

February 2026

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

Worship 8:00 a.m.

sjlcmccomb@gmail.com

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

2026: “The Way of Love!”

THE 'GOOD NEWS' LETTER

February 2026



A Storm is Coming!

There's news of a coming storm as I write this. A storm in which an arctic high will collide with a low coming from Baja California carrying a lot of moisture. Sounds like a lot of ice and snow, temps at single digits, windchill at 15 below, oh my. We will better know the results of that by the time you read this. This news prompts preparation, the bananas, milk and toilet paper needs to be acquired. Schools close, emergencies get declared, salt or stone is loaded on trucks, and oh, by the way, the bananas are already gone. Some will check that their car has fuel, some that their generator is working, or that the flashlights have new batteries. Some will sit and worry.

So too another storm looms in our future, the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We prepare for that storm as well. We call it Lent. Lent too is a time of preparation, a time to examine ourselves. What does our stock of love look like? Do we know how to restock? Are we aware of the infinite stock that is available to us, free, unlike the bananas, and that, if we check, it's already in our cupboard. Can we see it? Are we ready for the storm? The storm where God's love collides with the world. We can't describe God. We can say he/she/it, is like..... yet many have this image of an old white guy with a flowing beard sitting on a cloud, rather like DaVinci's work on the Sistine Chapel. Our brain really **REALLY** needs an image. It hates the unknown. It abhors ambiguity.

We all struggle with this. The Israelites struggled with it. That is why they built the golden calf while Moses was getting the Ten Commandments. They needed something to see, to point to. Perhaps that could be a practice for you during Lent this year, examining what you may have constructed as your God. Is it maybe your house or your car? Your business, a thing you spend a lot of time doing, not a hobby but what may look like more of an obsession. Have you stored up? Is that your main focus? Some may even view their church as God even though it's just a building. The array is endless.

What we do know is that God created everything, seen and unseen and that same creation process goes on yet today. He declared it all good, all of it. Perhaps our focus during lent could be on God or rather on God's love since that is something we can observe. During lent these things are some of the subjects we will be exploring on Wednesday evenings at St Lukes. I would invite everyone to come join us for a Lenten gathering meal and conversation, one where we don't need to bundle up as much for as the coming weather storm.

Paul

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 14, 2026

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

Devotions: Led by Carol Y. from Numbers on God's Faithfulness in Keeping His Promises. Linda will lead February 11 devotions.

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

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed and discussed. Carol Y. moved and Linda seconded to accept this report. All agreed and motion passed. Carol C. shares she did obtain a debit card for purchases needed for the church. She also informs she sent the Gideon donation on December 9, 2025.

S.A.M. Report: Paul reports with Lent approaching, St. Luke's has decided to have a Wednesday Lenten Soup and Sandwich evening meal followed by a Bible Study. St. John's is invited to attend this offering.

* Interest in St. John's continuing the Adult Sunday School Class with Paul leading the group continues to be desired. Topic for the Bible Study were discussed but no decision was made at present. (Possible study of Jesus' Parables or Bible basic of our service worship order.) This will start in February some time.

* Ash Wednesday service was discussed and decided to have it at 5:00 pm.

* Paul asked if we wanted to form a new Constitution following a Synod guideline or just revise our present one. Discussion was held on this and also revisit our Mission Statement. As the church formations are evolving, we admitted this would be a great undertaking and maybe a committee should be formed to complete this task. It was decided that copies of our present Constitution would be made for all council members and we would discuss this further at the February meeting.

Business: Dave Asked if we wanted to vote on council leadership office changes. All agreed to stay in our present offices.

- Michele shares Robin will use a large TV when he speaks for the Gideons on January 18 to show pictures on his mission trip.

Council Mtg cont'd.

* Dave shares reports are due to Sharon by January 15 for the Annual Report to be ready by January 25th.

* Paul informs the 2026 Synod Assembly is May 30, 2026 from 9:00 am-6:00 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bowling Green, Ohio. Registration is now open. Church Council is to elect 2 representatives to attend. The cost is \$100 per person from January 1, 2026 'til March 31, 2026. Late registration is \$150 per person from April 1, 2026-April 30, 2026. The church will pay for this.

* The offering of Ash Wednesday Service was decided to be divided between CHOPIN Hall and Blessing Basket at St. John's in Findlay. Each place is to receive \$200 and if needed additional money from the Mile of Pennies Fund can be used to have the amount available. Carol Y. moved and Carol C. seconded this motion, All agreed and motion passed.

Dave shares Ryan is going along well with the second bathroom construction.

Dave shares Thank You notes we received from Linda Ross and Ken Pollitz for Christmas gifts received from us.

Michele shares ideas on various contemporary services and other possibilities as meal offerings to our community for outreach, whether it is done at the church or a local restaurant or facility. With the purpose of food and conversation to show our reach to the community.

Linda moved and Carol Y. seconded to adjourn the meeting. All agreed and motion passed. Meeting closed by all praying the Lords' Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda Ross, Secretary



In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, 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 Newell, Gordon Myers, Vicki Shoop, Jim Cary, Josh, Linda Hoops, Ellery Paige Robinson, Kris. Please pray for the victims of natural disasters, our shut-ins, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Paul Maki. Celebration of Life Service will be held at St. John's at a later date. May our Lord comfort those who mourn.



February Birthdays

22 – Kaidyn Johns

25 – Mary Schroll

God's Helpers for February

Readers:

1 – Dave Sharninghouse

8 – Lori McDaniel

15 – Carol Cary

18 – Carol Cary

25 – Linda Ross

Altar Care – Sharon Kreh



Calendar of Events

Feb. 10 – Lion's Dinner Meeting, 6:30

Feb. 11 – Church Council Mtg, 1:00 pm

Feb. 14 – Valentine's Day

Feb. 16 – President's Day

Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday Service, 5:00 pm

Feb. 22 – Lent Begins

Do You Belong

There is something you have to check at the door
Is life to you a blessing or are you always wanting
more

The gifts that have been given — a few or a lot
Do you appreciate them or not
What do you put before anything else you see
Beauty, money, intelligence, or athletic ability
Our hearts and minds have lost their way
Values have been trampled and blown away
Only turning to God will things turn around
Answers in the Ten commandments can be found
If you live them each day, advice will definitely
be sound

Life will be better with a set of rules
Following them are excellent life tools
Rethink the choice to follow the wrong
In God's goodness, peace and joy is where you
belong!

*Jean Nonnamaker
Bluffton*

