

November 2025

# The “Good News” Letter

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

203 W. South St., PO BOX 786

**McComb, Ohio 45858-0786**



**Established 1865**

**419-293-3445**

**[sjlcmmccomb@gmail.com](mailto:sjlcmmccomb@gmail.com)**

**Worship 8:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School 9:30 a.m.**

**2025: Year of Listening!**

# THE 'GOOD NEWS' LETTER

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church

November 2025



## Thanking God in the darkest times

*"Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840).*

What a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving for God's blessings! Have you ever wondered where it came from and what inspired the hymn writer?

In 1617, a young clergyman named Martin Rinkart came back to his hometown in the German state of Saxony, newly appointed to serve the church. The next year, war broke out – the war later named the Thirty Years' War. Wave after wave of hungry refugees crowded into the city as armies devastated the countryside over and over again.

Martin and the three other pastors in town worked day and night to serve their suffering people – and then, two decades into the war, plague broke out in the starving city. During that horrible time, Martin was able to write this beautiful hymn.

Pastor Martin was able to see blessings and give thanks to God even during the darkest times of his family's life and his community's life. What blessings do we see today? How shall we give thanks?

*This message is excerpted from "Now thank we all our God" by Audrey Novak Riley*

**GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD  
FOR HE IS GOOD**

*HIS LOVE endures FOREVER!!!*

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St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
October 8, 2025

Members Present: David Sharninghouse, Jerry McCullough, Carol Cary, Carol Yeager, Michele Robles, Linda Ross, and SAM Paul Brooks.

Devotions led by Carol Y. on Ephesians 4:16, guiding us to follow as Jesus led in living with meaning. Linda will lead November 12 Devotions.

Secretary's Report: Reviewed and discussed. Carol C. moved and Carol Y. seconded to accept this report. All agreed and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and discussed. Carol shared our balance in CD's is around \$60,000 and our checking and savings balance is around \$19,000. Jerry moved and Michele seconded to accept this report. All agreed and motion passed.

SAM Report: Paul shares St. Luke's has recently made larger print bulletins for a request and wonders if St. John's feels this need. After a brief discussion it was decided the present size was good. It is very helpful to have the printed copies of the sermon for some who are unable to hear it. Dave will continue doing this.

- Dave noted St. John's will celebrate 160 Years Anniversary on October 15, 2025. It was discussed how to celebrate this. It was decided to have cake and coffee after the October 19 Sunday Service in the Parish Hall. Carol C. will announce this in the October 12 bulletin. Paul shares he plans to incorporate some of the older versions of worship service in the October 19 Sunday Service. He also noted he will lead the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in November instead of Ken and then Ken will lead the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in November.

-Paul gives some explanation on the differences in the narrative lectionary. Our previous one has a 3-year cycle so we read the same scripture references every 3 years missing some other parts of the Bible. 20 years ago another program was developed of a 4-year cycle using lessons going from Genesis through Revelation using some different Bible references. This will run from September through May with an open summer and variations during church holidays (Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter). Area churches have been using the lectionary (Trinity and St. John's in Findlay, St. Mark's in Bowling Green). Psalms are also included in the readings. Paul shares he has a regular meeting with his supervisor (VICAR Jacinda Jones who is at Trinity and St. John's) and they may swap leading worship on some Sundays. Paul also informs thoughts from Synod, noting they recognize we are all in a different place and that the present call process is not functional. A new process has been completed, deemed functional by the Bishop and will be

(Council Minutes cont'd)

instituted. Synod understands each congregational needs are different and need Synod support. The new process has less rigid guidelines. It continues the active use of the Call Committees. Reality is that 50% of our Synod churches have no full time pastor. Synod is supporting interested congregations to follow their desire to continue classes and education to become Synod Approved Minister (SAM). He also shares there are 8 SAMS in seminary (Vicar Jacinda Jones is one) so progressive changes are in process to supply the limited available pastors. Another option has been second career pastors using various pathways to become pastors.

Old Business: Dave reports he has received some estimates on the second bathroom project and others will be received in the next few weeks.

-Michele did contact Robin about a Gideon visit and he said that can easily be arranged when we give him a date this will be needed. Carol C. moved and Carol Y. seconded to give \$100 donation to the Gideons. All agreed and motion passed. .

-A Thank You was received from the ELCA for the \$200 donation for the flood relief victims.

New Business: We have received a request from McComb Hometown Christmas Committee to provide 300 sugar cookies for the children to decorate on this December event. We did this last year and it was decided to do it again. We will bake cookies from Godon Food Service. Jerry moved and Michele seconded to have the church pay for these. All agreed and motion passed.

-Carol C. moved to continue the \$200 donation to 3 families each at Christmas. Carol Y seconded this and all agreed and motion passed. Carol C. will get the names of families in need from the school. The congregation will be notified of this effort in the bulletins.

- Carol Y. shares she will lead the 'Giving Tree' project, giving donated hats, gloves, scarves, socks and monetary offerings to area school children in need of them. More information will be available in the bulletins.

-Carol C. shares the Hancock County Religious Education has a different website. We will continue our previous practice of sending them \$100 from the Christmas Eve offering, using money from the Mile of Pennis if needed to get this amount.

Carol C. moved and Jerry seconded to adjourn the meeting. All agreed and motion passed. Meeting closed by all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Ross, Secretary



## In Our Prayers

In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, Carol & David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Brandt Edler, Mary Schroll, Pat Newel, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops. Please pray for the victims of natural disasters, our shut-ins, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

Annual Congregational Meeting is planned for Sunday, November 16. The budget for 2026 will be on the agenda and nominations for a seat on the church council, as well as some business items. Please come and show your support.

THE GIVING TREE will be up on Sunday, November 30, for your donations of gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and socks. These items will be given to children of McComb, Mohawk and Liberty Benton Schools. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletins. Thanks to Carol Yeager and granddaughter Paige for taking charge of this annual project. (Remember last year's tree?)

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES: This year, we will be collecting monetary donations to remember 3 families with \$200 gift cards per family. The school needs to have the cards by the end of the second week in December. (December 12 is the date settled on by council). More information in the Sunday bulletins.

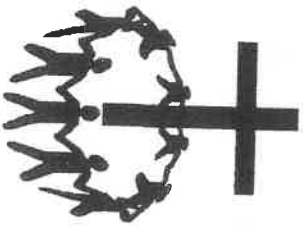
## Serving God and McComb 1865-2025

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is celebrating 160 years of serving the Lord and McComb. The present building was erected in 1885. A Special Marker in front of the church presented by the Historical Preservation Guild in 1985 reads, "This frame church, architecturally typical of the rural churches that were built throughout Ohio in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century, was constructed in 1885 during the pastorate of E.L.T. Engers. The first pastors were from German Reformed tradition and served a German speaking congregation. The church contains native oak hand hewn beams, rafters and floor joists. The stained-glass windows were added in 1902."

So we celebrate - people come and go, yet the church remains and continues. Faith continues and grows through you, the congregation, and dedicated pastors who have taught and guided us in the way of the Lord. It is with great trust in God's mercy that we believe this congregation will continue form another 150 years! With God all things are possible.

Banking Summary - Month To Date  
10/1/2025 through 10/24/2025

| Category               | 10/1/2025-10/24/2025 |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>          |                      |
| Christmas Families     | 25.00                |
| Direct Deposit         | 360.00               |
| Envelopes              | 1,845.00             |
| Mile Of Pennies        | 25.00                |
| Plate                  | 20.00                |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>    | <b>2,275.00</b>      |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>        |                      |
| Sharing Pastor         | 700.00               |
| Utilities              |                      |
| Water & Sewage         | 100.14               |
| <b>TOTAL Utilities</b> | <b>100.14</b>        |
| Electric               | 142.83               |
| Gas                    | 120.00               |
| <b>TOTAL Utilities</b> | <b>262.83</b>        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>  | <b>1,062.97</b>      |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>   | <b>1,212.03</b>      |



# CHOPIN Hall

Christians Helping Other People In Need

**Our mission is to provide food, clothing, and personal care items in Hancock County to people in need.**

CHOPIN Hall is a non-profit organization that services clients regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, or religion.

CHOPIN Hall is volunteer driven and volunteer lead with only one employee.

We are a small group of dedicated volunteers serving the basic food and clothing needs of people in the community.

**Assistance is provided to our clients free of charge.**

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!**

## History

CHOPIN Hall was established in 1984 by two area churches. Representatives from the two churches decided they would make a bigger impact in the community if they pooled resources, both financial and volunteer, to create one organization that would assist individuals in need.

As a result, CHOPIN Hall was created. The name CHOPIN is an acronym for: **Christians Helping Other People In Need.**

CHOPIN Hall has grown and now receives support from more than thirty-five area churches, businesses, foundations, civic groups. Many individuals also provide support to CHOPIN.

On May 1, 2006, CHOPIN Hall moved into The Family Center on North Blanchard Street. The Family Center houses many nonprofit agencies, making it convenient for people in-need to locate the help they require at one centralized location.

**The Family Center**  
Many resources. One mission. All under one roof.

### November Birthdays

11- Quynlan Johns  
15 – Paul Brooks  
15 – Brice McDaniel  
27 - Lorene Raney

### God's Helpers for November

Readers:

2 – Dave Sharninghosue  
9 – Lori McDaniel  
16 – Carol Cary  
23 – Linda Ross  
30 – Jerry McCullough

### Worship Leaders

November 2, 9, 16, 23  
SAM Paul Brooks  
November 30 – Pastor Ken Pollitz

### Altar Care

Sharon Kreh



### Food Pantry Update

Thank you for filling the food box at the rear of the church. It was just overflowing with paper towels, shampoo, body wash and detergent! November requests are hot cereal, soup and crackers. The two pantries we support are always very appreciative of our donations to help feed families needing help. Thanks again!!



### November Anniversaries

1 – Jim & Lisa Kryling  
18 – Paul & Sue Maki  
26 - Todd & Holly Hankin

### Calendar of Events

Nov. 2 – ALL SAINTS SUNDAY  
Nov. 2 – Time Change, Fall back one hour!

Nov. 11 – VETERANS DAY  
Nov. 11 – Lions Dinner @ 6:30  
Nov. 12 – Church Council Mtg.  
Nov. 16 – ANNUAL CONG. MEETING  
Nov. 23 – CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY  
Nov. 27 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Count your Blessings!

Nov. 28 – Newsletter Deadline  
Nov. 30 – 'Giving Tree' Up Today.



### Looking Ahead:

December 1 – ADVENT BEGINS  
December 7 - McComb's Hometown Christmas

### RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

**H**ave you ever been in the middle of telling a story and then stopped, stuck on a detail like a name or date you couldn't recall? We often chalk it up to age, believing that memory fades with time. But recent studies no longer support that view. In fact, they indicate our memory isn't the problem; it's our ability to *retrieve* those memories. Without a regular rehearsal of some kind, memories become harder to access.

One of the ways to improve that retrieval ability is by regularly scheduled actions or experiences of recalling a certain memory. Our Creator God knew this, so He instructed the children of Israel to set aside one day a week for worship and rest. In addition to the physical rest that comes from such a respite, we gain an opportunity for mental training, to recall that "in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them" (EXODUS 20:11). It helps us to remember there is a God, and it's not us.

In the rush of our lives, we sometimes lose our grip on the memories of what God has done for us and for others. We forget who keeps close watch over our lives and who promises His presence when we feel overwhelmed and alone. A break from our routine provides an opportunity for that needed "retrieval practice"—an intentional decision to stop and remember our God and "forget not all his benefits" (PSALM 103:2).

JOHN BLASE