

# THE SPIRIT OF ST JOHN



*“Those who have met Jesus no longer fear anything.  
We too can repeat the words of the elderly Simeon,  
he too was blessed by the encounter with Christ,  
after a lifetime spent in anticipation of this event:  
“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according  
to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation” (Lk 2:29-  
30).*

*At that instant, at last, we will no longer need anything,  
we will no longer see in a confused way.  
We will no longer weep in vain,  
because all has passed,  
even the prophecies, even consciousness.  
But not love – this endures.  
Because “love never ends” (1 Cor 13:8).”...*

**Pope Francis**

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Joe Wolf, Pastor

# PRAYERS

ALAN BUTTERBAUGH  
JONETTE CHRISTY  
LEOLA CREIGLOW  
JIM & NANCY FOGLE  
LINDA LEIST  
BILL MEYER  
LEE SMITH  
SAM PEARSON  
SHIRLEY WEST

# HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

8 TINA ANDERSON  
16 TIM ACTON



## COMING IN FEBRUARY

**FEBRUARY 14 – NOON GIRLS LUNCH @ SCRAMBLERS**  
**FEBRUARY 21 – 6:30 PM COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 22 – 6:00-7:00 PM ASH WENESDAY SOUP DINNER SERVED BEFORE THE SERVICE**  
**FEBRUARY 22 – 7:30 PM – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE - 6:30 EVERY WEDNESDAY**

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and, ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



**BE SURE TO JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 22 FOR SOUP PRIOR TO THE ASH  
WEDNESDAY SERVICES. SERVING FROM 6:00  
TO 7:00.**

**WE WILL BE SERVING HOMEMADE  
VEGETABLE SOUP, ROLLS AND DESSERT.**

**COME AND ENJOY SOME HOT SOUP AND  
FELLOWSHIP.**

# MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

## LOVE AND TAXES

**To make things clear up front...this is not tax advice.**

When people in the US are employed, many of them have options to voluntarily contribute part of their income for their retirement.

One option is to contribute part of your earnings to an individual Retirement Account or IRA. The funds are deducted from your paycheck on a pretax basis, meaning no income taxes are withheld (at that time). You will be taxed later when you withdraw your money.

For whatever reason, some retirees don't have to withdraw very much from their IRAs. This upsets the Government. They want "their" money ASAP. So, they came up with Required Minimum Distributions that mandate how much you have to withdraw each year so they can get their taxes.

Did you know there is a way to withdraw your IRA money and pay no taxes?

By requesting that your RMD be sent directly to a non-profit organization (meaning you never directly receive the money) you won't owe taxes on it.

Here are two examples:

Recently, a past member of St John, contributed 100% of her latest RMD directly to St . John and didn't have to pay any taxes on it.

I know of another lady who contributes 100% of her RMDs tax free to her church on a yearly basis as part of her annual contribution.

If you have RMDs that you must take and don't like paying taxes, you may want to consider having them sent directly to St. John.

Love and Peace  
Alan Fisher  
Council President

### **SOME COMMUNITY NEWS**

THE NATIONAL BARBER SHOP MUSEUM AND HALL OF FAME  
135 FRANKLIN STREET, CANALWINCHESTER, OH

FREE SENIOR TOUR & LUNCH, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23. TOUR BEGINS @  
10:30 AM.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CALL 614-406-9918 TO SIGN UP

**COUNCIL NOTES  
JANUARY 17, 2023**

**ATTENDEES:** Tina Anderson, Bonnie Butterbaugh, Marianne Daily, Mike Drodofsky, Shirley Evans, Alan Fisher, Charlotte Meyer, Chuck Wolcott, Ruby Wolcott

**ABSENT:** Jonette Christy, Jon Leist, Jill Snyder, and Pastor Wolf

Meeting called to order with prayer by Alan Fisher.

Council was asked to approve the minutes from the December Congregational meeting (there wasn't a regular council meeting in December). Minutes approved.

**BYLAWS** – Chuck Wolcott and Ruby Wolcott volunteered to work on developing by laws for the new constitution. Need to be completed by the December 2023 Congregational meeting. They seek help from people in the congregation.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – Council approved:

Alan Fisher – President

Mike Drodofsky – Vice President

Secretary – Marianne Daily

**MEF Funds** – Jay Bartos has volunteered to be the congregation representative to oversee the MEF funds. Motion made by Charlotte Meyer, seconded by Bonnie Butterbaugh, approved by a vote of Council.

**CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY BULLETINS** - Alan suggested that the songs that are to be sung not be printed in the bulletin. They are available in the hymnal, which are available in each pew. Also questioned if we could do away entirely with the bulletin, but it was decided no...many people use the bulletin.

**Future agenda items** – Plan future social events, Develop Bible Study group, What can we do to improve attendance and how to reach out to those that we notice have not attended for a few Sundays.

Bonnie Butterbaugh asked about the idea of a wedding chapel be located in the church side yard. Also the possibility of a youth pastor. Council decided it was not feasible at this time.

Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted Marianne Daily, Secretary

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> CHOIR 6:00 PM	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> CHOIR 6:00 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> GIRLS LUNCH 12:00 NOON St. Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> CHOIR 6:00 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE	<b>20</b> President's Day	<b>21</b> COUNCIL 6:30 PM	<b>22</b> ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES & DINNER	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> SPIRIT PREP	<b>28</b>				

Church Office: 614-837-2947

E-Mail: [office.stjohnlithopolis@gmail.com](mailto:office.stjohnlithopolis@gmail.com)

Website - <https://www.stjlithopolis.com>

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**DEADLINE FOR THE  
MARCH SPIRIT IS  
FEBRUARY 20**

**St. John Lutheran Church  
133 W. South Street  
P.O. Box 206  
Lithopolis, OH 43136**



**Vision Statement**

“To embrace the gift of who we are as God’s people in this Community and move out into the world to live as Good News proclaimers and doers.”