



Blackberry Beacon

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

January 2023

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Do You Hear What I Hear?

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you know that the song “Do You Hear What I Hear?” is more than a Christmas song? It was written in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis. The author took the story of Jesus and set it alongside a prayer for peace... and set it to music.

St. Paul writes that faith comes by *hearing* (Romans 10:17). Many of us were taught to read the Bible. I invite you to spend the new year *listening* to the Bible.

There are lots of options: podcasts that read through the Bible, digital audio Bibles, the Bible on CD. Did you know there is even a recording of Johnny Cash reading the New Testament?

Whatever format you choose, I hope you are blessed in your listening to God's word.

Do you hear what I hear?

Pastor Matt

P.S. Thank you for the wonderful Christmas wishes, cards, and gifts. They are tangible expressions of love. My family and I are deeply grateful for them.

Stewardship Reflections

Removing the Dust

Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:4 (KJV)

For many days, my computer kept losing power. No matter how many times I plugged it into the electrical outlet, the computer would start up then abruptly stop. Someone came and checked the battery, but it was fine. I removed the plug again and noticed it was coated in particles of dust. When I removed the dust and plugged it in again, the computer quickly lit up and ran normally.

This experience reminded me of our connection to Christ, the true vine. Sometimes we allow unneeded, even dangerous elements, such as fear, worry, unkind thoughts, envy, hatred, or greed to build up in our minds and hearts. These get in the way of our connection to Christ.

When we surrender all these matters to God through prayer and repentance, God will remove them and free us to live in his power.

When I clear my mind of negative thoughts, God's power flows more freely in me.

- Annette Poitier

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Epiphany Eve Worship: January 5 at Solomon, Woodville

Epiphany is a church festival celebrated every January 6 that commemorates the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles and points us to Christ as the light of the world.

Who - Churches of the North Central Conference

What - Celebration of the Festival of the Epiphany

When – Thursday, **January 5 (Epiphany Eve) 7:00 pm**

Where - Solomon Lutheran Church (305 Main St. Woodville, OH 43469)

We are inviting churches to assist with:

- ✦ A combined choir, led by our Director of Music, Dan Bolye. If your choir is willing to participate in a joint choir anthem the music will be distributed and each choir so that they can practice independently and then join together that evening
- ✦ An Altar Server (Acolyte/Cross Bearer/ Gospel procession)
- ✦ A lay person from your church to read one of the lessons or the prayers



Outreach Schedule for 2023

Tentative

- January 24** Help cook and serve Tuesday meal at Salem Lutheran
*We will not be providing the food, just lending a hand.
- February** Possible informational opportunity concerning human trafficking
*invite Salem youth
Games (cards, board games) with soup provided after fellowship
- March** Movie at St. Luke's
Pack lunch bags
- April** Easter Meal for Salem on April 4th
*We will provide food and help.
Easter caroling on April 16th
*LHOM/ nursing home, etc.
- May** Possible outreach for Biggest Bird Week: May 5 - 14
- June** Possible Tanzania Mission Trip
- July** Picnic at St. Luke's
- August** Pillow/bedding collection for Let's Build Beds
*Keep your eyes open for sales all year
- September** Let's Build Beds build
*invite Salem youth
- October** Missions International of America, a ministry serving Haiti, based in Perrysburg
*Other options: Refugee
- November** 14th: Thanksgiving Meal at Salem
*We will provide food and servers
- December** New Year's Eve gathering
*invite Salem youth

Other thoughts and opportunities to consider include going on a field trip once a quarter to see what different groups are doing. This could include tours of Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Home of Mercy, Mosaic, Food for Thought, Helping Hands of St. Louis, Islamic Food Bank of Toledo, Jewish Food Bank of Toledo

A BIG Thank You to the members for your generous donation of coats, hats and blankets for St. Louis Helping Hands, as well as to our hat and mitten tree. These items are greatly appreciated in the cold weather.

Sub-Sandwich Sale

Our sub sale will be returning for the February 12 Super Bowl Game. Further information will be posted.

Eye Glass Collection

We will once again be collecting used eye glasses for the Lions Club in Oak Harbor to be given to those in need. Please leave glasses on the kitchen counter.

PHILLIP THE BLUE BARREL

JANUARY CANNED FRUITS!!

**Lutheran Social Services is in desperate need of canned fruit.

FEBRUARY CANNED MEATS!!!

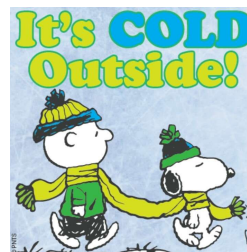
**Keep your eyes open for sales.
Aldi has a great price on these items.

Weather Policy

St. Peter & St. Luke's

If a **Level 2** (or higher) is declared, services are cancelled.

This is for your safety and to aid the folks who are clearing roads or spreading salt.



Ministry Reports will be due to the office by January 15, 2023.

Please place a typed copy in church office or email if possible.



Altar Flower sign-up sheets for 2023 are now posted on the bulletin board.

\$25 for altar flowers

\$25 for lectern flowers



1 - McKennia Large
Renee Moore
3 - Pamela Frayer
Danielle Lajti
8 - Judy Brown
Mark Cuthbertson
Kennedy Miller

10 - David Behlmer
11 - Thomas Reinhart III
Kathy Starkey
12 - Paulette Sekinger
13 - Kimberly Lacer
14 - Marcia Amonette
16 - Jody Kapp
John Schneider

18 - Barbara Gall
22 - Jared Diekman
23 - Brenda Moore
31 - Jeffrey Diekman

31 - Jason & Julie Overmyer



Abigail Circle

Monday, January 16
Out to Eat

Book Discussion Group

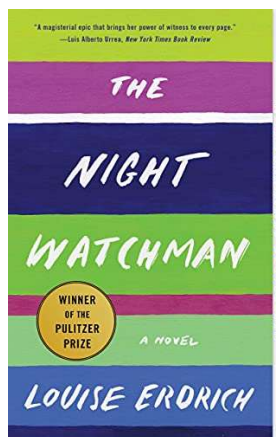
Wednesday, January 11
10:00 AM @ the church

Hannah Circle

Monday, January 16
10:30 AM @ church

Sew Group

Every Tuesday
9:00 AM @ the church



Based on the extraordinary life of Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 12, 2022 at Church

Attendance: Cindy Bench, Mark Cuthbertson, Gary Diefenthaler, Judy Gahler, Jody Kapp, Karen Schanke, Jim Vermilyea, Pastor Matt Musteric

The meeting opened with devotion on salutation of The Lord's Prayer from the Small Catechism followed by prayer by Pastor Matt.

Cindy made a motion seconded by Judy to approve the minutes from the November meeting and Annual Meeting on November 20. MC

Gary made a motion seconded by Mark to approve November Treasurer's report showing a negative balance of \$3074.94. MC.

Pastor's Report: Worship schedule – Christmas Day at St. Peter's and New Year's Day at St. Luke's; **Tentative Vacation:** December 26-January 1; **Epiphany Eve Worship** on January 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Solomon Lutheran Church, Woodville with congregations of the North Central Conference; **Bible Study** resumes in January.

Vice-President: Jim reported that he is working with ministries.

Congregational Life: Judy reminded members to sign up for fellowship on Sunday morning; have given money to World Hunger (\$404), Holiday Bureau, and Simon Amonette fund.

Education & Finance: No reports since they did not meet.

Property: Al reported (via Jim) that Dave Bench is finishing work on fuel oil tank in parking lot which turned out to be a bigger job than expected; New **pressure tank** for the well has been installed and tree roots taken out of lines for septic tank pipes.

Outreach: Cindy reported that they are coordinating **Salvation Army Red Kettle** at Genoa Miller's New Market; congregation participated in Luther Home of Mercy **Adopt-A-Resident** program-adopted two residents and all gifts were delivered; **Blue Barrel** December items are cleaning products; making **2023 plans** at their meeting this week.

Worship: Jody reported that list of **poinsettias** will be given to Shirley this week; Judy will purchase candy canes for Christmas Eve services.

Women of the Church: Judy reported that the officers met and worked on 2023 program book.

Old Business: Revised copies of job descriptions for organist, secretary, and inside and outside custodians were handed out for review for approval at next meeting.

New Business: Gary Diefenthaler was appointed to **Constitution Committee**; Mark was given permission to put notice on church Facebook page suggesting year-end donations; need to work on updating welcomes packets to hand out to new families in area; Year end ministry reports are due January 15; discussed possible joint meeting with St. Peter & St. Luke's council members; Judy made a motion seconded by Jody to use \$1000 of Thrivent Choice funds for outside repairs. MC.

Gary made a motion seconded by Cindy to adjourn the meeting. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: January 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Karen Schanke, Secretary