



St. Jacob Lutheran  
Church

February 2017

# February 2017

## From the Pastor

Well, here it is. My last monthly column for a church newsletter. I've written nearly 500 of these in my career. And I pray that they were all focused on how we together might grow in the Gospel of Jesus, how we might share the Good News with others, how we might invite others into a relationship with God, and how we might care for people everywhere. But I am enough of a realist to know that perhaps only a few of these monthly missives actually made a difference in anybody's life. In fact, I realize that for far too many, I have been a barrier to their growth in the faith. It wasn't intentional but things like personality conflicts are real and things like disagreements sometimes get blown up. I have yet to figure out why just because we have a disagreement it should get in the way of worshipping God. After all, God's grace and forgiveness is meant for everyone and we who are forgiven are called to be forgiving, and we should be able to focus not on what separates us but on what brings us together. To quote St. Paul: "There is nothing in all of God's creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." To all those who have stopped being fed by the word and the sacrament because of me -- come back. I am gone.

I would be remiss if I didn't also say thank you to all who have been a vital part of St. Jacob during my time of ministry in your midst. We together have brought about many changes. Some of them have been physical: a new roof, a new system of heating (and air conditioning) our building, property procurement and a new parking lot, making our building more handicap accessible with the elevator and the remodeling of the rest rooms, a church van, and a new church sign to name a few. Others have been in our focus of mission and ministry: outreach into the community, the food pantry, Relay for Life and the Alzheimer's Walk, use of our Endowment to purchase land for new mission starts in the Southern Ohio Synod, for building an orphanage in Tanzania, developing a relationship with Sinodo Espirito Santo a Belem and the Vila Vehla Parish in Brazil, support of our Seminary (including a new scholarship), and support of a variety of ministries in Shelby County, Ohio, the nation, and the world so many in number that to name them would inevitably leave some out! All this while adding a worship time, continuing to teach our young people in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Early Communion classes and Confirmation classes. I thank all of you for your energy for God, for your commitment to serving our Lord Jesus, for your encouragement along the way, and for your partnership in the mission and ministry that we have together begun and accomplished. I would also be gravely remiss if I didn't thank my very close partner in ministry, Sue. Indeed we have been a team for over 40 years of ministry. And for the support and understanding of my family Kristian and Angela, and their families -- no one knows better the burdens that parish ministry places on a family than those who grow up in the Parish House, with glass walls and interruptions to plans and missed events because of pastoral emergencies!

And now I commend you to one other item. I hope you all read the article on page 11 of the January 2017 Living Lutheran magazine entitled, "Unsolicited Advice From a Departing Pastor". I couldn't say it better. My prayer for St. Jacob is that you continue to "grow, share, invite, and care." God bless you all and may God bless St. Jacob Lutheran Church.

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### Thought of the Month

At a church dinner, there was a pile of apples on one end of a table with a sign that read, "Take Only One Apple, Please. God Is Watching." One the other end of the table was a pile of cookies where a youth head placed a sign saying, "Take All The Cookies You Want. God Is Watching The Apples." *Unknown*

### Bible Trivia Question

Who wrote the book of Philimon?

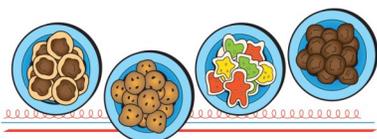
Answer on page 8

## Thank You

Thank you to the Christian Action/Benevolence team for the lovely poinsettia. Also, to the kids who caroled to me and to all who visited and sent cards this Advent and Christmas. Tina Strasser

Thank you to all who contributed items for the warmth baskets. In all we had 48 hats & glove sets, 38 gloves, 6 pair of socks, and 3 pair of slippers. Your generosity will help keep many individuals warm this winter season. St. Jacob Luther League

\*Additional thank you are on the bulletin board in the office area: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Wernle



## Cookie Crew

We are looking for people who like to bake and to add their name to our cookie crew list. We need additional people to be put on a rotating list to be called to donate 2 dozen cookies for our fellowship Sundays and possible other special events thru out the year. These names are rotated so most often you will only be called to bring cookies once or twice a year. To be a part of this crew or with any questions, call Betty Kendall 394-7410.

## LOMO-Summer Camp

There is a 2017 Summer Program Schedule posted on the back window for those interested in going to church camp this coming summer. There are discounts for first-time campers and returning youth campers. Also, each camper will receive a \$100 scholarship from St. Jacob Parish Ed Team and the \$100 from the Christian Action Team. You can save up to \$250 if you register early! Website is lomocamps.org



The Brotherhood will be sponsoring a Sweetheart Dinner on Sunday, February 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Come and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church, please sign if you plan on attending. All women of St. Jacob are invited to be our guests. The dinner is *free* for all women.

## Bereavement Team

The Bereavement Team are needing volunteers to donate food for funeral dinners. Anyone interested in having their name and number added to the call list to donate a dish or help serve, please contact the church office or Vickey Greer 726-0318.



## Funeral Meals

## Sunday Morning Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Readers (8am)	Jeff Bertke	LuAnn Levi	Jennie Bertke	Gloria Zwiebel
Readers (10am)	Molly Berner	Mike Schnell	Carol Bodenhorn	Jeremy Kipp
Acolytes	Bethany Althausen	Hope Bixler	Elliott Davis	Ryan Ely
Crucifer	Kaylie Kipp		Kaleigh Montague	
Greeters	N-David & Joyce McGowan	N-Joe & Wendy Yinger	N--Judy Frilling	N-Scott & Tina Cathcart
	S-Molly Berner	S-Steve Spence	S-Carol Bodenhorn	S-Phyllis Boone
Communion Asst.	Fred Pulfer		Laura Brady	
Blood Pressure Ck.	Kathy Hayes			

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## HUGS-Relay for Life News

HUGS are starting the **Wash Away Cancer** fundraiser for 2017. We are asking you to take a bottle of water home with you. After you drink the water we would like you to put your loose change of **dimes** in the bottle. One per family will be great, but if you want to fill more, that would be wonderful. We will need these brought back to the church of the end of July. Water bottles can be found at the back of the church. Dimes do add up, so let's see how many we get back.

**HUGS-Relay for Life Raffle** - The fight against cancer goes on and we know we're going to win this thing! Hardly anyone we know can say they don't have a friend or relative that hasn't battled this terrible disease. We're asking for your help in raising funds because we think it is important that we all join together to help win. The St. Jacob HUGS Relay for Life team will be sponsoring a raffle to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. This is a community affair and fundraising event for our group to raise money. We are in need of donations for our raffle to be held at the Shelby County Relay for Life in August. All raffle items for this event are donated by businesses and community members. Donations can be monetary, gift certificates, or merchandise. Any and all contributions are appreciated. If at all possible, so we are prepared for the event, we would appreciate any donations by **July 3<sup>rd</sup>**. If you require additional information please contact me, Phyllis Evans 937-394-7214 and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Make checks payable to St. Jacob HUGS Relay 4 Life Team. Thank you for your consideration. The St. Jacob HUGS Relay team couldn't do it without the generosity of donors like you. Please give your donations to a Hugs team member: Jan or Steve Elsass, Phyllis Evans, Joyce Ike, Heather Althausen, Dianne Cavinder, Dave Fogt, Cheryl Pulfer, Carol Bodenhorn, or Betty Koppin.

## Council Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2017

### Members in attendance:

Pastor Althausser	Lisa Brady	Keith Elsass	Rick Ike
Cheryl Pulfer	Jerry Pleiman	Carol Bodenhorn	Ann Huffman
Jim Brandt	Deb Christman	Kim Klopfleisch	Dave Bell
David Fogt			

### Excused Members:

**Gathering Hymn**      “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”      **WOV #652 vs 1-2**

**Listening for God’s Guidance**      **Matthew 2:1-12**

### **Theme: Epiphany**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Brandt.

### Secretary’s Report

Roll Call was taken. The minutes from the December 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Keith Elsass moved and Carol Bodenhorn seconded to accept the Secretary’s Report. Motion passed.

### Financial Secretary’s Report

For December, 2016, the Current Offering was \$22,672.19 and the Benevolence Offering was \$1,686.00. The Capital Campaign collected \$1,785.00. Jerry Pleiman moved and Kim Klopfleisch seconded to accept the Financial Secretary’s report. Motion passed.

### Treasurer’s Report

For December, 2016 the receipts were \$22,507.00 and expenses were \$18,659.26 for a positive difference of \$3,847.74. This brings the Year-to-Date receipts to \$224,586.23 and the expenses to \$204,819.39 for a positive difference of \$19,766.84. Keith Elsass moved and David Fogt seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed.

### **Offering Our Gifts and Talents**

### Trustee’s Report

Jerry Pleiman reminded everyone that Council will be recommending the approval of a quote from TESCO not to exceed \$7,600 to refurbish the church bus. This recommendation will take place at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The basement door still needs repair and the elevator now appears to be working. Jeff Bertke should be able to rework the phone line to the elevator in case someone gets stuck and needs help while using it. A list of names that can be called in case a problem arises will need to be posted inside the elevator. Jerry will follow-up on the plaques for the memorial trees honoring Kay Billing and Willard Heintz, Jr. The Trustees will touch base with Elisa Strasser concerning the display cabinet for the different communion sets. The cabinet will honor Karen Schaffer. The announcement in the bulletin concerning the 2 pews in the balcony has drawn an overwhelming response. As of tonight’s meeting, there are 8 people interested in the 2 long pews. Council discussed the fact that there are also 2 shorter pews in the balcony that could be removed. Because there is a greater number of people interested in the pews than we have pews to offer, Council discussed the best way to distribute the pews. Keith Elsass moved and Kim Klopfleisch seconded the total number of pews to be removed as 4 (2 long and 2 short) and those that are interested will need to submit monetary bids. The highest bidder will get first choice of the 4 pews, the next highest bidder will get second choice of the 3 remaining pews and so on. The deadline to submit bids will be February 1<sup>st</sup> and Jerry Pleiman’s phone number will be added to the announcement in the bulletin so that interested parties can get in touch with him easier. Carol Bodenhorn moved and Rick Ike seconded to accept the Trustees’ Report. Motion passed.

## Council Meeting Minutes-cont.

Carol Bodenhorn moved and Rick Ike seconded to accept the Trustees' Report. Motion passed.

### Deacon's Reports

**The Parish Ed committee** reported that during the Christmas season \$2,800.00 was collected for the Global Barnyard. This money will cover the cost of a farm, a fish farm and a shareable well. Christmas Eve offerings will be split evenly between Osterland, Shelby Hills and the Global Barnyard with each organization receiving \$1,200.00. The annual Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class is planning a sweet treat for Valentine's Day. The Senior Quilt Team is waiting on pictures from some of the students. Bible School dates will be June 12<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup> and the program will be presented to the congregation on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Bible School theme is "A Might Fortress".

**The Worship Team** reported that they have not met since the December Council meeting.

**The Vision Development Team** reported that they have not met since the December Council meeting.

**The Benevolence/Christian Action Team** reported that they distributed funds to two local families who recently suffered house fires (Montra and Botkins). They also distributed funds to the Southern Ohio Synod, Hospice, LOMO, Wernle, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Alpha Center.

**The Evangelism Team** reported that they have not met since the December Council meeting.

Jerry Pleiman moved and Kim Klopfleisch seconded to accept the Deacon's Reports. Motion passed.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor reported that the average attendance through December, 2016 for worship was 168.9 compared with 176.1 for 2015. The average attendance for Sunday School was 55 compared with 54.3 for 2015. David Fogt moved and Rick Ike seconded to receive Mike Bertsch into membership via transfer from St. John's Lutheran Church. Motion Passed.

Keith Elsass moved and Jerry Pleiman seconded to accept the Pastor's report. Motion passed.

### Continuing Business

The annual meeting will be held at 9:00am and 10:00pm on January 22<sup>nd</sup>

There will be a special meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm to discuss the Interim Pastor process with Bob Abrams, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod.

Carol Bodenhorn moved and Dave Bell seconded the appointment of Jeff Bertke (3<sup>rd</sup> term) and Mike Bertsch (1<sup>st</sup> term) to the endowment committee. Their appointments will require ratification at the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

### Envisioning Business

A special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 20, 2017 at 7:30pm.

**Sending Forth**            **"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"**            **WOV #652, vs 3-4**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Brady

## Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

## January 22, 2017

The annual congregational meeting was called to order by President Jim Brandt on January 22, 2017. The meeting was held in two sessions, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Althaus opened each session with prayer.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Mark Wahl moved and Jim Bertsch seconded to accept the minutes from the previous congregational meeting that was held on January 24th, 2016. Don Eisenhardt moved and Don Rump seconded the acceptance of the minutes at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions. At the 9:00 a.m. session, Gary Levi moved and Fred Zwiebel seconded to accept the minutes from the special congregational meeting that was held on December 11th, 2016. Kathy Fogt moved and David Fogt seconded the acceptance of the minutes at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Steve Elsass moved and Jerry Pleiman seconded to accept the following reports: Pastor's and Parochial, Financial Secretary's, Treasurer's, Parish Education, General Memorial, Endowment Team, Vision Development Team, Evangelism Team, Worship Team, Deacons, Trustees, and Christian Action/Benevolence Team. Carol Bodenhorn moved and Bonnie Schmidt seconded the acceptance of these reports at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Gary Levi moved and Matt Himmeger seconded to accept the following reports: Women of the ELCA, Christian Cupboard, Bereavement Team, Health Ministry Team, Banner Team, Brotherhood, Youth Ministry and Luther League, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Mission Interpreter, and Thrivent Choice Team. Also accepted was an updated Vision, Purpose, Values and Mission Statement. Roger Lentz moved and John Fahnstock seconded the acceptance of these reports and the updated Vision, Purpose, Values and Mission Statement at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

Council recommended the ratification of Mike Bertsch (1<sup>st</sup> term) and Jeff Bertke (3<sup>rd</sup> term) as members of the Endowment Committee. At the 9:00 a.m. session, Jill Brandt moved and Dave Bell seconded the ratification of these members to the Endowment Committee. Kristian Althaus moved and Kathy Fogt seconded the ratification of these members at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Jan Elsass moved and Mark Wahl seconded council's recommendation to spend up to \$7,600.00 to repair and refurbish the church bus. Don Eisenhardt moved and Joyce Ike seconded the proposed expenditure at the 10:00 a.m. session. The motion passed at both sessions. Also at the 10:00a.m. session, Don Eisenhardt volunteered to take care of the van after it is returned to St. Jacob.

Jim then updated both meeting sessions concerning the call process to replace Pastor Althaus. The process will start February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Pastor Ron Timmons will be our interim pastor. Jim also reminded both meeting sessions that there will be a retirement lunch and open house for Pastor Althaus and Sue at the Anna Elementary School on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m.

At the 9:00 a.m. session, Bruce Bulle moved and Darcy Steinke seconded to recess the meeting until the 10:00 a.m. session. Motion passed. At the 10:00 a.m. session, Penny Fahnstock moved to adjourn and Gary Strasser seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Brady

Secretary

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## Easter Flowers

St. Jacob is in need of someone to coordinate the ordering of our Easter flowers. Please contact the church office if you are interested or if you have any questions.





Feb 1	Karen Wilt
Feb 4	Isabella Miller, Doug Thomas, Wendy Yinger
Feb 5	Kathy Ferree
Feb 8	Kendel Strasser
Feb 9	Sue Althausser, Penny Fahnestock, Owen Heintz, Clarence Pfaadt, Faith Schmerge, Gary Strasser, Macy Wahl
Feb 14	Edna Bertsch, Patty Billing, Gabriel Derschem, Leslie Hoelscher, Taylor Huelskamp
Feb 15	Betsy Anthony, Ava Bertke, Steve Spence
Feb 16	Olivia Mauring
Feb 17	Shane Hampton
Feb 18	Michelle Rose
Feb 19	Donna Short
Feb 20	Luca Wagner
Feb 21	Amy Wagner
Feb 22	Michael Hoewischer, Kaitlyn Rose
Feb 24	Carson Shoffner
Feb 25	Allison Shoemaker
Feb 26	Andy Bixler, Brandon Fleshman
Feb 27	Hannah Lee, Kaleigh Montague, Sharon Schnell
Feb 28	Brittany Current, Lorrie Moniaci, Melissa Rivera, Benjamin Wical
Feb 29	Abraham Wildermuth



Feb 24 Larry & Patty Billing

## High School Seniors



St. Jacob is offering a \$500 Scholarship to all 2017 graduating High School Seniors who are members. Please pick up your application in the church office and return it by March 15, 2017.

## WELCA News

WELCA are selling candy bouquets for \$10.00 each. They will be available for pickup on **Sunday, February 12th**. See display in the back of the sanctuary for ordering.

## St. Jacob Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 434 Anna, OH 45302

937-394-4421

www.stjacoblutheran.com

Growing and Sharing; Inviting and Caring

### **Fat Tuesday Dinner**

Sponsored by Luther League

February 28, 2017 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

“New Orleans Cuisine”

Clarence’s Lefty’s Roast Beef Po Boy

Sweet Potato Fries

Bread Pudding with or without Bourbon Sauce

Donation accepted



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## **Upcoming Events**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Feb 5  | Blood Pressure Check 9-9:45 a.m.                          |
| Feb 15 | Hannah Circle 12:30 p.m.                                  |
| Feb 19 | Men’s Prayer Breakfast 7:15 a.m.                          |
|        | Kids of the Kingdom & Luther League-Ice Skating 1:15 p.m. |
|        | Sweetheart Dinner 6:30 p.m.                               |
| Feb 28 | Fat Tuesday Dinner 5-6:30 p.m.                            |

Bible Trivia Answer: Paul

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