

# ST. STEPHEN ELCA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# Steeple Views

JANUARY 2024

## Happy New Year

The generosity of the people of St. Stephen is amazing.

Lydia's Pantry served **2,347** people in 2023 - a 49% increase from 2022. Of those shoppers, 456 were new, a 41% increase.

Open Table served **1,007 meals** (in-person and to-go) in 2023.

Your giving for **Be the Change**, which helped to support Youth Quake, church water damage, various needed supplies, the lounge update, and the Crouse Elementary School Christmas Giving Tree provided **\$2,687**.

### New Year Prayer

Eternal Father, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in this new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever -- the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Help Needed - Jan. 6

**Saturday, January 6**

**Time: 9:30am**

We need some help taking down the Christmas decorations and tree.



Join us!

### Looking ahead to January:

Jan 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



Jan 6 **EPIPHANY**

Jan 6 9:30am **Take down Tree**

Jan 7 **Baptism of Our Lord**  
9:30am Worship  
9:30am YouTube & FB Live  
10:30am Pathfinders & Adults

Jan 8 9:00am J.O.Y. Breakfast

Jan 11 **4-6pm OPEN TABLE**

Jan 14 9:30am Worship  
9:30am YouTube & FB Live  
10:30am Pathfinders & Adults

Jan 14 10:45am **Council Meeting**

Jan 15 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Jan 21 9:30am Worship  
9:30am YouTube & FB Live  
10:30am Pathfinders & Adults

Jan 28 9:30am Worship  
9:30am YouTube & FB Live  
10:30am Pathfinders & Adults

# Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with) John



**Thursday, February 1**

**7:00pm**

**Green Valley Brewing Co.**

Join your St. Stephen friends and family on a Brewery Trail at Green Valley Brewing Co., 53 Milford Dr., Hudson.

Order your favorite beverage (it doesn't have to be a beer) and snacks and catch up with friends.

The Green Valley offers a full menu including vegetarian and gluten free options.



## Dinner & Dialogue - February 7

**Wednesday, February 7**

**5:30-8:30pm**

The City of Stow Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiative (DEI) will be hosting an evening of food, hot topics and cool heads tackling

tough subjects with civil dialogue. The first Dinner & Dialogue is scheduled on Wednesday, February 7 from 5:30-8:30pm at St. Stephen in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in attending, please see the flyer on page 10 to use the QR Reader for ticket prices and more information.

## PREPARING FOR SUNDAY on YouTube



Have you checked out Pastor John's **PREPARING FOR SUNDAY** email? In case you may have missed it, or meant to open it, but never did, check it out!

**PREPARING FOR SUNDAY** comes in your email and is also available on YouTube.

**Listen and watch this weekly Bible Study and text reference.**

# Adult Sunday School

Join us on Sundays for Adult Sunday School. Plan to join the adults in the newly-painted lounge. Adult Sunday School will be held every Sunday morning at 10:30am with Chuck Conaway leading the group.

Plan to join us!



# Zoom Bible Study with Brian

St. Stephen has begun to work together with Rejoice Lutheran in Hudson. Vicar Brian Suntken offers a Zoom study for the people of Rejoice and would like to make it available to any St. Stephen members who would like to participate.

**Each Wednesday at 7:30pm**

**Meeting ID: 322 240 0299      Passcode:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?  
pwd=eDQ3NlB1WEcoNnhEUCsocDM3OW9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NlB1WEcoNnhEUCsocDM3OW9Bdz09)



# Acme Cash Back

## ACME Community Cash Back Collection

**Earn 5% Community Cash Back.**

The Acme Community Cash Back program runs between

**AUGUST 1, 2023 to FEBRUARY 15, 2024.** Place your receipt in the collection box by February 24, 2024.

Please turn in your ENTIRE Acme receipt to the collection box on the table in the narthex. We will be collecting these receipts through the end of January.

All money earned will go toward Mission Support.

If you have any questions or need your receipts picked up, please contact Mary Appleby at 330-931-9368 (call or text).



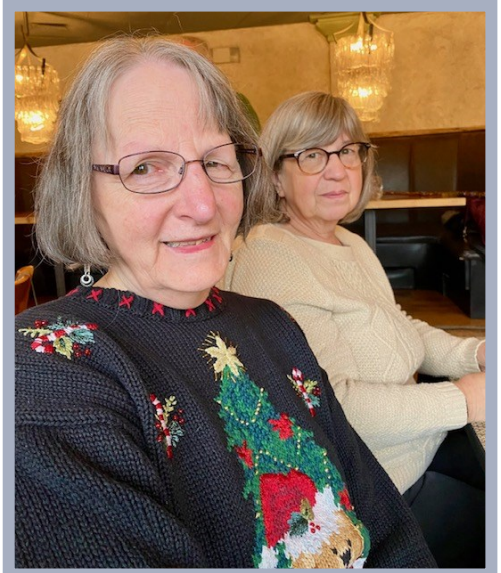


# J.O.Y. Group Christmas Luncheon





Thank you Gary Parker for leading the J.O.Y. Group  
for the past 10 years!



# Choir is Welcoming New Members

St. Stephen's choir will practice on Sundays at **10:45am** in our choir room.

We rehearse Sunday mornings after our church service and sing twice a month. We have a strong core of wonderful, talented, music reading musicians. If you would love to join us, but you don't read music, you will have plenty of support from that group.

We laugh, sing and work hard.



If you love to sing, want to meet new people and want a morning filled with laughter and a sense of accomplishment, the choir is a place for you.

See you on Sunday in the choir room.

*Dawn Horner, Choir Director*



## Ringling for Beginners (New B's)

Ringling for Beginners (New B's) is a new group starting this fall for those interested in learning bells. The group will be separate from our Jubellation ringers and will focus on learning/remembering music notation, counting and ringling in a small group, easy music format. We will rehearse Wednesday evenings from 6:15 to 7:00 pm in the narthex. As members progress there will be an opportunity to join in the Jubellation group, but this is intended to be a separate choir for folks learning and the music will be specifically tailored for new ringers.

If you have prior ringling experience, but want a refresher, this is for you! If you played an instrument at some point in your life, but don't remember music too well, this is for you! If you want to have some fun with handbells on Wednesday evenings, this is for you!!

Please see Connie Wilson with any questions and JOIN US!



## Thursday Bible Study

A graphic with the words 'Bible Study' in large, bold letters. Below the text is an image of an open Bible resting on a blue surface.

**Bible  
Study**

### Thursday Bible Study

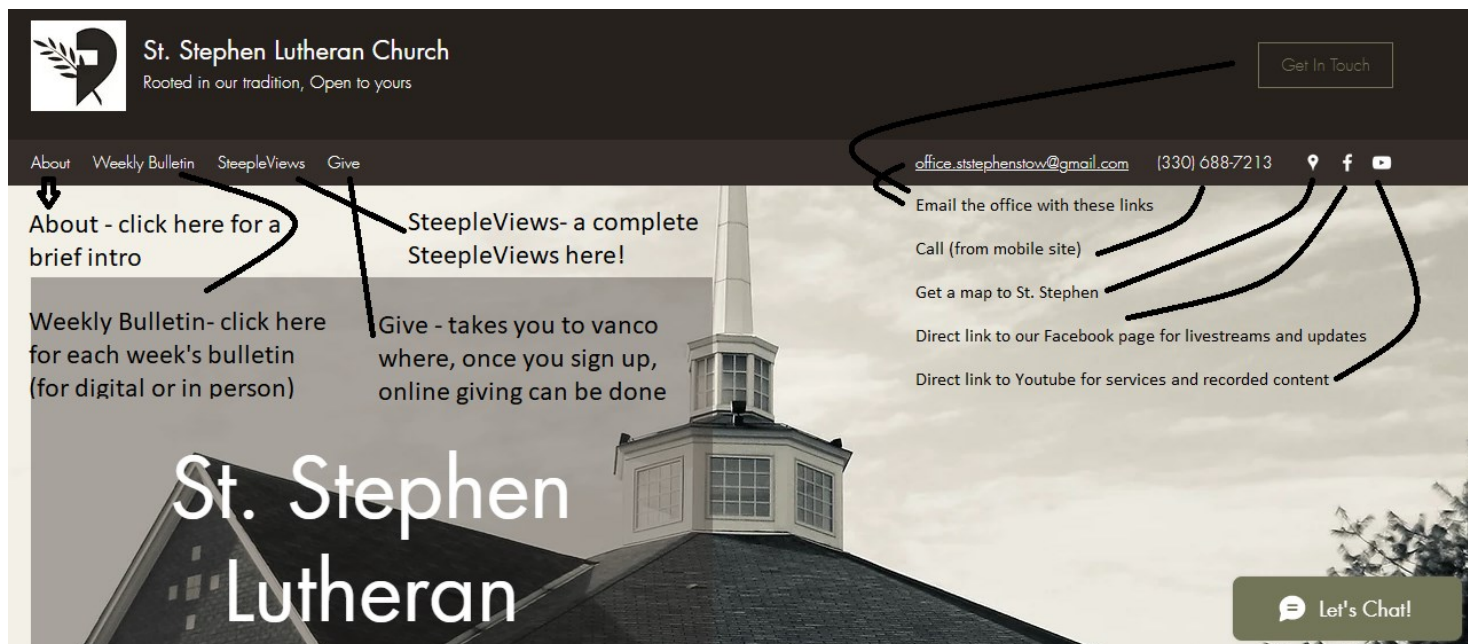
**10:00 - 11:30am**

Join us for Thursday Bible Study every week at 10:00am in the Cubbon

Conference Room.



# Check Out Our Updated Website



**<https://www.ststephen-stow.com/>**

**Look for your weekly bulletin on the site.**

## Clear Bags Recycled into Park Benches

The local DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) chapter is collecting clear plastic bags. The DAR chapter meets here at St. Stephen on Saturdays.

The clear plastic bags are collected and taken to the Kent Lions Club, who then delivers them to Terex. Terex takes the bags and recycles them into park benches. (see photo)

The following clear plastic items are accepted for recycle:

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Ice bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Case overwrap (drinks)

If you have clear plastic to donate, please place it in the bag in the narthex.



# **ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**December 10, 2023 10:45**

## **St Stephen Council Meeting**

Present - Joan Conaway, Larry Kribs, Michelle Rousseau, Lydia Heiser, Judy Prinz, Dan Holm  
Pastor John Corsi

### **Meeting Minutes**

November meeting minutes approved by Council members via email.

### **Financials**

Larry overviewed current financial reports.

Finances are posted on the bulletin board outside the narthex.

20 pledge cards have been returned for the Culture of Generosity.

### **Old Business**

- Reviewing a money market account from Huntington Bank with 5% interest rate to deposit the Cubbon gift and matching funds.
- Open Table grant in process.
- The City of Stow engineers looked at the pipes with a scope and a clog was found so a water jet was used to clear the pipes.
- We will be keeping the current snow plow contractor.

### **New Business**

- Thrivent gift card for 150.00 for Open Table.
- A free membership to a restaurant supply facility to use for Open Table dinner is being pursued.
- Update from Brian: new controls are needed for the HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$5,000.00 and the money is in the facility budget. The hot water heater needs a replacement valve at a cost of \$1,500.00. Both of these repairs are moving forward.
- We will be cancelling the contract with Cintas to replace the winter floor mats weekly. We will be purchasing mats and asking the cleaning crew to sweep the mats when they clean.

Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dan seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Next Meeting - **Jan 14th** 10:45 - bring ideas/goals for 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Heiser, Council Secretary





## Open Table Dinner

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084CAAAA2EA02-46956504-january/49605580#/>

St. Stephen offers a FREE community dinner on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

**OPEN TABLE DINNER** is open to everyone. We invite St. Stephen members to join us for dinner with friends and family, as well as our Stow neighbors.

Everyone who uses the building has received an invitation. The meal is advertised through mailers and outdoor signage.

Plan to come and join us in this fellowship and service activity.

### **Want to help?**

If you would like to help with the meal and become part of a meal team, there's a place for you.

#### On the day of the meal:

- ♦ 2:30 –5pm Meal Prep Cook and Serve
- ♦ 5pm Deliver meals
- ♦ 5:00-6:30pm Serve and clean-up

Menus have been predetermined and food will be purchased in advance. Most of the cooking will be done in the St. Stephen kitchen.

Sign-up on the bulletin board or through Signupgenius. (see above)

**NEW!** We're also looking for help to put up and take down the outdoor signage.

**JOIN US on  
Thursday,  
January 11  
4-6pm.**

Future Open Table dates on the 2nd Thursday of each month:

- ♦ February 8
- ♦ March 14
- ♦ April 11

# DINNER & ~~A FIGHT~~ DIALOGUE

AN EVENING OF  
FOOD, HOT TOPICS,  
& COOL HEADS

TACKLING TOUGH  
SUBJECTS WITH CIVIL  
DIALOGUE

ENJOY SOME FOOD, GET TO KNOW YOUR  
NEIGHBORS, & DISCUSS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC!

**JOIN US AS WE DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:**

STOW-MUNROE FALLS CITY SCHOOLS SHOULD REVISE ITS  
AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM TO FOCUS MORE ON THE  
ROLE THAT RACE & RACISM HAS PLAYED IN THE COUNTRY'S  
FORMATION AND EVOLUTION.

COME WITH AN OPEN MIND & READY TO PRACTICE  
YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE DISAGREEMENT SKILLS!

BUY TICKETS  
& LEARN MORE



FEBRUARY 7, 2024 • 5:30-8:30PM  
ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

PRESENTED BY:



Fighting to  
Understand



STOW COLLABORATION  
FOR CHANGE

# Live-streamed Worship

If you haven't checked it out yet, give it a try. Go to Facebook on Sunday morning at 9:30am to watch Pastor John live-stream the Service of the Word. You can follow along in your bulletin for the worship and prayers. Bulletins are also available on our website.

The morning worship is available at 9:30am on YouTube. You can subscribe and your St. Stephen videos will be kept together on the site. Both Facebook and YouTube are now available on our website. By clicking in the upper right corner on their icon, you will be taken directly to the site.



**[www.ststephen-stow.com](http://www.ststephen-stow.com)**

## 2024 Flower Calendar

The 2024 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board.

If you would like to celebrate or recognize an occasion, please sign-up for your preferred date.

On the dates that are noted as holidays on the calendar, the church will supply the flowers. If you wish one of those dates, please contact the church office.

Please include your name and the reason for the remembrance.

You are welcome to bring your own flowers or order from a local florist.



**Be the  
Change**

## January **Be the Change**

**WORSHIP:**

**Youth Quake**

**Goal: \$500**



# St. Stephen Nursery IS Open

Beginning in November, the St. Stephen nursery opened from 9:15am - 10:45am. If you would like to attend worship and have your baby cared for during service, please come to the nursery. The nursery is available for the entire worship service or even a portion of it. We hope this will make it easier for new parents, but as always, children are welcome to remain with their parents during worship, if they wish.



## Vanco Faith Giving App

Vanco, our e-giving provider has launched an updated mobile app called **VANCO MOBILE. FAITH GIVING**. With Vanco Mobile you can send one-time or reoccurring gifts.

If you are a previous user of GivePlus+, your email and password remain the same. You will only need to update your contact information. Your banking preference and giving choices also remain the same.

If you would like to begin giving using the app and stop writing weekly checks, the process is easy. Please see the instructions on the right.

If you need help in setting up or have any questions about the app, please feel free to call the church office at 330-668-7213.



## Vanco Mobile

Go to Apps and enter Vanco Mobile to search. You will find **Vanco Mobile Faith Giving**. Open on your phone/tablet. Search: St. Stephen Lutheran Church.

You will create a user name and password. (if you are a first time user). For previous users, your GivePlus email & password remain the same.

### Create your account:

Your checking, credit/debit card information will remain private and secure through Vanco Financial.

### Choose your giving option:

- Frequency
- Amount
- Include the processing fee

## Medical Questions Answered

**Need some medical advice? Have a prescription and do not know if it may be causing you some reaction issues? Have a concern about some symptoms for you or someone in your family?**

St. Stephen has a person who may be able to help with some explanations. Claudine Siegert, MD is a newer member to our congregation. She will not give prescriptions, but would be willing to work as an adjunct to your physician to give you some advice. Claudine can be reached at 828-231-7677 or [csiegert2010@gmail.com](mailto:csiegert2010@gmail.com). She will listen to your concerns. Since she is a fulltime physician, she may get back to you in a few days, especially if she is on call. Please identify yourself as a member of St. Stephen when you call or email.

## Lydia's Pantry : Comments

We, Dennis & Joy, want to thank you for the Thanksgiving food box. It was so nicely packed with just the right things. It was a reminder that God cares about us and meets all our needs. Thank you also for the food card. Thank you for your kindness to us when we come to the church. You make us feel loved. We so much appreciate the Thursday food. May God bless you richly for your kindness.



# Lydia's Pantry

Acts 16: 12-15



The Lydia's Pantry is now open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm.

Pantry items are distributed by appointment.

If you would like to donate items to the pantry, please check out at the list of needed items.

**Monetary donations are always welcome.**

If you would like to volunteer, please sign-up on the bulletin board.

## Collection for January

### Items needed in the pantry now:

- Paper Towels
- Pasta sauce
- Oatmeal
- Laundry soap
- Shampoo
- Cereal

## Lydia's Pantry

### Food Items

**Hot Cereal:** Oatmeal, Single Packs  
**Cold Cereal:** Boxes, Single Packs  
**Breakfast/Cereal/ Granola Bars**  
**Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup**  
**Macaroni & Cheese** Boxed, Single Cups  
**Hamburger Helper**  
**Manwich Sauce**  
**Pasta & Pasta Sauce**  
**Peanut Butter & Jelly** Grape, Strawberry  
**Boxed Potatoes, Boxed Stuffing Mix**  
**Rice, Egg Noodles**  
**Fruit, Applesauce, Jello, Pudding Cups**  
**Crackers:** Peanut Butter, Cheese Packs  
**Salad Dressing**  
**Juice, Juice Boxes**  
**Single Chip Snack Bags, Microwave Popcorn**  
**Coffee/Filters/Tea Bags/ Hot Chocolate Packs**  
**Canned Chili, Beef Stew, Pasta**  
**Canned Soup**  
**Canned Meats:** Tuna, Chicken, Ham  
**Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Beans, Tomatoes**

### Hygiene Items

**Soap/Shower Gel, Hand Soap**  
**Shampoo**  
**Toothpaste, Toothbrushes**  
**Feminine Products**

### Paper & Cleaning Products

**Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissue**  
**Dish Detergent, Clothes Detergent**  
**Liquid Multi-Purpose Cleaner**

**In December, we served 124 people and 30 NEW people.**



# Open Table Thank You

A special thank you for all your support during the past year for Open Table. Thank you for joining us help serve our community, neighbors and giving your time to show God's love through sharing a meal. We served over 1,000 meals this past year!

Without your monetary support, it would be difficult to meet these needs. Thank you for your generous giving to Mission Support and Open Table.

The meal couldn't happen without our dedicated volunteers who continue to make delicious food, deliver to-go meals to our members and clean-up the kitchen afterward. Plan to join us in 2024!

Thank you!

Joan Conaway, Julie Biondo, Demi Wiper, Pam Collins, Kim Stocker, Sandee Davis, Daniel Holm, Kevin Strohl, Nancy Shorts, Bob Dieter, Chuck Conaway, Judy Prinz, Kathie Kosarko, Michelle Rousseau, Connie Wilson, Fred Ohnmeiss, and Gretchen Willig.



Pictured: Julie Biondo at December Open Table



Advent 2023

## Join Jubellation Handbells



**Wednesdays  
7-8:30 p.m.**

Have you always wanted to play, but didn't know how to start?

The Jubellation Handbell Choir rehearses on **Wednesday** evenings from **7-8:30 p.m.**

The bell choir typically plays once a month during worship.

Please see Connie Wilson and talk to her about joining.

Please bring your finished items to be given in Lydia's Pantry

## Crochet/Knit Needed Items

The Crochet/Knit Group no longer meets at the church.

However, if you enjoy making hats, scarves, afghans and lap blankets at home, you can still share your

items with people in need. Items received will be placed in Lydia's Pantry for the taking.

If you are interested in joining a crochet group, **Warm Up America** meets once

a month at The Griffin. The day and times vary by month. Please contact The Griffin for more information.



## Men in Mission Bible Study



**MEN in Mission**

**Saturdays  
8:00-9:30 a.m.**

Men in Mission is a faith-based study group for men of all ages that meets every Saturday from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. in-person.

Throughout the year, the path of study is chosen from books of the Bible or Christian-themed literature. The conversations each week are the best part of this group. You can attend any time.

**In-Person**

# January Youth News

## Pathfinders Sunday School



SAVE THE DATE

COMING  
UP

**BREATHE.**  
Matthew 11:28

This year Youth Quake BREATHE will be held on **February 9-11, 2024** at the Marriott Pittsburgh Airport,. Any youth Grades 7 to 12 can attend. Registration is completed and NINE Students will be attending with chaperones.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Appleby 330-931-9368 or Dawnya LaMantia 216-849-9327.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 7

**BAPTISM OF  
OUR LORD**

10:30 Pathfinders

January 14

10:30 Pathfinders

January 21

10:30 Pathfinders

January 28

10:30 Pathfinders

February 4

10:30 Pathfinders

February 9-11

**YOUTH  
QUAKE**



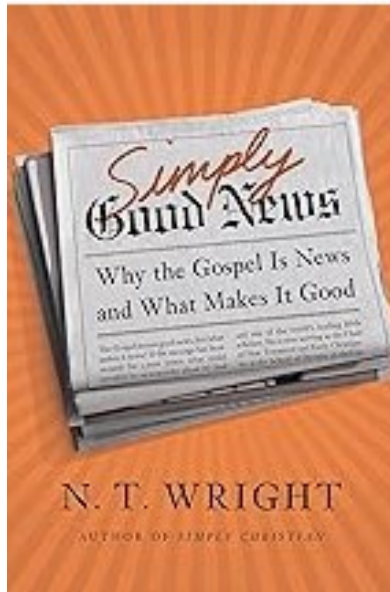
# New Bible Study at Rejoice starts Jan. 9

## Tuesdays at Rejoice

1:00pm

Every Sunday we hear the Gospel read - dutifully responding with praise. Why?

Beginning on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:00pm, a study will begin by reading a discussing the book, "Simply Good News" by N.T. Wright. Led by Dave Denes, we will tackle this central message of Christianity. Please join us!



## Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good

Can be purchased  
through Amazon for  
\$8.79 (paperback).

## Family Service is Looking for Volunteers

The Family Service (formerly known as Christian Service) Committee serves our St. Stephen family in many ways.

- Cards are sent to members when they are in the hospital or after they return home.
- Birthday cards are sent to members.

- A meal is offered to members who return home from the hospital. You may send a restaurant gift card (provided by the church) or make a meal yourself.

You may be asked to help make calls for food donations for funeral dinners.

Cards and stamps are supplied, and a list of volunteers, is included in a notebook as part of the Family Service bag. Members volunteer for one month.

Please sign-up on the bulletin board for this important ministry to help take care of our St. Stephen family.

## Giving Envelopes

**If you need Giving Envelopes,  
please contact the church office.**



[office.ststephenstow@gmail.com](mailto:office.ststephenstow@gmail.com) or call 330-688-7213.

# Ladies' Night Out





# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## January

### Happy Anniversary

1/6 Scott & Dani Schlea

1/12 Rick & Rhonda Vaudt



*Special thanks to*  
**Great Harvest  
Bread Company**  
for donating our  
communion bread  
every week.

Please tell them  
**Thank You!** when you  
stop in their store.

1/4 Chloe Preston

1/6 Connor McNutt

1/7 Kevin Strohl

1/8 Connie Wilson

1/11 Rick Vaudt

1/12 Jacob LaMantia

1/13 David Wright

1/14 Ellen Wingate

1/18 Spencer Hall

1/18 Kenny Liable

1/21 Brady Lyons

1/21 Audrey Tucker

1/22 Joan Pearson

1/23 Kristi Sabin

1/25 Joanne Decker

1/25 Eric Marschik

1/26 Mila Benne

1/27 Jon Paul

1/27 Wendy Raymaley-Hoffman

1/29 Jim Jackson

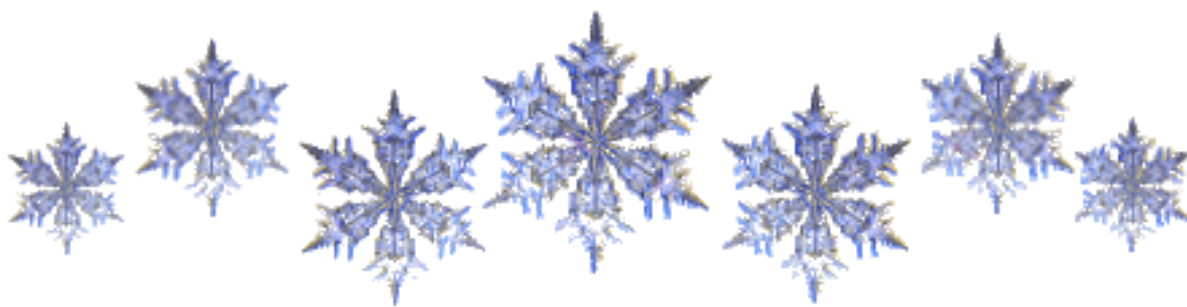
1/29 Rhonda Vaudt

1/30 Lowell Zurbuch

1/31 Fran Dieter

# January Volunteers

Date	Asst. Minister	Lector	Usher
	<b>9:30 am Worship</b>		
<b>7</b>	Larry Kribs	Valerie Huddleston	Mary & Ray Appleby
<b>14</b>	Fred Biondo	Larry Kribs	Michelle Rousseau
<b>21</b>	Brady Pierce	Barb Reid	Brian Clark
<b>28</b>	Fran Dieter	Chris Collins	Jane Koch



Date	CPOD
<b>7</b>	Joan Conaway
<b>14</b>	Judy Prinz
<b>21</b>	Larry Kribs
<b>28</b>	Michelle Rousseau

Date	Coffee Schedule
<b>7</b>	JoAnn Schoonover
<b>14</b>	Seth Kohut
<b>21</b>	Kim Clark
<b>28</b>	Joan Conaway



# January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30 Zoom/Brian 6:15-7p New B's 7-8:30p Bells	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  8am MEN in Mission  4:30 Silver Lake
<b>7</b> Worship 9:30  10:30am	<b>8</b> 7-8pm Cubs 7pm Scouts	<b>9</b> 1pm <b>Rejoice Bible Study starts</b> 6-8pm Border 6:30p Cubs	<b>10</b> 7pm Bible Baptist 7:30 Zoom/Brian 6:15-7p New B's 7-8:30p Bells	<b>11</b>   <b>4-6pm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  8am MEN in Mission 9:30am DAR 4:30 Silver Lake
<b>14</b> Worship 9:30am  10:30am	<b>15</b>  6:30  7pm Scouts	<b>16</b> 6:30p Cubs 6-8pm Border	<b>17</b> 7:30 Zoom/Brian 6:15-7p New B's 7-8:30p Bells	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  8am MEN in Mission 4:30 Silver Lake
<b>21</b> Worship 9:30am  10:30am	<b>22</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>23</b> 6:30p Cubs 6-8pm Border	<b>24</b> 7:30 Zoom/Brian 6:15-7p New B's 7-8:30p Bells	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  8am MEN in Mission 4:30 Silver Lake
<b>28</b> Worship 9:30am  10:30am	<b>29</b> 7pm Scouts	<b>30</b> 6:30p Cubs 6-8pm Border	<b>31</b> 7:30 Zoom/Brian 6:15-7p New B's 7-8:30p Bells			