

The Visitor

prayer concerns

A monthly Newsletter for St. John's Christian Church
Family and Friends

December 1, 2018 Volume 64, Number 12

Please Pray For:

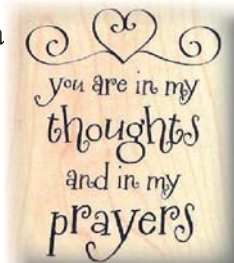
- For the family of Lois Heer, as Lois entered into eternal life on November 7th, at the age of 96.
- For the family of Jim Redd, as Jim entered into eternal life on November 4th, at the age of 67.
- For Phyllis Swietzer who has moved into the home of her daughter and son-in law, Jill & Tim, in Swanton, at 5070 Chaudhary Lane, 43558.
- Sandi Newland, was recently hospitalized for several days due to complications stemming from her chemo treatments, she is living at her brother's home, Joel & Annie Foote.
- Callie Ruffer, born July 26th, 2018 daughter of Cameron & Kristen, granddaughter of Ed & Julie, as she continues in medical care due to a syndrome that affects the flow of blood through the heart.
- Tatum Short, born September 9, 2017, daughter of Ollie & Lauren, granddaughter of Scott & JoAnn, as she will have palate surgery on December 5th.
- Sue Kinsman is recovering from hip replacement surgery, done on November 12th.
- Joel Foote is recovering well from knee replacement surgery, done on November 7th.
- Kevin Neuenschwander, who had kidney stone surgery on November 7th.
- Nick Rice and family, as Nick has taken a full-time position with the Wauseon Fire Department, thus resigning from his custodial position with SJCC.
- Charlene LaFontaine continues to recover from surgery held in early November, which required an eleven day hospital stay.
- Tootie Beck is recovering from a fractured left hip, with no surgery needed.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander, as he continues to be treated for cancer, now seeing an oncologist in Bryan, in cooperation with his medical team at the Cleveland Clinic.
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety.

Please consider sending cards to these people letting them know that we continue to lift them up to God in prayer, that He will guide, comfort and sustain them through these times.

HomeBound/Care Facility Residents

Cards, phone calls and visits to our home bound would be a wonderful blessing:

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd., Archbold, 43502
Florence Augustine, Room #177
David Lightner, Room #138
Esther Rice, Room #116
Cathy Spiess, #153
Carolyn Walker, Room #399 (Memory Care Unit)
Josephine Short, Room #112
Paul Sigg, Room #178



Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Jane Short, Room #208

Independent Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold,
William and Donna Buehrer, Apt. #107

Wyse Commons, 550 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Wayne & Susanne Spiess, Apt. #309

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold,
Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

Fulton Manor, 723 S. Shoop Ave., Wauseon, 43567
Robert Kuntz, Room #225-2
Bernice Rice, Room #224-2
Pauline Zimmerman, Room #505
Joanne Spotts, Room #113

Northcrest, 240 Northcrest Dr., Napoleon, 43545
Irene Short, Room #100

Genesis Health Care, 1104 Wesley Ave., Bryan, 43506
Verlene Lovejoy, Room 203B

Pastor's Letter

This year, Jenny and I set up two Christmas trees. In our living room, we have a seven-foot, dark green tree, adorned with bulbs and beads and lights and numerous other ornaments. In our nursery, we have a small 3-foot, white tree, wrapped with pink ribbons and bulbs as we await the birth of our baby girl in early January.

There is a lot that goes into preparing for Christmas. Bringing boxes of ornaments up from the basement or down from the attic. Setting up the tree and decking it out with (working) lights. Stringing lights along the roof and wrapping trees and bushes with lights. Browsing Care 'N' Share for the finishing touches. Coordinating schedules to find the right time to celebrate with family or friends. Finding the perfect presents. Baking delicious sweets.

And there is a lot that goes into preparing for a baby! Finding the big items, like the crib, the stroller, and the car seat. Getting clothes and diapers and books and toys. Going to numerous doctor appointments and classes. Asking lots and lots of questions. Praying often for the love and wisdom to be good parents.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, as a church, we celebrate the season of Advent, which is all about us getting ready for Jesus. Jesus promised that one day he would return to the earth, and that he would bring all of heaven with him. In Revelation 21, we see this depicted as a massive golden city (almost 2,000,000 sq. mi., compared to NYC at about 300 sq. mi.) coming down from the sky and resting on earth. This new heaven-earth union will be the home of God and all his people, who will dwell together in love, peace, and joy amidst the paradise of golden streets, crystal clear water, and trees abounding in fruit.

Wow. There's nothing quite like reading these final chapters in Revelation to fill our hearts with joy and hope and longing. And if this is the glorious future we have to look forward to as members of God's family, the question stands: what are we doing to get ready for Jesus? Yes, we get ready for Christmas by decorating our houses and sending out Christmas cards, and yes, we get ready for a newborn baby with all that's needed for raising a baby. But what are we doing to prepare for Jesus' return?

This Advent season, let's commit ourselves to being more intentional in preparing for Jesus' return. First, let's commit to preparing ourselves, by making our hearts a fit home for our Lord. Think of a sin-struggle in your life that often tempts you. Perhaps sins of the tongue? Perhaps sins of the mind? Perhaps sins of the heart? Pick one area where you haven't been putting up much of a fight, and have just been letting sin take the reigns and control your thoughts, or words, or desires, or actions. This Advent season, commit to putting up a fight. Say no to this particular sin, as you make your heart a fitting home for your Lord.

We also prepare for Jesus not only by sweeping our hearts clean, but by decorating our hearts...not with Christmas lights and ornaments, but with faithfulness, goodness, and truth, and every virtue fitting a follower of Christ. Lastly, we prepare for Jesus' coming not only by preparing ourselves, but also by helping our friends, family, and others prepare as well. Remember how the Apostle John described that golden city as being thousands of times bigger than the biggest city in our country today. There is still room! Let us commit not only to preparing for Christmas, but also for preparing for the return of Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Alex



*"For unto us a child is born, to us
a son is given,"
Isaiah 9:6*

Wishing You A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

*from:
Erich, Alex, Kelly, Roger, Dean,
Kim, Sue, Joan, Andrew & Richard*

congregational news & thank you's

Dear St. John's Church Family,

Andy, Ian and I are humbled by the outpouring of love and support during Jim's struggle with depression and death. Thank you does not begin to express our depth of gratitude to Pastor Erich and Pastor Alex, BASIC Sunday School Class, Seekers, and members of the congregation for all you did and continue to do. You are a blessing in our lives.

Sincerely,
Andy, Ian, and Betsy Redd

Dear St. John's,

We are so thankful for the opportunity to come and share about our ministry with the church. It was such an encouragement to meet the congregation, as well as the other campus ministries you support. Robert and I are thankful for those new connections and even for the financial gift, which will be helpful as we prepare for our vision trip with the students to Southeast Asia this January.

Love,
The McMahans

St. John's Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the use of your Parish Hall and connecting rooms for YFC's dodgeball night! It is such a blessing to partner with you in ministry and I'm excited to see how the Lord will continue to transform both these students' lives and ours.

In Christ,
Eliot

Dear Congregation,

I wanted to thank you all so much for being wonderful hosts and giving us the opportunity to share to your congregation what the Lord is doing at H2O Akron. I wanted you to know that I received your check and am very grateful for all of your support and generosity! It is truly inspiring to see a church so dedicated to supporting missions through funding and prayer.

Sincerely,
David Hench

Pastor Erich shares "An Update on My Recovery" – First, thank you for your prayers and concern! It has been a tremendous blessing to be so well prayed for and encouraged these past months.

I had my three month post-surgery follow up on November 15th. The x-rays revealed that my back is healing very, very well. So well in fact, that the neurosurgeon told me that God has answered my prayers – my healing is exceptional. That was blessed news to hear, especially when he shared that with the type of operation I had, and the condition of my spine, such success is rare. In those moments I was certainly thanking the Lord for his healing powers.

And then I heard news that I at first struggled to hear and comprehend, but in the days since, greater acceptance has settled upon my mind. Due to the condition of my spine, and the reality of spinal stenosis and arthritis, I have to use intelligence and be wise in future activities. I know, I know, that might be hard for me to do! I am still under restrictions of lifting weight and twisting my spine, as the spinal fusion won't be fully healed until six months or so. The neurosurgeon reminded me that the point of the surgery was to remove the pain I was enduring, and so, the operation was very successful!

I'm also grateful for the number of people asking about and praying for my son, Ryan. He, and Lynne and I are learning the real truth of patience. Ryan has been back to work full-time for several weeks now, and is engaged in an exercise routine to rebuild his core strength, and he has only had two small flare ups of his crohn's. So healing is occurring!! But the "pocket" left from the removal of the large abscess in July continues to heal slowly, which requires packing an open wound for drainage morning and evening. He has an appointment this week with his specialist, and either he will be given the all clear sign to start taking his new crohn's medication, which should put it into remission, or he will be sent for a second opinion at the Cleveland Clinic in December.

preschool corner

Sue MacDonald
Director/Teacher



Joan Wyse
Teacher Assistant



Preschool Corner- Even though we participated in many fall activities this past month, the children have also really enjoyed watching the snow fall outside our windows! At the beginning of the month, we spent a week on our “Fall” theme, then moved on to “Thanksgiving”. We talked about signs of fall, the “Ff” sound, and had some beautiful leaves, pinecones, and buckeyes at our Science Area. Both classes made fall trees at the Art Area, and the older children played 2 dice games at the Fine Motor Area (“Roll a Scarecrow”, where they placed small pieces on the game board to build a scarecrow face) and in the Game Area (“Candy Corn Roll & Cover”, where they matched numbers on the dice with written numbers, in order to fill up orange/yellow/white areas on a candy corn mat.) The younger children played a “Pumpkin Shape Matching” game and made owls in the Art Area with real leaves. During our “Thanksgiving” theme, we focused on the blessings God gives us, and how we are thankful for them. We also talked about the first Thanksgiving, and how it differs from our Thanksgiving today. All of the children worked on their cutting skills in the Fine Motor Area with some turkey activities, and we sang some fun songs such as “Turkey in the Straw”, “Turkey Trot Hokey Pokey” and “There’s a Turkey on My Nose”. The final week of the month, we talked about “Dinosaurs”. We talked about meat eaters and plant eaters, and how to tell which dinosaurs fit into each category. We named many different types of dinosaurs, and the characteristics of each. All of the children were able to play with dinosaurs in the block area, and the older children had dinosaur floor puzzles they could put together with a friend at the Problem Solving Area.



mission corner

Back Bay Mission Trip – February 9th through 16th.

Volunteers from St. John’s Christian Church will have opportunities to share in the work program (new home construction and home repair/renovation), the daily community soup kitchen, the weekly food pantry ministry and their daily assistance program with area homeless.

Pastor Erich is coordinating increased opportunities for people to engage in people related ministries during the week. He is working with Back Bay Mission (BBM) staff to provide morning and afternoon programs for interactions in their Micah Day Center, which provides several aspects of assistance to the homeless. The plan is that volunteers will engage in neighborhood outreach activities, helping BBM staff further their ministry in the local neighborhoods.

Trip participants will have the opportunity to sign-up for the construction projects or the ministry projects on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, based on their personal preferences.

Besides the daily projects, participants will enjoy blessed fellowship throughout the week – enjoying some local cuisine (seafood or BBQ), preparing many meals together in the mission house, and spending the evenings relaxing in the mission house or exploring parts of the city.

The trip is open to youth (14 years of age or older) and adults. The church’s mission budget covers some of the cost of the trip, which is still being determined due to a change in BBM’s rate structure. Many people have participated on past trips through the generous blessing of others – people who are unable to go on the trip have given funds to allow others to go who are concerned about the full cost.

See Pastor Erich for further info about the trip!

December Mission-A-Month Crossroads



For more than 134 years, Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has focused on the needs of children and families who have few alternatives.

Today, they work with emotionally troubled children other providers have chosen not to work with, or have failed to help. These children may also be mentally developmentally disabled, autistic and/or experiencing the results of brain trauma, have parents with substance abuse problems and/or have experienced sexual abuse. In their residential and education services, these children are as young as age six. Much too often they are children who have been hurt the worst by those who should have protected them the most.

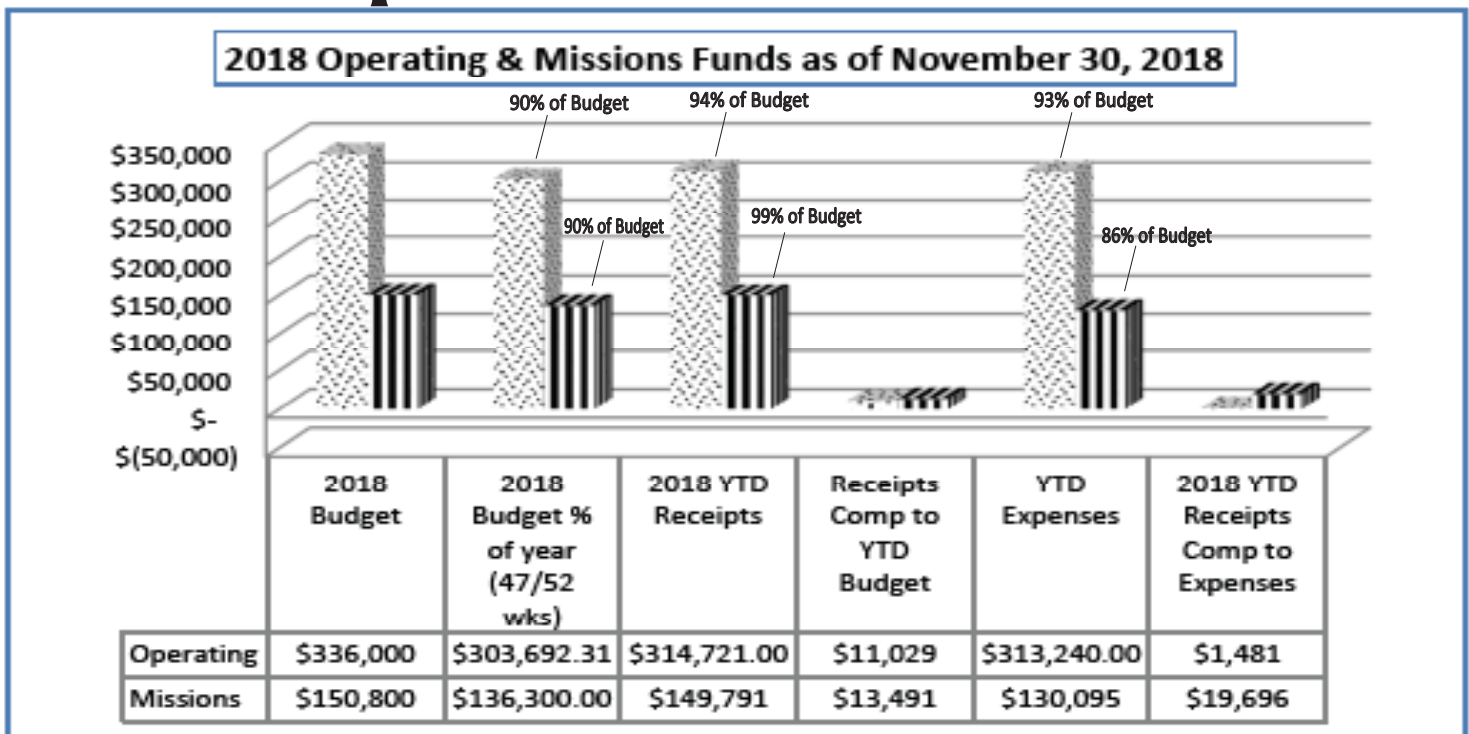
Their needs for therapy, education, and family support services are complicated and challenging. Yet, Crossroad's outcomes are extremely good! Crossroad provides services in their school "Crossroad Academy", and in residential, outpatient, and community based services. In October they opened an emergency shelter care program for girls with mental health issues. Crossroad will serve nearly 400 youth this year.

Today, the growing adult opioid epidemic (heroin/prescription drug addiction) and trafficking trends has led to a growing number of children needing therapeutic help; there are more children on Crossroad's waiting list for services than their total number of beds. The need is growing and Crossroad needs resources to help more children!

How can you get more information about Crossroad? Take a tour! Volunteer! Check out their website (www.crossroad-fwch.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/crossroad.cares). Check out the mission bulletin board right outside the church office for a Wish List of current needs from Crossroad. Any items you provide from this list can be placed in the white mission box outside the Chapel narthex.

Your prayers and generous financial and in-kind support truly does help change the futures of young people, and the Crossroad Board of Directors and staff send their thanks for our partnership in helping these vulnerable children that has spanned more than 134 years!

stewardship



IYF Building Campaign **Total Receipts** as of November 30, 2018 - \$633,251.70

Missionary Contact/Prayer Request Information:



Robert & Jenni McMahan, CRU (BGSU)

web site - www.give.cru.org
e-mail - robert.mcmahan@cru.org
e-mail - jennifer.mcmahan@cru.org

Matt & Paige Waanders, CRU (Ohio State Univ.)

web site - www.give.cru.org
e-mail - matthew.waanders@cru.org
e-mail - paige.stamm@cru.org

Shobha & Ravi Arole, CRHP CRHP

web site - www.jamkhed.org

Kyle Chase, Reliant (Univ. of Michigan)

web site - www.reliant.org
e-mail - kyle.chase@nlcweb.org

Matt Pardi, Reliant (Univ. of Toledo)

web site - www.reliant.org
e-mail - matt.pardi@reliant.org

Whitney Varnau, Reliant (Ohio State Univ.)

web site - www.reliant.org
e-mail - whitney.varnau@h2osu.org

David Hench, Reliant (Univ. of Akron)

web site - www.reliant.org
e-mail - david.hench@reliant.org

Tony & Leila Frank, Ivoti, Brazil

web site - www.worldteam.org 
e-mail - tony.frank@worldteam.org

Tom & Megan, The Islands, Africa

web site - tmislands.blogspot.com
e-mail - tmislands@fastmail.net

Robert Rogers - Mighty in the Land Ministry

web site - www.mightyintheland.com
e-mail - hello@mightyintheland.com

Kinsey Smith - Thailand – CRU at Grace

International School
email - kinsey.smith@cru.org

Larry & Linda Rupp, Kajiado Children's Home

website - www.hope4kajiado.com
e-mail - kajiadochildrenshome@gmail.com

Cheryl Wyse - The Agape Family Life House

website - www.agapeflh.org

Jason & Becky Suon, Freedom International Ministries, Dominican Republic

website - www.itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - JasonSuon@itisforfreedom.com
e-mail - BeckySuon@itisforfreedom.com

From Kyle Chase, one of our mission speakers on November 11th:

Hi All, I want to write to express my gratitude for your community. I am deeply grateful for your hospitality and generosity to me during my time in Archbold (and beyond). I experience your church family as having a remarkable spirit of generosity, evident in your love for one another and in your perseverance in living on mission. Thank you for lunch, for your gift (and ongoing gifts). Thank you for investing in my life as a recent college grad and for continuing to invest in me now as a pastor at a campus church. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement to me. I am thrilled to be partnered with you in this work, and I consider it a great privilege.

Grace & Gratitude, Kyle Chase



Excerpts from a letter from Gaye List, Chairperson, International Board of Directors Kajiado Children's Home

Thank you so much for your support of \$1,245.00 on October 29, 2018. You are making an incredible impact on their life by providing hope... hope for education, hope for physical and spiritual nutrition, and an empowering hope to build a better tomorrow for themselves. There are no administrative fees deducted from your donation, and 100% of sponsorships are used to support these orphaned children.

Please keep these children and the following goals in your hearts and prayers:

Rescue 20 additional orphans by the end of January, who have no other means of support. As we identify children in desperate situations, it will cost \$3,000 to provide transportation, medical exams, school uniforms and basic essentials for these children. We also need to identify sponsors for these children to provide the cost of care, food, lodging, school fees, etc.

Build an additional greenhouse so that more crops can be grown to offset food costs. There is an estimated \$10,000 cost to this project.

Provide a tutoring program - bring in three teachers, five nights per week, to teach a different subject each night. One teacher teaches grades 1-2. A second teacher teaches grades 3-5, and a third teacher teaches grades 6-8. Often children did not attend school regularly (if at all) before coming to the home, and are behind in their studies. The budgeted cost of the tutoring program for 70 children, five nights per week is \$500/week, which equates to approximately \$7 per child. This is such a wonderful investment in their future as we provide the tools for them to learn.

Add indoor toilets to the dorms so the children will not need to use the outside pit latrine. This increases sanitation and health goals for the children who live in the home. There is an estimated \$10,000 cost to this project, including the addition of a septic tank.

Provide sound equipment for the multipurpose building where they hold worship services on Sundays. There is an estimated \$3,000 cost to this project. We have a commitment for about one-third of this cost.

We wish you much joy, peace, love and blessings as we begin to close out 2018 and start to think about 2019. Thank you for all you do for the children of Kajiado.



Thank You Notes From Mission Partners & Friends:

- World Team (The Franks), for our gift of \$1500.
- Cru (Matt & Paige Waanders), for our gift of \$60.
- Cherry Street, for our gift of \$55.50.
- Cherry Street (Sparrow's Nest), for our gift of \$52.
- Altlink (The Langsdorfs), for our gift of \$50.
- CWS, for our gift of \$10.
- Back Bay Mission, for our gift of \$225.



There is one remaining special event on our list of annual mission experiences:

- Christmas Cheer Hospitality – December 5

ministry happenings

Events / Activities

Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Dinner:

Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 13th at 5:30PM for the annual Christmas Dinner! A delicious meal will be served by the Fellowship Committee, and then a fun night of bingo will follow the meal. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office by December 10th. A free will offering will be collected.

Men's Prayer Breakfast – December 8, 7:40AM:

A monthly time to gather, enjoy breakfast, fellowship, hear a testimony, share joys and concerns, and pray together. Please let Bruce Wooley, Pastor Erich or Pastor Alex know if you have any questions about what the Men's Prayer Breakfast is all about!

ministry happenings

Christian Education

Mid-Week Youth Ministries:

Friday Morning Bible Study:

- The high school girls are meeting together for breakfast and Bible study every Friday morning. For more information, connect with Leah Miller.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study:

- Pastor Alex is helping with a Bible study from 7:15-8am at the Archbold Middle School, open to all middle schoolers.

SHSS:

- During the month of November we covered lessons from Genesis 27-35; in which we saw how God used a deceitful man like Jacob to build His kingdom. We followed Jacob's purification path through pain and love. We finished our first quarter of lessons with another trip to McDonald's where we drew our first quarter prize winner: Tyler Hurst! Congratulations Tyler, your attendance and participation hasn't gone unnoticed; we hope you utilize your new journal as a discipleship tool for His kingdom. We look forward to December as we begin our second quarter lessons!

Life Planning:

1. In November we helped pack Operation Christmas Child boxes with Leah Miller and Callie Rohrs taking the lead on organizing this event and buying supplies for the boxes. We packed 140 boxes and the girls ended up sending 150 boxes with packed boxes brought in from the congregation. A big thank you to everyone who donated money to OCC and filled boxes of their own. Next year Kelsey Wyse, Emily Walker and Hailey Wooley will take the lead on OCC. Thank you Leah and Callie for a job well done!
2. On December 12th we will be meeting for our annual Christmas gathering. We will be meeting at the home of Sandi and Kenny Cowell (911 Olds Lane) at 6:30 pm. Mentors please bring a dish to share and youth please bring a liter drink and don't forget your white elephant gift. Paper products will be provided.

2018 Advent Devotional:

Copies are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex. A digital copy is available at www.stjohnsarchbold.org, under Upcoming Events on our home page.

December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00 & 10:30AM Worship 9:15AM SS/Faith Village 9:15AM Confirmation		Mission-A-Month— Crossroad	Elder of the Month— Gloria Lauber			1
2 Holy Communion 9:15 AM Birthday Party for Jesus 12:00PM Private Party— Parish Hall/Chapel 5:00PM Couples Small Group	3 11:00AM Staff Meeting 7:30PM SYF Leader's Metting	4 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal (zion) 7:00PM Capital Campaign	5 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS/ YF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	6 9:00AM Mending @ Fairlawn 6:00PM 6th Grade Bas- ketball 7:00PM Mission Comm.	7	8 7:40AM Men's Breakfast
9 Sermon in Music 8:00PM Seeker's (Foote's)	10 11:00AM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Praise Band Practice	11 9:15AM Bible Study 4:00PM Laundry Buddy Ministry 5:00PM Community Meal (zion) 7:00PM Discernment Team 7:00PM Property Committee	12 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS/ YF 7:00PM Life Planning	13 9:00AM Mending @ Fairlawn 5:30 Senior Christmas Dinner 6:00PM 6th Grade B-Ball 7:00PM Evangelism Com	14	15
16 10:30 Children's Christ- mas Program	17 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:15PM Spiritual Coun- cil 7:30PM Consistory	18 9:15AM Bible Study 2:30PM Pastors Meeting 5:00PM Community Meal (zion)	19 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 5:50PM LOGOS/ YF 7:00PM SYF	20 9:00AM Mending @ Fairlawn 10:00AM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 2:00PM Preschool Christ- mas Party (Parish Hall) 6:00PM 6th Basketball	21 10:00AM Pre school Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 2:00PM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall)	22
23	24 11:00AM Staff Meeting 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship 1:00PM Caroling @ Fairlawn	26 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 5:50PM LOGOS/ YF 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	27 9:00AM Mending @ Fairlawn 6:00PM 6th Basketball	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve 11:00AM Staff Meeting					

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Kenny Walker | 18 Shiela Short |
| 2 Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge | 21 Devin Bernath, Dean & Darlene Sauder,
Nici Wyse |
| 3 Mert Kinsman | 23 Don & Charlene LaFontaine |
| 5 Betsy Redd, Joyce Kinsman | 25 Deb Schnitkey |
| 6 Wendy Beck, Denny Hornish, Kim M. Walker | 26 Rodney Kinsman |
| 8 Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warncke | 27 Klaire Kern, Paul Lovejoy, Joanne Spotts |
| 9 Scott & JoAnn Short | 28 Josh & Kasey Grime, Emma Krukowski,
Phyllis Miller |
| 10 Alexa Martinez, Greg Walker | 29 Maggie Enderle |
| 11 Doug Rupp | 30 Dean Beck, Corey & Jocelyn Walker |
| 12 Paul & Joan Lovejoy | 31 Alice Leatherman |
| 13 Linda Heer, Tony MacDonald | |
| 14 Kathy Bechstein, Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen,
Jean Stamm | |
| 15 Crissi Stuckey | |

✿ Please let us know if we do not have your special day noted or correct. Thank you.

worship

December 2



First Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Expectation
Mission-A-Month – Kyle Zanker, from Crossroads
Scriptures – Jeremiah 33:14-16, Matthew 24:36-44
Sermon – “Managing Un-Expectations” – Pastor Erich
(10:30) Chancel Choir

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Prophecy
8:00 Service – Traditional
10:30 Service – the 47th Sermon in Music
Scriptures – Malachi 3:1-4, Matthew 3:1-12
Sermon – “We Work While We Wait” – Pastor Erich



December 16

Third Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Hope
8:00 Service – Traditional
10:30 Service – Children’s Christmas Program
Scriptures – Zephaniah 3:14-20, Matthew 11:2-11
Sermon – “Hope in the King” – Pastor Alex

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Candle of Joy
Scriptures – Micah 5:2-5a, Matthew 1:18-25
Sermon – “A Surprise Adoption” – Pastor Erich

December 24

7:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
The Christ Candle
Scriptures – Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20
Sermon – “Hope Has Arrived” – Pastor Erich



December 25

10:30am Christmas Morning Worship – in the Chapel
Christmas Caroling through the halls of Fairlawn

December 30

First Sunday after Christmas
Memorial Service
Scriptures – Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:1-9, 10-18
Sermon – “We Are Family” – Pastor Alex



2018 Children’s Christmas Program - The Incredible Christmas!

This year’s program will be held during the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 16th. Please check the bulletins or website at www.stjohnsarchbold.org under upcoming events for the practice schedule.



2018 Sermon in Music – the 47th Annual!

We’ll celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons through music and song at the 10:30AM service on Sunday, December 9th. Please mark your calendars for this special time of seasonal worship and praise!



Stephen Ministry

I am excited and can hardly wait! Yes, Christmas is just around the corner, but so is the start of our Stephen Ministry program! Six members from St. John's have answered the call to be trained for this caring ministry. The 2 ½ hour sessions begin Monday, January 7th and will continue weekly to the end of May. Our purpose is to equip God's people to listen, care, pray, support and encourage others. Please pray for both the trainees and the leaders! God is indeed at work in our congregation!



Urgent Need! We Need Tech Volunteers Now!

Sound Techs, Easy Worship Techs and Video Techs are in high demand! While James, Angie, Kelly, Brian, Tom, Mark and Dean do a great job in getting ready for worship and their efforts on Sunday mornings are a blessing, changing schedules and other roles at church require us to find additional volunteers.

While each system can appear to be complicated, proper and sustained training has proven to make each task easy to pick up on. If we have more volunteers serving, it can make each person's schedule easier. If interested, please talk with Pastor Erich, James Grime and/or Kelly Ducey. Thanks!

consistory/committees

Highlights of the November 19, 2018 Consistory Meeting

Devotions – Jeff Rutledge – Spiritual Leadership/followers, Honoring Pastors. Hebrews 13:17;

Leadership requires follow-ship.

Communion Server Sign-up sheet was passed around for December 2nd, 10:30am

Committee Reports:

- Budget & Stewardship Committee – Joyce Kinsman – Praying over Sunday morning offerings for the months of Nov/Dec. The Budget and Stewardship committee met in early November to discuss the budget for next year. Without Personnel Committee input yet, the 2019 budget is \$1500 over the 2018 budget.
- Transfer of Funds – Motion to transfer money from Buehrer Estate checking account to Buehrer Estate Legacy Fund to keep the checking account balance at a maximum of \$5,000.
- Capital Campaign Committee – Jeff Rutledge – Capital Campaign chose to meet together and spend their time in prayer, after having the loss of the committee co-chair, Jim Redd. Anyone feeling led to serve on the 2018 Facility committee, please contact Jeff Rutledge. Jeff Rutledge has volunteered to chair the Facility committee.
- Personnel Committee – Jeff Rutledge – All of the annual reviews were done, with the exception for Dean (his will be this coming Sunday). Quotes have been received on Health Insurance. There is a custodial position available that the committee is looking to fill.
- Evangelism Committee – Gloria Lauber – We will continue with Skye Cinema ad. Sarah Nafziger will continue to be the contact for Skye to update those ads. Names were brought to the group and those people will be contacted to fill the available positions on the committee. Judy Sears will take over as the chair for Evangelism Committee in 2019.
- Farm Operations Committee – Eric Nafziger – Committee met on 11/13, Rod Kinsman is the chairperson. CRP & CREP Payments, Annual Rental Income, \$838 received in October. That is an annual payment for the next 15 years. Will discuss renewing cash rent contract or rebidding contract in the fall of 2019
- Mission Committee – Betsy Ducey – Working on a mission budget for 2019. Disbursements: Tom & Megan L – Atlink \$1000, Aroles - \$1000, Franks - \$1000, Campus Ministries - \$1000 (\$250 each to the four ministries on 11/11). Motion to request for expensing undesignated benevolent funds to Schrock Family (seeking to serve alongside the Suon's in DR \$250) and also Dominican Republic Mission Trip \$2000.
- Preschool Board – Ann Fether – Board met on Nov 6th, enrollment is still at 43 students. Our balance is \$7977.63. Donations are being received, which has been a blessing. Preschool will be in the Parade of Lights. Students, teachers and parents are invited to ride in the parade. Enrollment for 2019 preschool will begin Jan 1st. As of right now, classes will stay the way they are, and possibly change days/times at a later date.

- **Property Committee – Dean Sauder – Landscaping is completed.** The rosebushes will be removed and replaced with something else at a later date. The only thing that needs completed yet is attaching the soaker hoses. The boiler has been looked at by a technician from Michigan. The boiler is in good condition, but there is concern on a few safety measures. We are working on getting bids for maintenance on the boiler system, which will be done next year when the boiler is not in use. The coffee machine is fixed and is back in use. Drinking fountains are being researched and haven't located anything as of yet. The Committee is looking at a power snow brush for this winter, to help make shoveling snow an easier task for our volunteers. \$1,650.00 is the cost for the power brush. Are there plans for the sprinkler system? The sprinkler system has not been used in 2 years.
- **Spiritual Council – Erich Christman –** We are in the nomination process of replacing members of Consistory. Be in prayer over the nomination process. Announcements will be made asking for volunteers. Approved the membership of new members.
- **Pastors Report – Erich Christman – 2018 Discernment Team** worked through worship and is now discussing Christian Education. Trying to make goals and objectives and keep things moving. Church Admin Software – looking at 3 different products, costs are very comparable from company to company. Demos are scheduled to get input from Staff. Online giving is supported through all 3 companies.
- **Associate Pastor's Report – Alex Young – Stephen Ministry –** Delayed the start of training until January.
- **New Business – Archbold Engineering Dept. –** A public hearing has been set for Monday, Dec. 10th at 7pm in the Council Chambers with the Archbold Planning Committee. Mr. Jim Rivello, McDonald's Corporation is requesting to rezone the east portion of parcel 17-033396-00.000 which is R-3 Medium Density Residential to B-2 Highway & Commercial Business. Said parcel is the east half of the truck parking lot and grass area. This is in accordance with Section 152.160 (A) regarding change in zoning district. Our property is within 200' of the applicant so we were notified.

Nomination Process in Preparation for the Annual Election of Congregational Leadership

The Spiritual Council is currently engaged in the annual nomination process, calling upon members of the church to consider being nominated for the election ballot of leadership offices. Following prayer, and with discernment, the council compiles a list of nominees and then contact is made with the nominees, seeking to fill the ballot. The church constitution requires that there be 4 nominees for the 2 open offices of elder and 6 nominees for the 3 open offices of deacon/deaconess.

As the calling process is well underway, it is apparent that many of the nominees are not interested in serving, for many qualified reasons. As the council seeks to fill the ballot, we ask the congregation to be in prayer for the process, and we ask for people to consider volunteering as a nominee. Potential volunteers may speak with any of the following elders: Betsy Ducey, Ann Fether, Joyce Kinsman, Gloria Lauber, Jeff Rutledge and Greg Walker.

Stewardship

A Snap Shot of Our Year to Date Stewardship – as of November 28, 2018

2018 Operating Year to Date Income – \$274,964.33
 2018 Operating Year to Date Expenses – \$271,970.41
 2018 Operating Year to Date Overage – \$2,993.82

2018 Mission Year to Date Income – \$129,131.37
 2018 Mission Year to Date Expenses – \$113,903.54
 2018 Mission Year to Date Funds on Hand – \$15,227.83

December Daily Scriptures

(From "Discovery" Daily Devotional)

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 God With Us----- Exodus 10:1-16, 34:38 | 16 Great David's Greater Son ----- Psalm 132 |
| 2 Transforming the Darkness----- Psalm 130 | 17 Don't Be Complacent -----Zephaniah 1:1-13 |
| 3 Rescue Me!----- Colossians 1:1-14 | 18 Hints of Hope ----- Zephaniah 1:14-2:3 |
| 4 Half Empty, Half Full?----- Colossians 1:15-23 | 19 Remnant Restored -----Zephaniah 2:4-15 |
| 5 A Mystery Made Known ----- Colossians 1:24-2:5 | 20 Same God, Same Plan -----Zephaniah 3:1-13 |
| 6 Kidnapped!----- Colossians 2:6-15 | 21 Celebrate!----- Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| 7 Christ Is All!-----Colossians 2:16-23 | 22 Who Do You Think You Are?-----Matthew 1:1-17 |
| 8 Heavenly Minded, Earthly Use ----- Colossians 3:1-11 | 23 Seeking Peace in a Time of War-----Psalm 133 |
| 9 A Settled Soul ----- Psalm 131 | 24 What's in a Name? ----- Matthew 118-25 |
| 10 Fashion and Faith-----Colossians 3:12-17 | 25 One for All-----Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 11 Everyday People-----Colossians 3:18-4:1 | 26 Battle Stations-----Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 12 Rocks and Hard Places----- Colossians 4:2-6 | 27 No Easy Options ----- Matthew 3:1-12 |
| 13 It's A Wonderful Life----- Colossians 4:7-18 | 28 Starting Over ----- Matthew 3:13-17 |
| 14 Family Likeness----- Philemon 1-7 | 29 Don't give In-----Matthew 3:13-17 |
| 15 More Than A Slave----- Philemon 8-25 | 30 Total Worship ----- Psalm 134 |
| | 31 Giving All, Gaining Everything-----Matthew 4:12-25 |

Phone 419-446-2545
 Website www.stjohnsarchbold.org
 Sunday Worship 8AM & 10:30AM
 Sunday School 9:15AM

Pastor Rev. Erich Christman
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 Cell Ph. 419-551-0401

Assoc. Rev. Alex Young
pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
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Admin. Kelly Stahl
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LOGOS Kim M. Walker
gwalker@tceexpress.net

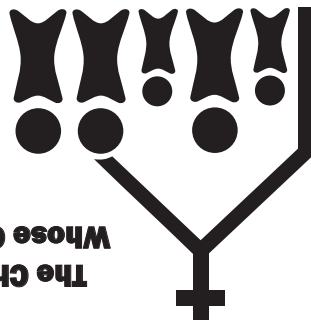
Treasurer Roger Miller

Custodians Dean Buckenmeyer
 Nick Rice
 Richard Spless

Security

Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/7), Ash Wednesday (2/14), Maundy Thursday (3/29),
 Pentecost (5/20), Mid-Summer (7/15), World Wide Communion
 (10/7), First Sunday of Advent (12/2)

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



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

St. John's Christian Church
 700 S. Defiance Street
 Archbold, OH 43502

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