



Len & Jean Stamm

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



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Welcome to



**ST. JOHN'S
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

**“The Church on
the Corner Whose
Cornerstone is Christ”**

We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word, preaching salvation through believing in Christ as Savior. We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.

Welcome to our Worship of God! “God’s Grand Story”

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer

Romans 5:1-5 (p. 1116)

Prelude

“He Is Exalted”

† Call to Worship – From Ephesians 2:5-10 (L–Leader; *P–People*)

L: It is by grace we have been saved, through faith.

P: Not from our own doing, it is the gift of God.

L: We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,

P: Works God prepared in advance for us to do.

L: Praise the Lord.

P: The Lord’s name be praised.

† Hymn – #277

“The Church’s One Foundation”

† Unison Prayer of Confession: *Be gracious to us today, Lord, for we are in need of your mercy. We can be quick to doubt and slow to pray. We are tempted to let go of faith when we need to hang on. We are discouraged by wrong when we need to be encouraged by your Spirit. O God, we are thankful for the strength you give us to trust in you all the days of our lives. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

† The Gloria Patri

† Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Message

† Prayer Hymn – #430

“I Must Tell Jesus”

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (debt/debtors)

Chancel Choir

“How Firm a Foundation”

Scripture Reading

Genesis 12:1-9 (p. 11)

Sermon – notes on pg. 4

“The Life of Faith”

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings of Gratitude

Offertory

“Draw Me Close”

† Hymn – #283

“We Are God’s People”

† Spoken Benediction

† Transition to Annual Meeting

Welcome . . .

Guests and Visitors

Welcome to our worship of God! Please take a moment to complete one of the info cards in the pew rack at each end of the pew and drop it in the offering plate once it is passed down the aisle in the service. We hope you will find our service to be an uplifting and pleasurable time of worship and that you will worship with us again. Learn more about us by visiting our Welcome Table at the south end of our building or our website at www.stjohnsarchbold.org.

Membership Orientation

On January 25, February 1 and 8 (Wednesday evenings) from 6-7PM, St. John's will be offering orientation sessions to inform people about beliefs, ministries and the history of this local congregation. Please let Pastor Erich, Pastor Alex or Sue Grieser know if you would be interested in attending these sessions.

St. John's Christian Preschool

A learning, Christian ministry geared for children 3-5 years of age. Four sessions offered: Tues/Thurs morning and afternoon, and Mon/Wed/Fri morning and afternoon; and run from September thru May. More information is available at www.stjohnsarchbold.org.

Mother's Room / Diaper Changing Station / Nursery Care

We have a Mother's Room located near our sanctuary – just ask an usher for its location. A diaper changing station is in our nursery room just down the hallway from our sanctuary. Nursery Care is offered during our worship service for infants and pre-kindergarten children.

Children's and Large Print Bulletins are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex.

Hearing Assistance is provided through our loop system for hearing aids with a "t" switch position.

This Week's Congregational Prayer:

By faith, Lord. By faith. Being sure of what I hope for and certain of what I do not see. May you commend me this day, that I will live by faith. Whatever I encounter today, I pledge to live by faith. Faith that you will be with me in each and every encounter. Faith that your Word will direct me in my thoughts and actions. Faith that what I put my hands to will be blessed by your love and grace. For your glory, I live by faith. Amen.

January Mission-A-Month *Church World Service Emergency Clean Up Kits*

The supplies provided in these clean up kits enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States. Please use your weekly offering envelopes for your donations and mark them M-A-M or CWS Kits.

The Life of Faith – Key Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9

1. “Go to the land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

- Abraham’s father had begun moving the family to Canaan, but settled halfway.
- Abraham was called to leave his family and everything familiar to him.
- He was not given any information more than the next step.

Personal application: How would people react if you were moving but had no idea where?

What is God saying? Faith requires risk and getting out of our comfort zone.

- God keeps us in relationship with Him by rarely giving more than the next step. We can’t rely on principles or follow a plan. We have to listen to Him.

2. “I will make you into a great nation.” (Genesis 12:2)

- Abraham had no descendants yet and was already well past age.
- Abraham’s attempts to help fulfill God’s promise only complicated things.
- Abraham and Sarah laughed when God said that His promise would soon come to pass.
- But the New Testament says they believed without wavering (Romans 4:18-21).

What is God saying? He is the promise keeper. We don’t need to “help” Him.

- The path to fulfillment may be filled with twists and turns and take a very long time.
- If we land in a place of faith, God calls it “not wavering” – even when we’ve had questions, doubts, and maybe laughed at the absurdity along the way.

3. “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love.” (Genesis 22:2)

- Isaac was born 25 years after the promise.
- God had already ruled out Ishmael as the fulfillment.
- Abraham had a choice between clinging to God’s promise and letting it go. Did he wonder if God was contradicting Himself?
- Abraham surrendered. But did he really? Hebrews 11:19 says he expected God to miraculously fulfill the promise anyway.

Personal application: How would you respond if God told you to give up the most important thing to you—something He had promised you long ago?

What is God saying? Love Him above all else.

- Believe Him even when He seems to wound your heart at its most vulnerable place.
- Cling to hope in His goodness but release expectations for how He will show it.

Conclusion: Hebrews 11:6 says it is impossible to please God without faith. The Apostle Paul wrote that we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus said all things are possible to those who believe (Mark 9:23). Our experience of His kingdom depends on what we are able to believe.

Let's Talk About It - This Week in Our Children's and Youth Education:

Pre-K Class: This month we are studying about Jesus's miracles. Today we talked about when Jesus healed a man of his illness after 38 YEARS! Ask us about stirring the waters, just like what happened all those years ago.

Faith Village: Faith Village children explored many of the Christian symbols that appear throughout our building, sharing in a Confirmation lesson about the history of St. John's by looking at key aspects of our church building. What symbol did they like the best?

Confirmation: The January lessons are focused on the history and faith of St. John's. This morning the students helped Pastor Erich teach and lead our Faith Village children in a lesson on the faith symbols located in and around our church building. Confirmands were given a red booklet describing these symbols – ask your child what they've learned!

Senior High Sunday School: This week the high school students worked through the Sunday school hour to bring you the delicious, church-wide luncheon. Be sure to come support our senior high youth program (funds raised help support their missions trip budget)!

LOGOS: Preschool/Kindergarten: We focused on Exodus 1:22-2:10 – Miriam and her mother save Moses. The children listened to and re-told the story of Moses, which gave them a better understanding of the courage needed for each of the characters and to believe in the promises of God. The children also drew their own picture of baby Moses in the grasses. **Second Grade:** This week, second graders read the story of Zacchaeus and made story puppets to help tell the story. **Third Grade:** The third grade class studied Genesis 37-45, learning how Joseph saves his brothers who treated him terribly, stating that God had used the situation for good. We compare Joseph's story to Jesus and how God used the sacrifice of Jesus for the good of saving us even though we are sinners. **Fourth Grade:** The Fourth Graders talked about "our stories." Each of us shared an important part of who we are. We read the story of Josiah, the young king who read and remembered the story of God's people, leading his people to pray and trust God again. The children were encouraged to read more stories in the Bible this week. **Fifth Grade:** We discussed "I have a Story to Tell" learning of King Josiah and how he shared his story. Students learned how important remembering Bible verses and stories can be in sharing our own story.

JYF: Over the next few weeks, we will be following Pastors Erich's and Alex's sermons through the Old Testament. This week we talked about King Josiah and how he rediscovered the Bible and brought reform to Judah. The Bible remains a vital resource for us today, both in teaching us how to live our lives in a way that honors God and in teaching us how much God loves us. We also took time this week to pray for and write cards to St. John's home bound and care facility residents.

SYF: This week we continued our series taking a look at the story of the Old Testament and talked about how the Lord used his confrontation with Pharaoh so that the Israelites might know that He is God, and that the Egyptians might know that He is God, and that the Midianites and Canaanites might know too! In our small group time we talked about how the Lord's plan is to bless the world through us, and we talked briefly about how opportunities in our daily lives could be a blessing to others.

WEEK OF JANUARY 15TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	9:00AM	Adult Faith & Fellowship / Confirmation / Sunday School
	9:00AM	Kindergarten through 6th Grade Sunday School (Parish Hall)
	10:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	11:00AM	Annual Meeting (Sanctuary)
	12:00PM	Congregational Meal served by the SYF (Parish Hall)
Mon	11:15AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)
	7:00PM	Consistory Orientation (Fireside Room)
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study – Genesis 11 (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal – AAMA (Parish Hall / Kitchen)
	8:00PM	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Wed	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Upstairs Sunday School Classroom)
	5:50PM	LOGOS Meal – Pajama Night (Parish Hall / Kitchen)
	6:45PM	Junior Choir (Sanctuary)
	6:45PM	JYF – Lesson and Game (Fireside Room)
	6:55PM	Adult Bible Study (Parlor)
	7:00PM	Life Planning – rescheduled from last week (Chapel)
	7:00PM	SYF Remix (Youth Room)
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thur	6:00PM	4th Grade Basketball (Parish Hall)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Adult Faith & Fellowship / Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	6:00PM	Seekers Small Group (Footc's, 732 W. Leggett Street, Wauseon)

Next Sunday – January 22 - Ordination/Installation of Officers (10:30 Worship Service)

Sermon – “The God Who Delivers” by Pastor Erich Christman

Scripture – Exodus 14:5-31

2016 Giving Statements are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex, arranged alphabetically.

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. The Jan/Feb/Mar guides are available in the literature rack (suggested donation \$5.50 each). You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

January 16 - Clans and Languages Genesis 10:1-32

January 17 - A Monument to Folly Genesis 11:1-32

January 18 - Be a Blessing Genesis 12:1-9

January 19 - Fear vs. Faith Genesis 12:10-20

January 20 - Sharing the Promise Genesis 13:1-18

January 21 - God's Victory Genesis 14:1-24

January 22 - Peace, Be Still! Psalm 46

Online Preschool Registration for 2017/18 School Year will be available beginning at 8AM tomorrow on the church web site (www.stjohnsarchbold.org) under the Preschool tab along the top of the page. Registrations will be confirmed once the \$35 Activity/Registration fee is received.

Adult Faith & Fellowship (AFF) – Beginning today in the Chapel (9:00 to 10:00AM due to altered schedule), we are engaging in a Bible study based on the new sermon series we began last week using material from the Bible study resource that produces the Walk Thru the Bible Live Events. The new resource we are studying is titled “God’s Grand Story: His Word. Your Life.” This new group Bible study will be led by either Pastor Erich or Pastor Alex. A Guidebook will be utilized during each Sunday morning session, providing the material and focus of the Sunday school hour discussions. All are welcome to attend any of these Sunday morning sessions.

Community Meal Ministry – The Archbold Area Ministerial Association is once again coordinating weekly meals, and for at least the first three months of 2017, the meals will be held at St. John’s. This wonderful ministry of food and fellowship is entering its sixth year of existence, and local churches and organizations continue to help fill out the calendar of meals to be served.

Volunteers from the St. John’s congregation are needed! We continue to have two meal teams that will each serve five meals during the year, and people are needed to help prepare, serve and clean-up each time one of our meals teams host. We also need help with setting up tables and chairs each week, clearing tables and washing dishes each week, and taking tables and chairs down each week. People can volunteer every Tuesday, once a month, one month of the year – any and all help will be appreciated. Please contact the church office if you can help. Thanks!

2017 Offering Envelopes – There are still a few boxes of offering envelopes to be picked up. They are arranged alphabetically by last name.

As a reminder, we have online giving available through our church web site. This can be done utilizing any current bank checking or savings account (no credit cards) in your name with no extra fees involved. To receive information and a number to create an online account, please contact Sue in the church office. The web site, made available through the F & M State Bank, is very user friendly and provides a convenient way to donate electronically.

Christian Resources International (CRI) – CRI is an organization in Fowlerville, Michigan that sends containers filled with Bibles and Christian literature around the world and to prisons. Our church has taken material to them, and we believe this to be an excellent Christian activity. If you have any Christian literature (Bibles, devotionals, Sunday school papers or books) you no longer use, please donate them to this project. There is a box labeled to receive literature in the chapel narthex. Please contact Norma Fish (419-799-9172) or Gloria Lauber (419-445-7882) if you have a large amount of literature.

Valentine’s Day Potluck – Mark your calendars and plan to attend a Valentine’s Day Potluck hosted by the Fellowship Committee on Sunday, February 12th. It will be held in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service of worship. BBQ chicken sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, refreshments and table service will be provided - please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share and enjoy great food and fellowship!

SYF Summer Missions Trip – Pastor Alex will be holding an informational meeting about the upcoming SYF Summer Missions Trip for interested teens and parents on Sunday, January 29th at 2PM. The tentative dates for the summer trip are June 18-23. If you are unable to attend the meeting but are still interested in going on the trip, be sure to inform Pastor Alex so that he can know if there’s enough interest to make the necessary reservations for our group.

Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:

- Randy Layton, who had shoulder surgery last week, facing 8-12 weeks of recovery.
- Suzette Nafziger and family, upon the death of her father, Orval Wyse, on January 12th.
- Jr. Grime, who is in serious but stable condition at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.
- Joanne Spotts, at FCHC recovering from surgery for a broken hip suffered in a fall last week.
- Kreighton Sims, recovering from a broken ankle.
- Jayson Lindsay, recovering from shoulder surgery on Friday.
- Ed Ruffer, recovering from foot surgery.
- Shirley Wyse, in rehab at Fairlawn.
- John Lovejoy, Paul and Joan Lovejoy's son, undergoing chemo treatments for esophageal cancer.
- Gary Frazier, as he continues to recover at home.
- Benjamin Chapman, stationed in Qatar.
- Brenden Bostelman, at Fort Benning, Georgia for airborne training for several weeks, then will be transferred to Alaska.
- Taylor Collins, stationed in Bolling, DC.
- Kyle Ducey, stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia.
- Jared Kuntz, stationed in South Korea.
- Steve Schink, stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.
- AJ Short, in basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina.
- Koltin Zimmerman, stationed at Fort Campbell, Oak Grove, Kentucky.
- All our home bound and care center residents.

Today's Worship Servants

Acolyte	Hailey Wooley
Ushers	(Head) Greg Walker Todd & Jill Nafziger, Cayla Walker, Steve Walker
Greeters	Tim & Sue Grieser, Nancy Ries, Phyllis Swietzer
Nursery Staff	Karsen & Jordyn Pursel (Jan 22) Josh & Kasey Grime
Sound Tech	James Grime
Video Tech	Dean Sauder
Computer Tech	Kelly Ducey
Song Leader	Elaine Winzeler
Accompanist	Deb Schnitkey
Children's Message	JoAnn Short

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Pastor Rev. Erich Christman (Cell 419-551-0401)

Associate Pastor Alex Young (Cell 330-206-8762)

Administrative Assistant Sue Grieser (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

Director of Music Ministry Deb Schnitkey (debschnitkey@yahoo.com)

LOGOS Director Kim M. Walker (gkwalker@rtexpress.net)

Preschool Administrator Sue MacDonald (macfamily5@roadrunner.com)