of the stairs by the north door. Plans are in the works to add an altar table, and a kneeling bench. Other items such as a Bible, and a cross will be added later. Merlin shared how Ann told him her mother, Mary Steinke, would have been pleased with this prayer room and that Ann will be using her mother's memorial money for this.

Parish Education: President Jim thanked Jim and Janice Thompson for hosting the youth Reformation activities and to Joy Gruetter for the Christmas program.

Trustees: President Jim thanked members Sally Taylor and Lonnie Gillen for helping Val with some financial issues. We ended the year financial stable as we received more money than was spent.

Glenview Apartments: President Jim thanked Jill Beck, Wanda Henry, and Matthew Luke for serving on this board. He pointed out the report stated a thank you to our St. John's WOTC ladies for previous monetary donations made to the Glenview Apartments.

Women's Report: President Jim commented how he was amazed the women sold 3,000 buckeyes. He thanked the women of the church for all they do.

6. **Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Reports:** Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Reports made by Merlin Wright and seconded by Dave Jaessing. Motion approved.
7. **Old Business:** There was none.
8. **New Business:** There was none.
9. **Motion to adjourn the January 30, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting:** Motion made by Mike Timbrook and seconded by Dave Jaessing. Motion approved.
10. **The Lord's Prayer in unison:** The congregation prayed the Lord's Prayer together.



**St. John's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
February 13, 2022**

Present: Jim Engels, Valerie Steinke, Jeanne Willson, Ric Clark, Al Henry, Mike Timbrook, Matthew Luke, Jim Thompson, Merlin Wright, Megan Hill, Sara Luke, Robin Willson, Nathan Baker, Dale Gearhart, Bill Hill, Pastor Paul Gruetter, and Lonnie Gillen.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** President Jim E. called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Approve the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Bill and seconded by Dale. Motion approved.
3. **Devotions:** Given by Ric from the Deacons. (Elders in March)
4. **Opening Prayer:** Given by Pastor Paul.
5. **Approve Minutes of Last Meeting:** The January 9, 2022 Church Council Minutes, also previously emailed, were read by council members. Megan commented that the date of First Communion will be March 6. Merlin commented he was absent in January and that there will be only 3 students and not 4 attending First Communion classes during February. Motion to approve the January 9, 2022 meeting minutes with revisions made by Jim T. and seconded by Al. Motion approved.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Given by Lonnie. (Copies of the January Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in an orange/yellow folder by the front entrance.)

Treasurer Notes – January

- The Special Donation to cover the cost of the Intern was depleted in January 2022.
 - \$1,988.49 was transferred from the Contingency Fund to cover the remainder of his (Intern's) January expense.
 - A special donation of \$15,000 was given in December to be used for the carpet project. This amount is reflected in the Contingency Fund.
 - The \$2,590 in the Clearing Account is Seed Offering from the Special prayer Services offered by Intern Philip Sandi.
 - Lonnie commented that the carpet was installed and will be paid with the \$15,000 donated with the rest of the amount paid from the Memorial Fund.
7. **Board Reports:**
 - **Deacons** – given by Mike. Present were Ric, Al, and Mike.
 - There were 5 Sundays in January. The attendance for the 8:00 a.m. service had an average of 21 and the 10:00 a.m. service an average of 66 for a total average of 87 per Sunday.

- The Deacons all met and took down and put away all the Christmas decorations in January.
- **Elders** – Given by Merlin. Present were Matthew, Jim T., Pastor Paul, and Merlin.
 - Talked about the Prayer Room. Ann Kidston and McCrae Kidston are doing a lot of the planning for that.
 - The First Communion for the 3 students will be March 6.
 - The assisting Elder schedule will be given to the Secretary.
 - Pastor commented that Merlin had discussed with him about having a dedication of the Prayer Room be at the end of a Sunday service. He would like to have everyone go down the hallway following the cross to dedicate the Prayer Room and include a hymn sing so the whole congregation is involved.
 - Merlin commented decorations and furniture plans are still progressing, but not certain when it will be ready.
- **Parish Education** – Given by Megan. Present were Megan, Sara, and Robin.
 - First Communion will be March 6.
 - May 1 will be Confirmation Sunday. Parish Ed. members and Pastor will have the interview on April 27, the Wednesday before at 7:30 p.m. in the Library Room. We only have one student candidate this year. Megan will order a flower from Surely Daisies and Pastor Paul will check about a robe with Jess.
 - Megan will order the spring curriculum for Sundays and Wednesdays and also VBS.
 - Summer Camp was discussed. Some of our students are already signed up for a week in July. A \$50 deposit is due. Anyone who wants to sign up should contact Kati who will be in charge of that.
- **Trustees** – Given by Bill. Present were Nathan, Lonnie, and Bill.
 - Cleaning equipment was discussed as the vacuum cleaner is very old and not working properly. The Trustees approved up to \$500 for cleaning equipment. Judy will be consulted to see what kind she would like.
 - There was a major increase in the village utilities in December for water, so the problem with a toilet will be fixed in the men's room upstairs.

- A vent in the sanctuary will be sealed off as it does not do anything anymore.
- Jodi Grime, will be contacted to about the Youth checking account checkbook. Megan asked about that in relation to Quake and also the Luther League account. Nathan commented that it is totally separate from the Youth checking account. Megan will check into this.
- Bill commented that a quote for the repair on the windows will begin with the classrooms first.
- The electrical circuit in the Treasurer's office will be looked at by Owen's.
- Bill thanked the volunteers for coming to help move the pews and furniture for the new carpet installation.
- Last council meeting, \$2000 was approved from memorial Funds to cover the rest of the carpet expense, but the cost was actually about \$200 over that.
- After the sound board was put back, there was an issue with the mic, but that is working now. Shawn has gotten additional microphones, that can be used for children's programs and guest speakers, 4 wireless headsets and 2 handhelds. The 4 front hanging speakers are also being checked by Shawn as they are not working properly.

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

- For the month of January worship services: 8 Sunday services, 4 sermons, 1 funeral, and 1 worship service at Evergreen. In person visits: 4 homes, nursing homes, 5 office or elsewhere. Attended 7 meetings and 18 other events. Taught 5 classes. Assorted other contacts – telephone, Facebook, etc.

9. Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

10. Approve All Reports: Motion to approve all reports made by Al and seconded by Merlin. Motion approved.

11. Half-Time Prayer: Given by Pastor Paul.

12. Old Business:

- President Jim E. mentioned we are still looking for 1 Elder and 1 Vice President.
- Nathan asked about Lenten Suppers and asked who was going to do them. Megan replied she thought the High School Youth will be doing some of them. Megan requested that any donated money from the suppers be put in the Youth Checking

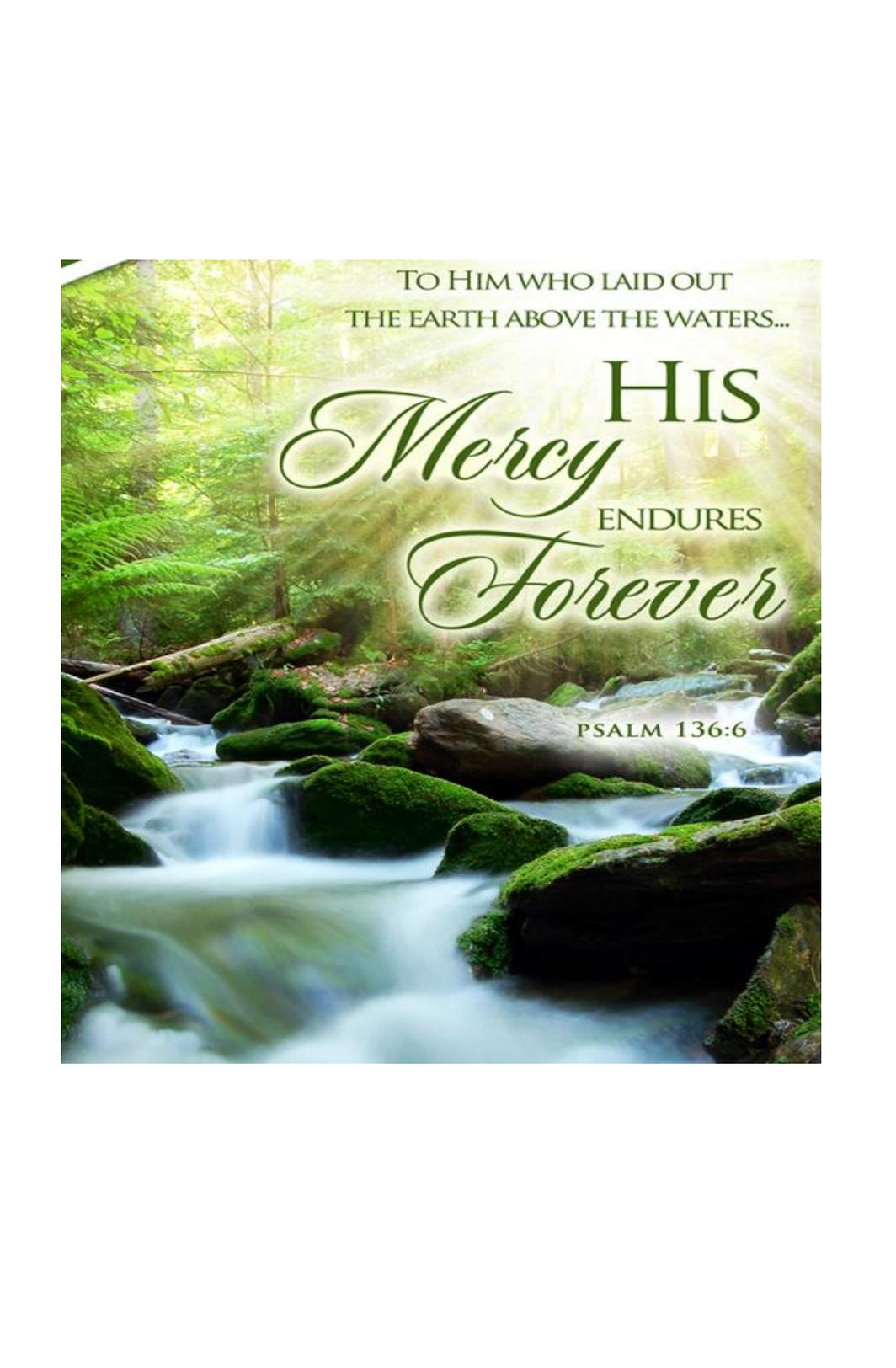
Account. Kati mentioned to President Jim E. previously, if any other groups would like to host a supper, they were welcome to do that.

13. New Business:

- Megan commented Chris Kannel had reached out to her about the church's insurance policy about child safety procedures and she responded that the church is keeping everything the same as before.
- Bill and the Trustees asked for some suggestions of what to do with the \$2590. money collected for Intern Philip's special Prayer and Fasting service in January. Some ideas such as chairs for the very young youth and an improvement to the downstairs drinking fountain were suggested, but more will be discussed next month.
- Pastor Paul requested vacation for March 12 – 19. Since it is during Lent, the Sunday, March 13 service will be covered by Pastor George Zornow and Wednesday, March 16 covered by Eric Frank. Pastor also asked if Eric could be on-call when Pastor is gone. Motion to approve vacation for Pastor Paul March 12-19 made by Nathan and seconded by Bill. Motion approved. Motion to have Eric Frank be on-call for Pastor's vacation made by Dale and seconded by Al. Motion approved.
- Pastor Paul would like council's permission to attend Philip Sandi's ordination, but the date is unknown right now. If it's over a Sunday or a weekend in Lent, he will not go. If the date turns out to be where he can make a quick trip he will like to go and not count that as vacation time. Council members gave their approval with that request.
- Pastor Paul asked about the wooden piece that used to be stored under the altar and is probably was used many years ago as a top on the altar, but is not used now. Council members gave their approval to dispose of that wooden piece.

14. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike and seconded by Ric. Motion approved.

15. Lord's Prayer: The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is March 13 at 11:30 a.m.

A lush green forest scene with a stream flowing over mossy rocks. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, ethereal atmosphere. The water is blurred, suggesting a long exposure. The rocks are covered in vibrant green moss. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

TO HIM WHO LAID OUT
THE EARTH ABOVE THE WATERS...

HIS
Mercy
ENDURES
Forever

PSALM 136:6