

*St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay
Dated Material**



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

December 2018

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Church Phone: 419-673-7278
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor
Website: www.stjohnskenton.org
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

The Christmas Eve Candlelight services on December 24 will include a contemporary style service at 7:00 PM and a traditional style service at 10:00 PM. Please invite your family and friends.



We look forward to seeing you!

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)

Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

DECEMBER 2018

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

This year's Christmas sermon

will focus on the poverty of Christmas. It may sound like a peculiar theme given the excess of the season. Lights are everywhere taxing our overburdened electrical grid. Decorations are evermore elegant and elaborate and come with an ever increasing price tag. And don't get me started on the trees—no seriously, I think there's a forest of artificial trees populating my home. Then there's the presents—bigger and bigger piles reaching into every inch of air-space left underneath the tree. With the presents boom came some mad genius—or infamous marketer—who designed an inverted Christmas tree—the idea being there would then be more room under the tree for presents.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not some poor Ebenezer—the Dickens' character and not the original altar by that name in **I Samuel 7:12**—whose heart is hardened to the cultural as well as religious themes of the season. I want to give lavish gifts to friends and family. Nothing brings joy to my soul like hot cocoa and a Christmas cookie or two...or three. The songs of the season—both sacred and secular—warm my heart and bring a tear to my eye.

And here I am getting off track as so easily we can do in this season of Christmas. Of course naming the season Christmas means that I have forfeited the fight to reclaim Advent and to have Christmas start on the 25th and continue for the next 12 days as was originally intended. It is too easy to buy into the cultural appropriation of the season and to be swept away by good intents that manage to distort Christmas into a caricature of itself.



And she 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 [or guest room].

—Luke 2:7

Toy drives and kettle campaigns can become about more and more as well. We make sure to share our excess with those in need so that Little Timmy—or was it Tiny Tim—has lots of gifts to revel in on Christmas day. It's

a noble gesture but a hollow one if Christmas is the one day that share from our storehouse or bank account.

Jesus did not come that first Christmas night to be some jolly ol' elf who popped in, left some gifts, and then swooshed up the chimney to fly away until next year. He did something much more profound, dynamic, and life altering.

As much as Christ came to give, He gave up much as well. He left behind glory. He that is infinite took on finitude. The all-powerful became quite vulnerable.

He could have traded His heavenly crown for an earthly one and ruled any kingdom that He desired. He could have amassed wealth and passed it on to His followers. He could have been a conquering hero and muscled His way to the top.

Instead, He had none of that—no political power, no wealth, and no physical might—to force His way onto the stage of history. Instead, He chose to be born to poor parents who were forced from their native town because a powerful despot felt the need to take a census of his subjects and reassure himself of his power. These parents of Jesus would, a short time after His birth, be

undocumented refugees fleeing to a foreign land. And Jesus chose them as His parents.

When He was born, there was no nursery prepared for Him. That first night of the Holy Nativity came with no presents and very little presence. Jesus and Joseph and Mary were a nuisance—they were a burden on an overly-taxed social system. After all, that's why there was no room for them in the inn or the guest room.

Jesus came into the world as a displaced person. He would live His life unmarried. He distanced Himself even from His flesh and blood and proclaimed His family consisted of those who did the will of His Heavenly Father [see **Mark 3:35**]. He left this world mockingly proclaimed the King of the Jews with no standing army to fight by His side, not a penny to His name as even the clothes on His back were gambled away, and no political authority to contradict the order for Him to be crucified.

And through it all, this was the good life. In fact, it was the only good life ever lived in the flesh, and it all began in the poverty of Christmas. It was a life lived truly free. Jesus was not consumed with accumulating more of anything. He had no need for power, profit or popularity.

He was free to live for others and to focus His life energies on building up others. The poverty of Christmas allowed Him to give freely of Himself with every breath of His life. As God breathed life into the nostrils of Adam [**Genesis 2:7**], Jesus would breathe new life into His believers [**John 20:22**]. That new life is to be ours.

Christmas asks us, "Have we chosen the path of this world or are we following the way of our Savior?" Do we give gifts that make a grand gesture in the name of the season? Or are we giving ourselves always and ever to bless others? Are we content to see our church do a few good works? Or are we prepared to join in ministry with others to extend the reach of those missions and ministries to advance the Kingdom of God?

Are we willing to make ourselves poorer to enrich others? Are we willing to do so without regard to the cost? Will we give our all every day that breath fills our lungs or will we give a bit here and a bit there? Will we comfort ourselves in the knowledge that we've done more than our unbelieving neighbors? Will we seek to grow in faith and follow more fully in the footsteps of our Savior?

Will we build a bed or make a blanket? Will we deliver those items and enter into the home of a person in need? Will we get know the family that receives these gifts? Will we invite them to church or out to lunch? Will we get to know them and walk with them? Will we journey alongside them?

Will we make the poverty of Christmas a part of each day of the year? Will we go where Jesus went, where He goes now, and where He desires to lead us? Will we find freedom in giving to others and serving them as Christ has done for us? Will we know fulfillment in the new life breathed into us by Jesus—the poor Christ child?

May the true meaning of the season be yours,

Pastor Randall

IS YOUR CHRISTMAS MORE ABOUT WHAT IS UNDER THE TREE OR WHO IS IN THE MANGER?



Preaching Series

Advent leads us to examine and reexamine our lives. We meditate upon the themes of the season. We ask ourselves if we truly grasp the gifts of the season. We look at the themes of hope, love, peace, and joy from a biblical perspective, and we strive to make them a deeper part of our walk with the Lord. This year, in Advent, we will look at what we are still doing as the people of God in this day and age.



We proclaim that we are a people who are waiting for Christ's return as people awaited His first arrival. As such, we are preparing the way for Him, we are constantly repenting (turning towards Him in our thoughts and actions), and we are doing this in joy as God has shown His favor toward us.

After Advent, you are guaranteed a poor Christmas sermon (see the Pastor's Page). Christ gave up so much for us, and He stood for those who had nothing and blessed them. May this Advent prepare us to celebrate Christmas biblically and in the wisdom and knowledge that Jesus brings. May the Spirit guide our celebrations and sacred gatherings.

Advent

02 December

Scripture: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**
Luke 21:25-36
Sermon: **Still...Waiting...**

09 December

Scripture: **Malachi 3:1-12**
Luke 3:1-6
Sermon: **Still...Preparing...**

16 December

Scripture: **Isaiah 12:2-6**
Luke 3:7-18
Sermon: **Still...Repenting...**

23 December

Scripture: **Micah 5:1-5**
Luke 1:39-56
Sermon: **Still...Rejoicing...**

24 December—Christmas Eve

Scripture: **Titus 2:11-14**
Luke 2:1-20
Sermon: **A Poor Christmas Sermon**

30 December

Pastor's vacation

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:**

MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

UPCOMING EVENTS

HCC Youth Group Meeting

St. John's will host the next Hardin County Collective Community Youth Group on December 2 from 5-7:00 PM. Thank you to our Praise Team who will be leading worship time for the group. All Middle School and High School Youth are welcome! See Michele Sherman with any questions.

Community Hymn Sing

The Community Hymn Sing this year is December 9 at 6:30 PM at the Kenton First United Methodist Church. If you would like to participate in the community choir, they will meet at 4:30 PM that day. A light dinner is provided to those who participate in the community choir.

Lake of Lights—Live Nativity

The church is scheduled to be the Live Nativity on Sunday, December 16 from 6-8 PM. Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin for more information on how to volunteer that night. **The youth program will receive a portion of the proceeds that night. Come out and support them that evening and see a great display of lights! Please see Michele Sherman with questions.**

Hat & Mitten Tree

A tree will be placed in the back of the sanctuary for donations of items to be shared with local children in need at the elementary school. Items being collected include: hats, mittens, gloves, socks, underwear, and scarves. These items will be collected through Dec. 24.



Christmas Adopt-a-Family

We are still waiting for information from Helping Hands. Please watch the bulletin for deadlines. As soon as we do, we will place the lists at the back of the sanctuary.



St. John's is partnering once again with Helping Hands to make sure that the children of our community have a nice Christmas. If you are able to purchase items, please follow the instructions below:

- Remove the tag for the gift you select.
- On the front of each tag you will find a number.
- On the table is a sheet listing all the tag numbers.
- **Please write your name beside the number on the sheet that corresponds to the number on your tag.**
- If you able, **please wrap your gift.** But please don't let that stop you from participating! If you want to drop off your gifts unwrapped, Helping Hands will wrap them prior to distributing them to our families. Also, if you want to participate but don't want to shop, cash can be dropped off at the church office and we will do the shopping for you.
- **Please be sure the original tag you selected or number is on the tag is somewhere on the gift! This will ensure that the gift gets to the correct person.**

Thank you for sharing God's love by blessing these families! If you have any questions, please contact Heather (567-674-0020) or the church office.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Following the meeting, please join us for a time of fellowship with a potluck lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

If you have any reports to submit for the annual meeting booklet, please turn them in by December 31. Thank you!

Reverse Advent Calendar - Benefits Angels for the Elderly

The Taste of the Seasons Piano Concert was the kick-off for our Reverse Advent Calendar to help “Angels for the Elderly”. Boxes are available for you to take home if you would like to participate. It's a simple concept....rather than open a box each day on an Advent calendar and take out a goodie, we're asking that starting today, you simply place an item in the box each day for a month. At the end of the month, (right around December 15), the box can be returned here – OR – you can call our church office and we'll make arrangements to pick up the box for you! This will give us time to get things sorted and delivered to homes. You will find a list of items needed listed below as well as contact info if you'd like your box picked up. If you prefer, of course a monetary donation will be appreciated. (A HUGE thank you to Graphic Packaging for providing 450 boxes!) If you'd like to take an extra box to your place of employment, please do so!

The idea behind a reverse Advent calendar is simple. Fill a box with donations for the organization - one item for every day in Advent (or in this case....for 4 weeks - November 18 to December 16.) The Reverse Advent Calendar encourages us to think of others as we wait to celebrate Jesus' birthday. What a great way to serve this Advent!

Sample list of items needed....

- Bottled water
- Canned vegetables - don't forget canned potatoes
- Canned fruit, canned applesauce (or small individual containers)
- Canned soup
- Fresh fruit – especially oranges, clementines (Cuties), bananas and apples
- Instant potatoes as well as bags of potatoes which can be divided for a few homes
- Spaghetti sauce and pasta
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Cereal and/or instant oatmeal
- Biscuit or baking mixes, especially those that only use water (don't forget Jiffy Mix)
- Boxed meals that require only water – also Tuna Helper & Hamburger Helper
- Dried beans
- Raisins - small boxes
- Jello & pudding - small pre-mixed containers also appreciated



- Chapstick, hand or body lotion, body wash
- Bars of soap
- Cough drops
- Deodorant, razors, toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissue
- Laundry detergent and dish soap
- Adult disposable underwear
- Socks and gloves

Kroger or Walmart cards

Once your box is filled, you may return it to St. Johns - OR - call our office and we can pick up the box for you! We'd appreciate having all donations in by December 16 in order to have time to sort through and give a good variety to each home.

Church office phone: 419-673-7278 Office hours are Monday – Friday 9-1. Messages may be left on the answering machine after hours.

Please leave your name, address and phone number.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Piano Concert on Sunday, November 18. The concert is also available to watch online at www.stjohnskenton.org or our Facebook page, St John's Kenton, Ohio. The monetary donations made from that concert so far were over \$1300. (\$585 for Angels for the Elderly and \$743 for SOUP). Thank you Teresa for sharing your talent and helping kick-off a wonderful program to help two community organizations!!

Adult Education and Life Groups

We are in need of someone to help coordinate Adult Education or lead a short-term life group in the fall. The goal would be to offer more adult education opportunities and short-term life group, for example book studies. Please see Pastor Randall for more information.



Snow and ice have been in the forecast lately. I believe the winter months are finally here. Our Wednesday night

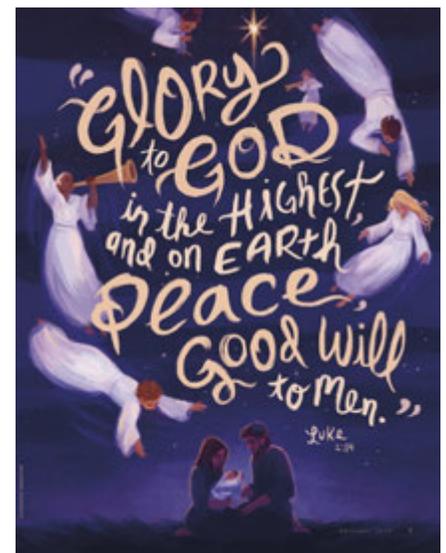
Youth group attended Pizza Hut and I want to give a huge Thank you to the Women's Ministry for sending us. The Youth seemed to really enjoy themselves and were very polite to the staff. We even had one of our students hold the door for a lady that was struggling. It is so heartwarming to see how kind and soft hearted they can be. God is really working in them.

The Youth will be out at the Lake of Lights on Dec. 16th from 6-8pm. We will be taking a bus, so if anyone would like to get in on the Holiday season please feel free to join us. For more information please contact me or keep an eye out in the Sunday bulletins. We will also be helping The Salvation Army on December 22nd. They will be taking turns ringing the bell at Tractor Supply here in Kenton. Make sure to stop out and say "Hello".

Hardin County Collective will be meeting here at St. John's on December 2nd we will be making homemade pizzas and decorating Christmas cookies. We will have worship time with our Praise team, a huge thank you to all of them for coming and supporting our youth and being a part of our night. There will also be a time of devotion that night. If anyone would like to come and see what we do at our HCC events please feel free to come and spend some time with our wonderful group of Youth kids.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:14



Summary of Finances for October 2018

Income:

Envelopes	\$19,895.00
Loose offering and faith time	\$ 448.00
Total Income	\$20,343.00

Expenses:

Staff Expense	\$ 13,528.00
Administration Expense	\$ 352.00
Utilities & Maintenance	\$ 3,343.00
WAM	\$ 16.00
Christian Ed	\$ 85.00
Video	\$ 261.00
Evangelism	\$ 86.00
Youth	\$ 0.00
Total Expense	\$ 17,671.00

BALANCE **\$2,672.00**

Church Staff:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester
 Children's Ministry: Amy Long
 Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman
 Financial Secretary: Kay Rush
 Church Secretary: Kathy Forester
 Custodian: Harry Long
 Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley
 Contemporary Worship Leader: Kendra Dilts
 Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler
 Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley
 Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker
 Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn
 Historian: Gerald Pfister



We had a great trip to McDonalds for dinner recently. We took 58 kids to dinner, had a great time playing and having lots of fun. **THANK YOU to our Women's**



Ministry for sponsoring this evening.

Thanks to Trish Wilcox, Janet Jones, Cheryl Brooks, Alisha Kapanka, Kristi and Donovan Weaver, Kathy Forester, Kevin Kapanka, Becky Rish, Autum and Tony Brown, for helping with the kids and to our ever devoted bus crew: Jane Donnelly, Mary Ralston, LeVern Weaver and Susan Hord.

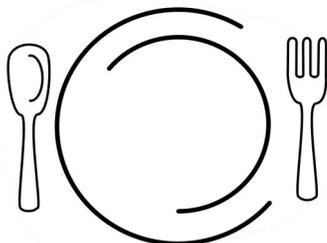
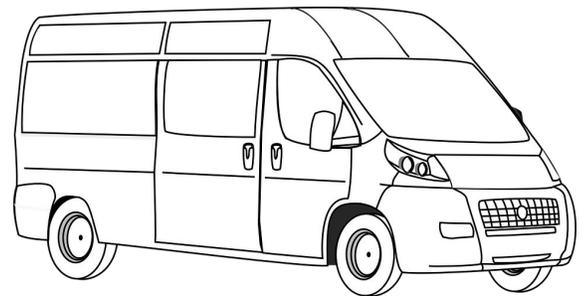
The kids had a wonderful time eating Happy Meals and playing and playing.



We have several adults signed up to chaperone our trip to Marmon Valley Farm on Dec. 7. Now, we need kids to go with us. We will leave the church around 5:45 and be back to the church around 9:00 pm. It is a wonderful evening, riding in a hay wagon viewing the live nativity scene, enjoying pony rides, making a Christmas craft and drinking hot chocolate. We already have our tickets reserved so please see Amy if your child would like to go.

Wednesday Nights: We are bursting at the seams with so many kid attending each Wednesday night. What a wonderful problem that is to have? God has blessed us richly with many wonderful kids to be able to work with. We are able to share God's good word and model good behavior each week for them.

We thank our great kitchen crew and bus crew for making each week possible. We certainly couldn't provide dinner or get the kids here each week without their help.



You'll be seeing some kids and adults sporting some new red t-shirts soon. Adults who are wearing t-shirts are our fabulous kitchen, bus and teaching staff. If you'd like a red t-shirt, see Amy and we'll find a job fit just for you.





Almost all of the December articles have been on Christmas as it seems to be one of the most common rallying festivals for Christians of all persuasions. The following article from Christianity.com is the best synopsis of the history of Christmas I have found since beginning these articles years ago.

“Today is Christmas day (Christ's mass). But for the first 300 years of Christianity, it wasn't so. When was Christmas first celebrated? In an old list of Roman bishops, compiled in A. D. 354 these words appear for A.D. 336: "25 Dec.: natus Christus in Betleem Judeae." December 25th, Christ born in Bethlehem, Judea. This day, December 25, 336, is the first recorded celebration of Christmas. For the first three hundred years of the church's existence, birthdays were not given much emphasis--not even the birth of Christ. The day on which a saint died was considered more significant than his or her birth, as it ushered him or her into the kingdom of heaven. Christ's baptism received more attention than his birthday in the January 6th feast of Epiphany.

No one knows for sure on what day Christ was born. Dionysus Exiguus, a sixth century monk, who was the first to date all of history from December 25th, the year of our Lord 1. Other traditions gave dates as early as mid-November or as late as March. How did Christmas come to be celebrated on December 25th? Cultures around the Mediterranean and across Europe observed feasts on or around December 25th, marking the winter solstice. The Jews had a festival of lights. Germans had a yule festival. Celtic legends connected the solstice with Balder, the Scandinavian sun god who was struck down by a mistletoe arrow. At the pagan festival of Saturnalia, Romans feasted and gave gifts to the poor. Drinking was closely connected with these pagan feasts. At some point, a Christian bishop may have adopted the day to keep his people from indulging in the old pagan festival. Historian William J. Tighe offers a different view, however. When a consensus arose in the church to celebrate Christ's conception on March 25th, it was reasonable to celebrate his birth nine months later.

Many of the pagan customs became associated with Christmas. Christian stories replaced the heathen tales, but the practices hung on. Candles continued to be lit. Kissing under the mistletoe remained common in Scandinavian countries. But over the years, gift exchanges became connected with the name of St. Nicholas, a real but legendary figure of 4th century Lycia (a province of Asia). A charitable man, he threw gifts into homes.

Around the thirteenth century, Christians added one of the most pleasant touches of all to Christmas celebration when they began to sing Christmas carols. No one is sure just when the Christmas tree came into the picture. It originated in Germany. The 8th century English missionary, St. Boniface, Apostle to Germany, is supposed to have held up the evergreen as a symbol of the everlasting Christ. By the end of the sixteenth century, Christmas trees were common in Germany. Some say Luther cut the first, took it home, and decked it with candles to represent the stars. When the German court came to England, the Christmas tree came with them. Puritans forbade Christmas, considering it too pagan. Governor Bradford actually threatened New Englanders with work, jail or fines if they were caught observing Christmas.

In 1843, in Victorian England, Charles Dickens published his novelette "A Christmas Carol." It became one of the most popular short works of fiction ever penned. Although the book is more a work of sentiment than of Christianity, it captures something of the Christmas spirit. The tightfisted grump, Ebenezer Scrooge, who exclaimed "humbug!" at the mention of Christmas, is contrasted with generous merry-makers such as his nephew, Fred and with the struggling poor, symbolized by Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. The book's appeal to good works and charitable contributions virtually defines Christmas in English-speaking lands.

Whatever the ins and outs of Christmas, we are still unwrapping the gift of God's Son--and what an incentive to generosity and joy that gift is!"

Merry Christmas and Blessings to all!

Jerry Pfister, Historian

Hymn Spotlight: Silent Night—celebrating 200 years

Author – Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

English Translation – John F. Young, 1820-1885

Composer – Franz [Grüber](#), 1787-1863

Tune Name – “Stille Nacht”



Christmas Eve, 1818....a song was born that would wing its way into the hearts of people throughout the world.

Joseph Mohr was born in the lovely city of Salzburg, Austria, in 1792 . As a boy he was an active chorister in the Cathedral of Salzburg. In 1815 Mohr was ordained to the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. Following his ordination, he served various parishes in the Salzburg area. It was while serving as an assistant priest in 1818, at the newly erected Church of St. Nicholas in Obernorf in the region of Tyrol, high in the beautiful Alps, that Mohr wrote the text for this favorite of all Christmas carols.

Father Mohr and Franz Grüber , the village schoolmaster and church organist, had often talked about the fact that the perfect Christmas hymn had never been written. With this goal in mind, and after he had received word that his own church organ would not function, Father Mohr decided that he must write his own Christmas hymn immediately, in order to have music for the special Christmas Eve Mass and to avoid disappointing his faithful congregation. Upon completing the text, he took his words to Franz Grüber, who exclaimed when he saw them, “Friend Mohr, you have found it – the right song – God be praised!”

Soon Grüber completed his task of writing the right tune for the new text. His simple but beautiful music blended perfectly with the spirit of Father Mohr's words. The hymn was completed in time for the Christmas Eve Mass, and Father Mohr and Franz Grüber sang their hymn to the accompaniment of Grüber's guitar. The hymn made a deep impact upon the parishioners, even as it has on succeeding generations. The passing of time seems only to add to its appeal.

Neither Mohr nor Grüber intended that their hymn would be used outside of their little mountain village area. However, it is reported that within a few days after the Christmas Eve Mass, the organ repairman Karl Maurachen of Zillerthal, a well-known organ builder of that area, came to the church and obtained a copy of the new hymn. Through his influence the carol spread throughout the entire Tyrol region, where it became popular as a Tyrolean Folk Song. Soon various performing groups such as the well-known Strasser Children's Quartet began using the hymn in concert throughout Austria and Germany. In 1838, it first appeared in a German hymnal, where it was titled a “hymn of unknown origin.” It was first heard in the United States in 1839 when a family of Tyrolean Singers, the Rainers, used the music during their concert tour. Soon it was translated into English as well as into other languages. At least eight different English translations are known today. The carol is presently sung each December by untold millions in all of the major languages of the world. It is a universal favorite wherever songs of the Christmas message are sung, from small chapels in the Andes to great Cathedrals in Antwerp and Rome.

CHRISTMAS

Silent Night, Holy Night 60
STILLE NACHT Irregular

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Trans. John Freeman Young, 1863 Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight, Glo - rious
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won-drous star, lend thy light; With the

vir - gin moth-er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing: "Al - le - lu - ia;
beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace,
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born,
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.

1. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh',
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh'!

2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Aeluluja,
Tönt est laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da,
Christ der Retter ist da!

3. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund':
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Agenda
Thursday
October 11, 2018
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Carol Wilcox President
OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall
OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Kristi Weaver

September 13, 2018 Minutes – Motion made and seconded to accept minutes as distributed.
Council Vote, Motion carried.

REPORTS

- 1) Finance - Kristi Weaver
 - Stewardship – Pass out pledge cards November 4th, turn in November 18th consecration Sunday.
 - Budget:
 - Want to include the fixing of the ceiling in the overflow area in the budget if needed
 - Year to date budget versus actual looks good.
 - Discussion of options on copier to be looked into including leasing. Heather and Greg Liedel were to look into what is needed with Kathy.
 - Review of investments
 - Kendra is looking into Venmo or Paypal as an option for Audio Visual.
- 2) Christian Education - Amy Long
 - Passed out written report for review. Several activities are planned
 - First Wednesday night was more than expected. Kids have been better behaved.
- 3) Youth Ministry—Michele Sherman
 - Sunday school has started
 - Have some youth interested in helping with the maze for Trunk or Treat.
 - Hosting the youth collective on Dec 2nd 5-7:30.
- 4) Women's Ministry - Kay Rush
 - Stove is on order – SOUP paying half, will be about \$8k total
 - Ordered the roasters – 6 of them covered by the Cruise In items sold.
 - Women's Celebration is November 15th
 - Taking the kids to McDonald's November 14th
 - Pastor Appreciation month
- 5) Worship, Arts & Music - Nancy Rickenbacher
 - Christmas Eve Services will be at 7PM and 10 PM.
 - Easter will have an 8:30 and 10:30 Service. Considering a community Sun Rise Service at the Court House.
- 6) Personnel Committee - Kristina VanBuskirk
 - Employee Evaluations - 2 left
- 7) Pastoral Relations - Carol Wilcox
 - Next Meeting - November 11, 2018
- 8) Trustees - Greg Martin Jim Bidwell Greg Liedel
Greg Martin:
 - Beds pre-cut for the service day and will try to drill ahead
 - Painting of outside front entrance done
 - Parking lot – will pour tomorrow

- Fellowship carpet and chairs are cleaned
- Need to find a dry waller for the ceiling in the sanctuary – may cost a lot so he will consider a long term plan.
- Discussion of the wall in the basement.
- Talked about changing lights in the sanctuary.
- Discussion of the wishes and wants and needs. Think that the list is in the Office.
- When do we need to plan for the next maintenance on the concrete – done in 2017 so 5 years is 2022

Greg Liedel:

- Bus - Need to think about long range plan

Jim Bidwell:

- Farm - Nothing to report

9) Missions, Evangelism - Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman

- Trunk or Treat coming up the 24th there have been some candy donations coming in.
- Oct 28th is service day – Beds, blankets, clean bus, clean sanctuary
- Discussion if we need to set up guidelines/ policies. Discussion that there needs to be a spreadsheet given on the amounts to spend and what they can spend it on.

10) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall

- Written Report Presented for review prior to meeting
- Fall retreat November 3rd
- Things are going well at the church

OLD BUSINESS

- Alice Training – Will think about it some more.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Appoint Nominating committee – Discussion of who is going off and how they will be the committee – Carol, Greg Martin, Nancy, Mark.
- WAM Memorial Service November 4th or the 11th

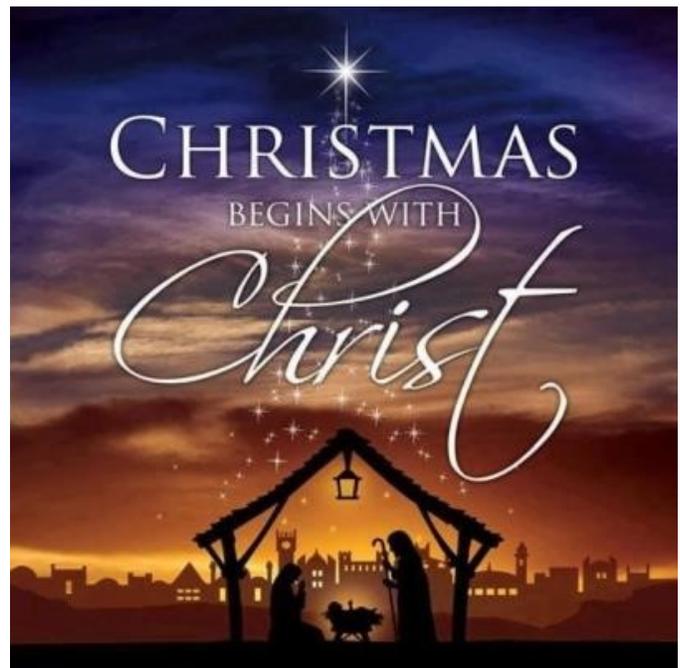
CORRESPONDENCE: None

Next Meeting: November 8, 2018 7:00 PM

LORD'S PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT Motion and second to adjourn.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



Mission of the Month— Love In The Name of Christ



Love In the Name of Christ is a Christian based service and referral agency that assists people with a variety of needs by connecting them with churches or other organizations/agencies.

The mission of Love INC is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ. The organization bridges resources by working with local churches, agencies, and other community resources.

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's at 11 am to carpool.

December 7: Henry's—Kenton

December 21: Coonie's—LaRue

Salvation Army Bell Ringer Volunteers Needed

Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring the bell at TSC (Tractor Supply Company) in Kenton on Saturdays starting now – 12/22 from 10 am – 7 pm. Volunteers can take 1-2 hour shifts or a group could sponsor a day. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary. See Mary Ralston for details.



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life



Worship Attendance

October 21:	8:30 a.m.	60
	10:30 a.m.	75
October 28:	8:30 a.m.	90
	One Service	
November 4:	8:30 a.m.	68
	10:30 a.m.	84
November 11:	8:30 a.m.	55
	10:30 a.m.	101

