

The Visitor

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

December 1, 2019 Volume 65, Number 12

prayer concerns

Please Pray For:

- Jack Stover suffered a stroke two weeks ago, while in Florida, and though recovery has been difficult at times, he is expected to make a complete recovery.
- Sue Ruffer is recovering at home from a recent fall, recovering most recently from outpatient surgery on her elbow.
- Mary Ellen Johnson has returned home from Rupp Rehab following shoulder replacement surgery.
- Audrey Smith is now at the Defiance In Care Hospice Center.
- Bettie Perry is in hospice care at her apartment near Cincinnati.
- Mike Henry has learned some complications have arisen with his health and the process has been halted at this time. Pray for his health and peace of mind, as well as pray for the person who had come forward to donate a kidney, as that person was well into the process and now will not be able to donate a kidney
- Please continue to remember all our brothers and sisters in the armed forces, praying for their safety.
 - **PFC Bostelman, Brenden (Army)** (Alaska)
(Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
 - **PFC Kohl Collins (Army)** (Ft. Meyer, VA)
(Grandson of Nan Neill)
 - **Kyle Ducey (Navy)** (Fort Gordon, GA)
(Son of Kelly & Betsy)
 - **Cpt. Jared R. Kuntz (Army)** (Washington D.C.)
(Son of Keith & Kelli)
 - **Eric Magg (Coast Guard)** (Ketchikan, AK)
(Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)
 - **AB Shane & Taylor Pitts (Air Force)**
(Albuquerque, NM) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
 - **David Richardson (Marines)** (Camp Lejeune, NC) (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
 - **Joshua Richardson (Marines)** (Camp Lejeune, NC) (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
 - **Steven Schink (Coast Guard)** (Port Angeles, WA) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer)
 - **AJ Short (Marines)** (Japan)
(Son of Joe & Sheryl Short)

PFC Stuckey, Kyle (Army) (Killeen, TX)
(Grandson of Nan Neill)

Kollin Woolace (Marines) (Jacksonville, NC)
(Grandson of Larry & Melva)



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.

Fairlawn Haven, 407 E. Lutz Rd. Archbold, 43502
David Lightner, Room #138
Esther Rice, Room #116
Josephine Short, Room #112
Paul Sigg, Room #178
Nancy Ries, Room #158 - (Memory Care Unit)

Fairlawn Asst. Living, 500 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Jane Short, Room #208
William & Donna Buehrer, Room #230
Wayne & Susanne Spiess, Room #228

Independent Living, 600 Haven Dr., Archbold, 43502
Rosemarie Schmidt, Apt. #112

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

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

SKLD, 1104 Wesley Ave., Bryan, 43506
Verlene Lovejoy, Room 203B

pastor's letter

'Tis the Season for Hospitality

"[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." -Luke 2:7

Hospitality (or lack of hospitality) plays a big role in the Christmas story. There was no room for Joseph and Mary when they came to Bethlehem. So Mary gave birth in a barn and laid Jesus in a manger.

In Luke 2, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census be taken across the entire Roman empire, requiring families to register at the father's hometown. Imagine what a boon in industry such a decree would cause in our culture today: the amount of gas consumed by travelers, the Big Macs eaten along the highways, the hotel rooms reserved from place to place. Imagine the comings and goings of Archbold-born families returning for the census, and other families leaving Archbold for their hometowns. Perhaps as my family headed out for North Canton, Ohio, I'd lend my house to my brother- and sister-in-law returning to the area from Columbus?

This would be quite a decree, wouldn't it? Of course, back then, there were no gas stations or automobiles, no fast food restaurants, or hundred-room-hotels. Many times, travelers would look to stay in a guest room in someone's home, as they walked from town to town. If this decree happened today, Archbold would likely not only be receiving back their own, but Wauseon-born folks would stop overnight as they travelled in from the west, and Defiance-born folks would stop in as they travelled south. The Heritage Inn staff would have headaches from the traffic and the dizzying turnover. And of course, the inn would be full. And there would be travelers yet in need of a place to stay.

We sometimes begrudge the B.C. Bethlehem dwellers for their lack of hospitality for poor Joseph and very-pregnant Mary. But perhaps the small town was just full, and every guest room had already been filled? We think: "surely there was at least one room left in this town, where someone could have opened their home to the miserable couple?" But what if Joseph's predicament arose not because of Bethlehem's lack of hospitality, but precisely because of their abundance in hospitality?

We can speculate on the situation 2000 years ago, but we can evaluate our own with more precision. And this, of course, is my point. Jesus lived in a culture that lived and breathed hospitality, and this was their glory. I'm afraid we live in a culture that largely neglects hospitality, and it is our shame. Our Lord Jesus calls us to be different; he calls us to be lights in this dark world; he calls us to be hospitable:

- "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers" (Hebrews 13:2)
- "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9)
- "Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality" (Romans 12:13)

What will it look like for us to be faithful to our Lord's commands? What will it look like for us to be hospitable? The Greek word for hospitality is really a compound word that means "brotherly love for the stranger." Think of the love you show your family. The gifts you get your children. The meals you share as you gather with your extended family. The ways you ask questions of those you love and listen to them give their answers and share their stories. Being hospitable means showing this same familial love to someone outside your family, someone in need not just of material support, but someone in need of love. Really, this is what Christmas is all about. Jesus came from heaven and earth to share with us poor sinners the riches of his family's love, welcoming us and inviting us in, including us, adopting us as his own. When we see what we have been given in Jesus, something changes in our hearts, where we care less about ourselves and our possessions, and care more and more about sharing God's amazing love with others...even (and especially) through our hospitality.



congregational news & thank you's

My Dear Church Family,

I cannot thank you enough for all of the love you have shown our family and myself during Graeme's illness and passing. Words cannot express how wonderful your hugs, kind words, food, cards and most importantly prayers have been. Through your prayers God has sustained us all. God was with Graeme and I when he left this world and went to heaven. God keeps holding my right hand as promised in the Bible to go through each day. Everyday has beauty, and something to be thankful for and He is showing me that.

God has told me not to fear the future because he is there already and to live each day abundantly seeing all there is to see and do each day and to not be distracted by future concerns. Each day is a glorious gift from Him. Through your prayers and mine I am trying to focus on Him each day. Thank you again my wonderful church family for your love and caring.

Your sister in Christ,
Gloria Lauber



On behalf of the children and staff at Crossroad Child & Family Services, thank you for your continued generosity! Your support directly impacts the lives of children for the better and we are blessed by your contribution.

Blessings!
Liz Bergren



Church Family,

Thank you for buying our poinsettias! We appreciate your generosity! We love it when we get to do fun things!

Thanks A Lot!
JYF & JYF Leaders



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the prayers & support. I am healing well, my doctors say. I think I am in my last hard-cast. I don't know what I'm going to have on my arm next. Thanks again for all of the prayers!

Ella Yoder

preschool corner

We participated in many fall activities this past month! During the first week, the Tues-Thurs classes made scarecrows at the Art Center, identified "largest" and "smallest" items by circling fall items with dry erase markers at the Fine Motor Center, and matched pumpkin shapes in a game at the Math Center. They also did object sorting at the Game Center. The Mon-Wed-Fri classes explored "absorption" when they made leaves with coffee filters and markers at the Art Center. Some of their other activities included letter tracing in sand trays, making patterns at the Math Center and drawing fall trees at the Easel. They also made cute owls with popsicle sticks at the Woodworking Center. We talked about the many signs of fall, and sang some fun songs including, "Gray Squirrel", "Five Fall Leaves" and "Rake up the Leaves". After that, we spent a week talking about Food, and included the story of The Five Loaves and Two Fish. One of our parents even sent in a snack of five loaves (vanilla wafers) and two fish (Swedish fish candy)! The older classes talked about the differences between fruits and vegetables, healthy food and treats, and glued pictures of favorite foods into a book to be sent home with the children on a rotating basis. Other concepts we worked on with this group include numbers and number sets, sequencing, and starting to match up capital and lower case letters. The younger (Tues-Thurs) classes sorted tiny fruit, matched up shapes in an Oreo cookie game, and "filled their body" with healthy foods by gluing at the Art Center. During our "Thanksgiving" theme the last two weeks of the month, 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. The children participated in many turkey activities, such as "fringing" feathers, matching turkey shapes and painting Thanksgiving pictures at the Easel. We also sang some fun songs such as "Turkey in the Straw", "Turkey Trot Hokey Pokey" and "There's a Turkey on My Nose".

mission corner

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. Crossroad will serve nearly 400 youth this year.

Today, the growing adult opioid epidemic (heroin/prescription drug addiction) and trafficking trends have 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? 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 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 136 years!

Back Bay Mission Trip – February 9-15, 2020

Since 2000, this will be the 40th trip SJCC has made to Biloxi, MS, to partner with Back Bay Mission. There have been countless experiences enjoyed by 129 participants from SJCC and partner churches (from Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Tennessee).

Forty trips in twenty years is a significant and blessed ministry. A wealth of awareness has been gained in learning about homelessness and poverty, and many homeowners have been blessed with improved living conditions and mental health as stress has been relieved.

With the aging of the core group of participants, for these trips to continue beyond 2020, an influx of younger volunteers is needed, and many are praying for the future of our partnership with Back Bay Mission. These weeks are filled with work, fellowship, education and growth. Yes, the work can be hard and the heat and humidity can be high, but in the end, the blessings of growth of faith and relationships outweighs everything else.

It's a fifteen hour trip to and from Biloxi, which is long, but the hours provide plenty of time for conversation and relaxation. The week in Biloxi is one of service and fulfillment, working mornings and afternoons and relaxing in the evenings. There is work for any level of abilities, and people can also serve in the Mission's day shelter or food pantry, or help with the local soup kitchen.

We'll be offering some new Back Bay Mission presentations for people to learn more about these weeks of mission and faith.

Summer Mission Trip – June 14-19, 2020

The summer mission trip has been happening for about 20 years now, and they've been working with LaPorte County Habitat for Humanity for at least the last 10 years. There is a core group of St. John's folks who have enjoyed the week's activities, and they're always looking for additional folks to join them. Lodging and dining at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan, the group travels about 30 minutes to Laporte or Michigan City to the build site and works the morning and afternoons at some phase of new home construction. Further information about the details of the week will be shared come the first of the year!

DR Mission Trip – June 13-20, 2020

St. John's supports two missionary families serving with Freedom International Ministries in the Dominican Republic – Jason & Becky Suon and Daniel & Bethany Schrock. The home church of the Suon's and the Schrock's is Pettisville Missionary Church (PMC). St. John's and PMC are partnering for a mission trip in June.

PMC is sending their youth and youth leaders, and SJCC is sending youth and adults interested in this cross-cultural experience. Freedom runs a Christian school in the DR with 300 students in preschool through grade six. Trip participants will have the opportunity to work with the children in their summer program, as well as work on ongoing construction of the school.

Trip information was passed out at a recent informational meeting – if you are interested in learning about the experience, please contact Ryan Christman, who is heading up this experience, with the involvement of the Mission Committee. Ryan can be reached via cell phone – 419-551-2124 – or email – rchristman56@gmail.com. The initial deadline to sign up for the trip is December 1st.

Stephen Ministry

Are you the child of an aging parent? Do you work or volunteer in a care facility? On Monday, December 9th at 6:30PM, Paul Reichert, pastor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, will be presenting a 30 – 45 minute information session on "Ministering to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging." Some of us have already experienced some of these losses – hair that sprouts in places where it never belonged, changes in our strength and endurance, loss of hearing, or grieving the death of peers, spouses or even children. Some of the objectives covered may include: recognizing some of the losses that can occur with advancing age; exploring the feelings aged people have regarding themselves; understanding the needs for care that go in each phase of aging; and how to care for people in the aging process. Although this is a continuing education class for our Stephen Ministers, the evening is open to all who would like more information on caring for the aging. All are welcome!

St. John's offers several experiences for people to deepen their Christian faith while sharing the love and light of Christ with others.

Upcoming mission experiences:

- February 9-15, 2020 – Back Bay Mission Trip, Biloxi, Mississippi
- June 13-20, 2020 – Dominican Republic Mission Trip
- June 14-19, 2020 – Summer Mission Trip, LaPorte County, Indiana
- October 25-31, 2020 – Back Bay Mission Trip, Biloxi, Mississippi

ministry happenings

Couple's Small Group

December 15th at 5:00pm, Couples Small Group will be having a Family PJ Christmas Party. Pizza and sides will be served. Contact Eric or Sarah Nafziger with any questions.

Senior Citizens Dinner

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite our senior citizens to a Christmas Dinner on December 10th, at 5:30 in the Chapel. Please sign up on the bulletin board (or contact the church office) if you plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you for an evening of good food and fun!



Men's Ministry

A monthly time to gather, enjoy breakfast and fellowship, hear a testimony, share joys and concerns, and pray together. Our meeting time for December is Saturday, December 14th at 7:40AM.

Third Thursday Luncheons

The next Thursday luncheon will be held on January 16, 2020!

ministry happenings

Christian Education

Mid-Week Youth Ministries:

LOGOS

Our Wednesday evening program for children, has just finished up the fall semester. During this past month, our Family Time themes have been, "Nachos Night", where we, of course, had walking tacos for the meal; "World Kindness Night", where the kids brought in something to donate to Christmas Cheer and we talked about ways that they could show kindness; and "Prince/Princess Night", where we had a delicious meal of turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin bars, and talked about being a child of God and what that means. On an average night, we have had 55 children ages 4 through fifth grade, 20 JYFers, and 35 adult volunteers filling the church with energy, laughter and praise. LOGOS will start up again on January 8, 2020 with a Family Time theme of "Everyone's Birthday Night".



JYF

Our fall JYF season was a fun & busy one! Our devotions have focused on a variety of emotions & sins. We've also tried to spend some time outside the church walls. Getting out in the community, we enjoyed a photo scavenger hunt, an outdoor fall fest/cookout, visiting a warehouse that helps local people in need of home furnishings, and spent time with another local church youth group at the Outback. We want to thank the church family for supporting us in prayer, with volunteers every Wednesday, and with our yearly poinsettia sales! We will be on break through the holiday season. JYF will meet again after break, starting January 8.

SYF

On December 18, we're looking forward to gathering to brighten others' day with Christmas Caroling, and we'll enjoy warming up with hot chocolate and a time of fellowship afterwards.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Alex and Eliot Nofziger co-lead a Bible study on Tuesday mornings, 7:15-8:00AM, at the Archbold Middle School, open to all middle schoolers. This semester we're looking together at the life of Jesus, the man we call "friend of sinners" and "Lord of lords." Who is Jesus to you?

Friday Morning Small Group

The high school girls are meeting together for small group every Friday morning. For more information, contact Jenny Young.

Life Planning

In November we packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A big thank you to Emily Walker, Hailey Wooley and Kelsey Wyse for organizing and buying all the supplies needed to pack the boxes. Great job, ladies! We then met in the kitchen and made homemade pretzels. Thanks, Karen, for making some delicious dough! Our next gathering will be on December 11th. Place and time to be determined. This will be our Christmas celebration so please mark your calendars!

<div style="text-align: center;">  <h2 style="margin: 0;">December 2019</h2> </div>						
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 Holy Communion 9:15AM Birthday Celebration for Jesus 2:00PM Advent Workshop 5:00PM Couples Small Group	2 11:00AM Staff Meeting	3 7:15AM YFC Bible Study –AMS 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion) 7:00PM SYF Leader's Meeting 7:00PM Capital Campaign Com.	4 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM SYF 6:30PM Children's Program Practice 7:15PM Women's Ensemble Reh. 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	5 7:00PM Mission Comm.	6	7
8 Sermon in Music 10:45AM Jr. Church 12:00PM Private Party	9 6:30PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	10 7:15AM YFC Bible Study –AMS 9:15AM Bible Study 4:00PM Laundry Buddy Ministry 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion) 5:30PM Senior Citizens's Christmas Dinner 7:00PM Preschool Board Mtg 7:00PM Property Committee	11 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 9:00AM W. Haven Bible Study 6:00PM Facility Com. 7:00PM Life Planning	12 7:00PM Evangelism Com	13	14 7:40AM Men's Breakfast
15 6:00PM Seeker's (Foote's)	16 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:15PM Spiritual Council 7:30PM Consistory	17 7:15AM YFC Bible Study –AMS 9:15AM Bible Study 5:00PM Community Meal (Zion)	18 8:30AM Moms in Prayer 7:00PM SYF 7:30PM Chancel Choir Reh.	19 10:00AM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 2:00PM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall)	20 10:00AM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall) 2:00PM Preschool Christmas Party (Parish Hall)	21 10:30AM Private Party - Parish Hall
22	23 11:00AM Staff Meeting 6:30PM Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision	24 4:00PM Laundry Buddy Ministry 7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas 10:30AM Christmas Day Worship 1:00PM Caroling @ Fairlawn 5:00PM Christmas Community Meal (St. Martin's Lutheran Church)		27	28
29	30 11:00AM Staff Meeting	31 New Year's Eve				

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Kenny Walker III 2 Sandi Cowell, Jeff & Stacy Rutledge 3 Mert Kinsman 5 Betsy Redd, Joyce Kinsman 6 Wendy Beck, Denny Hornish, Kim M. Walker 8 Jim Liechty, JoAnn Short, Aiden Warncke 9 Scott & JoAnn Short 10 Alexa Martinez, Greg Walker 11 Doug Rupp 12 Paul & Joan Lovejoy 13 Linda Heer, Tony MacDonald 14 Kathy Bechstein, Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen, Jean Stamm 15 Crissi Stuckey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Shiela Short 21 Devin Bernath, Dean & Darlene Sauder, Nici Wyse 23 Don & Charlene LaFontaine 25 Deb Schnitkey 26 Rodney Kinsman 27 Klaire Kern, Paul Lovejoy, Joanne Spotts 28 Josh & Kasey Grime, Emma Krukowski, Phyllis Miller 29 Maggie Enderle 30 Dean Beck, Corey & Jocelyn Walker 31 Alice Leatherman |
|---|--|

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

worship

December Worship Schedule

- December 1st** **First Sunday of Advent – Sacrament of Holy Communion**
Advent Wreath Candle – Hope
Scriptures – Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 24:36-44
Sermon – “Thank God, I’ve Been Left Behind!” – Pastor Alex
(10:30) Chancel Choir – “Prepare the Way O Zion”
- December 8th** **Second Sunday of Advent**
Advent Wreath Candle – Peace
8:00 Service – Traditional
10:30 Service – 48th Sermon in Music
Scriptures – Isaiah 11:1-5, Revelation 1:4-8
Sermon – “The Alpha and Omega”
- December 15th** **Third Sunday of Advent**
Advent Wreath Candle – Joy
8:00 Service – Traditional
10:30 Service – Children’s Christmas Program
Scriptures – Isaiah 35:1-10, Revelation 21:1-8
Sermon – “One Solitary Life”
- December 22nd** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Advent Wreath Candle – Love
Scriptures – Isaiah 7:10-14, Revelation 3:14-21
Sermon – “Mr. & Mrs. Apathy”
(10:30) Chancel Choir – “Run to the Manger”
- December 24th** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7:00pm)**
Advent Wreath Candle – The Christ Candle
Scriptures – Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20
Sermon – “Rewinding Once Again”
Chancel Choir with JYF Hand Bells – “Glory to God”
- December 25th** **Christmas Day Worship in the Chapel – 10:30am**
Scriptures – Micah 5:2, Luke 1:46-55
Interactive Meditation – “Mary’s Song”
Christmas Day Caroling at Fairlawn – 11:45am
- December 29th** **Scriptures – Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23**
Sermon – “A Guiding Hand”

Sunday, December 8th – 7:00PM Evening Concert

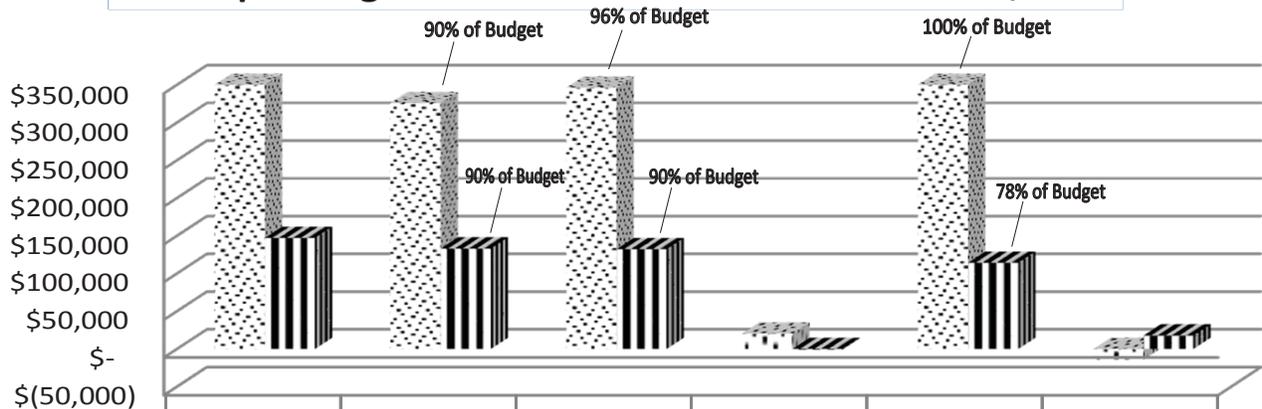
Siberian Solstice is a musical group from northwest Ohio providing Christmas music as originally performed by the nationally acclaimed “TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA” (TSO). The music format of traditional Christmas music and other classical pieces with electronic keyboards, drums, and guitars is enjoyed by all age groups. Siberian Solstice has eight members on stage to accurately reproduce the TSO style and will perform for approximately 90 minutes. They present the program “An Angel’s Gift” with music, song and light show! There will be a free will offering received for the support of their music ministry.

Spring Gospel Concert

The Mark Trammel Gospel Quartet will perform at SJCC on Sunday, March 1st at 6:00pm.

stewardship

2019 Operating & Missions Funds as of November 25, 2019



IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of November 25, 2019 - \$761,059.67

consistory/committees

Parish Hall Heating System

Following the thorough cleaning and maintenance of the boiler this past summer, once the heating system was started up for the winter season, leaks were discovered in the parish hall floor. That discovery resulted in two of the three heating loops being cut and capped off, as one of those two loops had been shut off several years ago due to leaks. The Property Committee explored options to make up for the heat loss and settled on a new forced air system.

In September, the Consistory approved the replacement of one of the air conditioning units for the parish hall as it was no longer functioning. That was at a cost of \$11,285. With that replacement work pending, it has been decided to install a new unit that will both heat and cool the parish hall. This new forced air unit will be installed in one of the existing north side windows, which will make installation and future service much more accessible. A compressor unit will sit on the ground outside the window. With one of the air conditioning units and one of the heating loops still working in the parish hall, only one of the new units needs to be installed at this time. When either the remaining air conditioning unit or the remaining heat loop fails, a second forced air unit can be installed.

This new unit will cost \$18,000, installed, and was ordered in time for delivery and installation to occur during the first week of January. As heat is a necessity for the colder months of January and February, Consistory took emergency action to approve this expenditure.

Church Treasurer

With the pending retirement of Roger Miller as the church treasurer, the Personnel Committee is in the process of searching for the next treasurer of the church. The Personnel Committee has had a first interview with someone interested in the position and will have a second meeting with the candidate in early December. Please be praying for both the individual and the committee.

Winter Snow Removal

We are looking for people willing to help clear the sidewalks upon each snow fall – weekdays and weekends. We need people to clean the sidewalks prior to 8am Monday through Friday, and as snow falls during the day, as well as people to clean the sidewalks prior to 7:30am on Sunday mornings. If you could help, please contact Scott Short, Tim Beck or the church office.

Annual Congregational Meeting – Scheduled for Sunday morning, January 19th

Stewardship – 2019 Finances

A Snap Shot of Our Year to Date Stewardship – as of November 25, 2019

- 2019 Operating Year to Date Income – \$346,316
- 2019 Operating Year to Date Expenses – \$360,457
- 2019 Operating Year to Date Deficit – \$14,304
- 2019 Mission Year to Date Income – \$132,290
- 2019 Mission Year to Date Expenses – \$114,412
- 2019 Mission Year to Date Funds on Hand – \$17,778

The financial figures shown here from the Operating Fund show a difference from earlier reports. Three significant debits have been removed from the expense side of the report: 1) \$24,000 transfer from the checking account to the savings account, 2) \$10,000 from the operating fund given towards the emergency roof project at Cherry Street Mission Ministries, 3) \$2,500 was given to the Christian Preschool to assist in meeting their annual budget. These three debits have somewhat distorted the expense reports this year, though they are actual expenditures, mostly from operating savings.

Christmas

Birth of Jesus Word Search

N	K	H	F	O	S	H	I	N	I	N	G	Z	I	P
C	C	I	D	R	J	G	W	T	V	R	K	M	V	P
T	Q	H	V	A	A	K	G	A	B	R	I	E	L	W
C	W	Q	W	M	A	N	G	E	R	S	N	S	N	L
D	X	O	L	E	Y	P	K	L	Z	T	G	S	M	C
O	L	J	L	H	N	R	G	I	F	T	S	I	Q	U
I	W	O	E	E	K	I	R	S	N	G	W	A	S	W
N	T	R	G	L	M	E	J	H	C	C	Y	H	D	I
N	U	S	N	H	S	O	K	E	G	J	E	S	U	S
K	R	R	A	T	S	X	N	P	F	E	K	N	L	E
E	F	C	A	E	Q	S	I	H	P	Q	N	X	S	M
E	Z	B	P	B	U	O	G	E	A	Y	O	V	A	E
P	L	H	V	S	Q	Y	H	R	M	Q	D	R	E	N
E	F	G	L	Q	K	G	T	D	Q	H	Y	B	A	B
R	D	O	G	F	O	N	O	S	I	O	R	N	M	M

ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CENSUS
DONKEY
EAST
FRANKINCENSE

GABRIEL
GIFTS
GOLD
INNKEEPER
JESUS
JOSEPH
KINGS

MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MESSIAH
MYRRH
NIGHT
SHEEP

SHEPHERDS
SHINING
SON OF GOD
STABLE
STAR
STRAW
WISE MEN

BiblePuzzles.com



**Wishing You A Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year!**

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

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

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 The Lord is Glorious -----Psalm 29 | 16 A Miracle Baby-----Luke 11:25 |
| 2 Choose Wisely - Choose Wisdom--2 Chronicles 1:1-17 | 17 The Angel and the Virgin -----Luke 1:26-38 |
| 3 Only the Best----- 2 Chronicles 2:1-18 | 18 Blessed ----- Luke 1:39-45 |
| 4 The Heart of Worship ----- 2 Chronicles 5:1-14 | 19 A Vocabulary for Prayer-----Luke 1:46-56 |
| 5 Worship Matters ----- 2 Chronicles 6:1-11 | 20 Godly Gossip-----Luke 1:57-66 |
| 6 Meeting Point ----- 2 Chronicles 6:12-42 | 21 Sunrise -----Luke 1:67-80 |
| 7 Glory! -----2 Chronicles 7:1-22 | 22 Set Free -----Psalm 32 |
| 8 Complete Turnaround ----- Psalm 30 | 23 World Peace-----Luke 2:1-14 |
| 9 Giving and Serving ----- 2 Chronicles 24:1-16 | 24 It All Checks Out-----Luke 2:15-20 |
| 10 Here We Go Again----- 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 35b, 36 | 25 The Waiting Game-----Luke 2:21-35 |
| 11 Come on and Celebrate ----- 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:1 | 26 When Life Gives You Lemons-----Luke 2:36-40 |
| 12 Humility Wins----- 2 Chronicles 33:1-25 | 27 Lost and Found-----Luke 2:41-52 |
| 13 Back to the Future ----- 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 | 28 Meaning and Significance -----Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 |
| 14 Disaster - or Not?----- 2 Chronicles 36:2-23 | 29 Sing a New Song -----Psalm 33 |
| 15 Hang in There ----- Psalm 31 | 30 Information Overload ----- Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 |
| | 31 Futility and Fun -----Ecclesiastes 2:1-16 |

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

Pastor Rev. Erich Christman
pastoreich@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Cell Ph. 419-551-0401

Assoc. Rev. Alex Young
pastoralex@stjohnsarchbold.org
 Cell Ph. 330-206-8762

Admin. Kelly Stahl
office@stjohnsarchbold.org

LOGOS Kim M. Walker
gkwalker@tceexpress.net

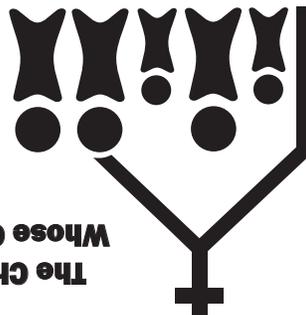
Treasurer Roger Miller

Custodians Dean Buckenmeyer
 Richard Spiess

Security

Holy Communion:
 New Year (1/6), Ash Wednesday (3/6), Maundy Thursday (4/18),
 Pentecost (5/19), Mid-Summer (7/14), World Wide Communion
 (10/6), First Sunday of Advent (12/1)

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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Archbold, OH
 Permit #15

Return Service Requested