1100 North Main Street
Celina, Ohio 45822
Phone: (419) 586-2332
Fax: (419) 586-2553
www.purpledoorchurch.org
office@purpledoorchurch.org
facebook.com/purpledoorchurch

NOVEMBER 2026

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM Traditional
In the Sanctuary

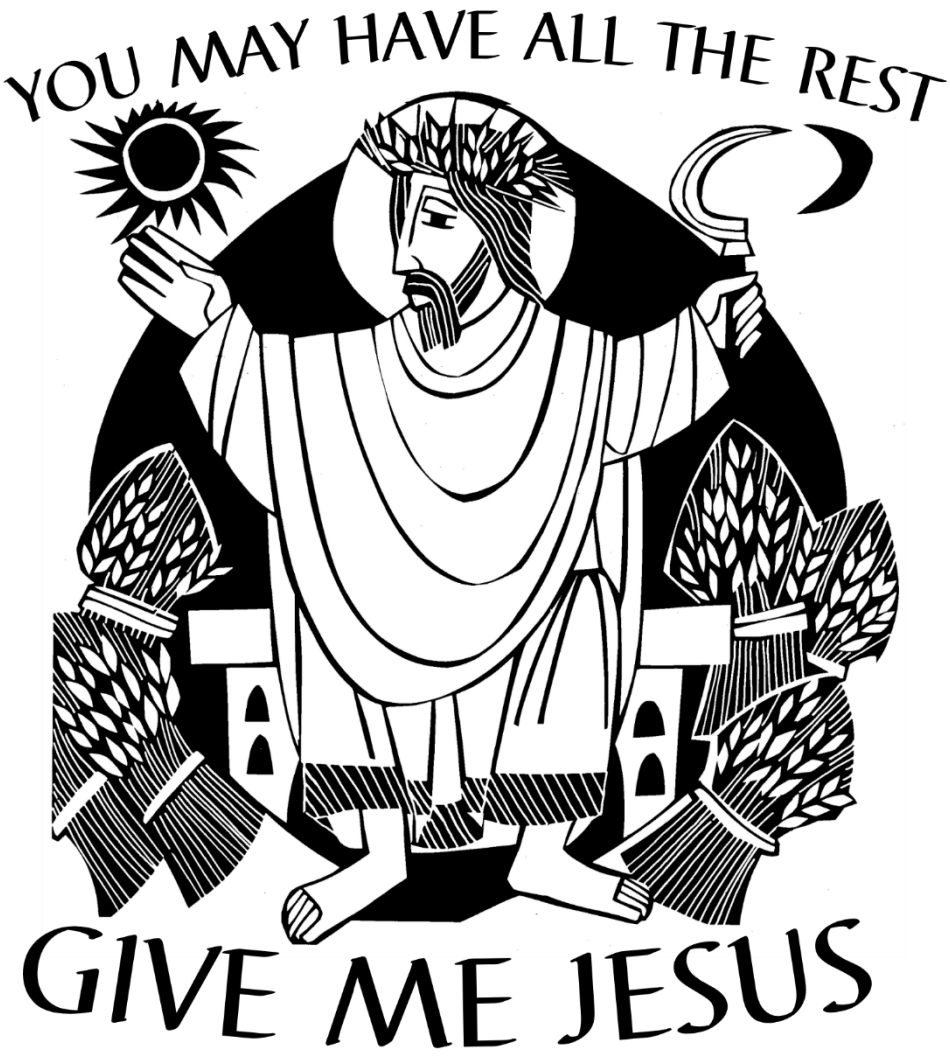
10:45 AM Contemporary
In the Sanctuary

Kids Praise
for Ages 3 thru Grade 4

10:30 AM Radio Broadcast
WCSM – 96.7 FM

9:00 & 10:45 AM
Live Stream
www.purpledoorchurch.org

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:00pm
Friday: *building open*
9:00am-12:30pm



WELCOME

Whether you're new here, or you've been worshiping here for years, we look forward to helping you make a home for faith at St. John.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

***Doors 1 & 2** are the most convenient for traditional and contemporary worship.*

We are a church whose unity is in Jesus, who gathers us around word and water, wine and bread. Our worship is the foundation of our faith. Worship is about what *God is doing* and *our response to God's loving action in our lives.* Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our worship services have four basic movements:

Gathering: We sing, pray, and share God's peace.

Hearing: We hear the Word of God proclaimed through the reading of the Bible and preaching. We respond in faith through confessing our sins, receiving the promise of forgiveness, and songs, prayers, and offering.

Celebrating: We celebrate Holy Communion at every worship service. It is the Lord's Table, so everyone present is welcome to participate.

Sending: Filled and refreshed by our encounter with God, we are sent out into the world for mission through singing and words of blessing.



WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

***Doors 6, 7, & 8 are** the most convenient for WOW.*

Every Wednesday we gather around the table. We start each evening at 5:30 with a meal served by one of our volunteer meal teams. Children and adults, non-members are then invited to join us for fellowship, Bible study, and more at 6:30. Make sure you check in, grab a nametag, and check the whiteboard for your room assignment for the night. At WOW, we come together with those same movements as our Sunday morning services: *Gathering*, *Hearing*, *Celebrating*, *Sending*. Come eat, learn, and find out what God has in store for you on Wednesday nights.

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.
We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Northwestern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



December special worship services

What a joy it is to worship together! In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world. Join us for worship this Advent season.

Children's Christmas Program – December 6

10:45 AM St. John Celina

Night of Promise – December 8

7:00 PM St. John Celina

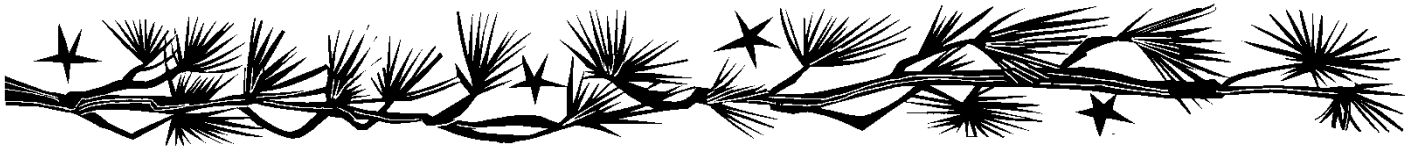
A quiet service of hope for those who need the calming reassurance that God is always aware and always present during the anxious, uncertain, and difficult times in our lives. Anyone from our church and community is invited to attend.

Christmas Eve - December 24

Contemporary 4:00 PM St. John, Celina
Traditional 6:30 PM St. Paul, Northstar
Traditional 9:00 PM St. John Celina

First Sunday of Christmas - December 27

Traditional 9:00 AM St. John, Celina
Contemporary 10:45 AM St. John, Celina
Traditional 6:00 PM St. Paul, Northstar



St. John Church Council

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Present Diane Menchhofer, Myron Buxton, Ed Fuelling, Kim Smith, Moriah Plattner, Chad Sapp, Sam Schmitz, Don Trisel, Vicar Mary Miller, Angie McLaughlin, Ryan Fennig, Brian Miller

Opening: Diane Menchhofer called the meeting to order. Myron Buxton presented the devotional.

Support Pastor's Report: Vicar Mary Miller shared her report. She proposed to keep the Christmas Eve service schedule used last year: St. John 4 p.m. (contemporary) and 9 p.m. (traditional); St. Paul North Star 6:30 p.m.

Kim Smith made a motion to accept this schedule. Chad Sapp seconded. Motion passed.

Business Manager Report: Summary of August Financial Report was presented.

- Myron Buxton made a motion to accept this Report; Chad Sapp seconded. Motion passed.
- Recommendations on insurance coverage from the Audit Team were presented to the Council.
    - Chad Sapp made a motion to approve all recommendations from the Audit Team. Ed Fuelling seconded. Motion carried.

Property Report: John Dieringer informed the church that he retired from parking lot snow removal. We are searching for a new service provider.

Committee Reports:

- Worship Committee met on September 28. They reviewed upcoming services for Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and the Advent and Christmas season. The Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for December 6 during the 10:45am Contemporary service. Our Praise Band received an anonymous donation to be used for the purchase of new drums in the sanctuary; they extend their gratitude for the gift. The Committee also discussed sign-ups for Christmas Eve special music, for writing for the Advent devotional, and rehearsal times for our Praise Band. The next meeting for the Worship Committee is scheduled January 4, 2027, at 7 pm to begin preparations for Lent.

Unfinished Business:

- The request for our preferred vendor to create handrails in the front of the sanctuary was declined; Council is considering other sources for the job.

New Business:

- Chad Sapp made a motion to approve Sam Schmitz - pending his acceptance - to Council to finish the term began by Matt Gilmore. Kim Smith seconded. Motion passed. Sam Schmitz accepted the nomination to Council.
- The church has received three applications for the office position. Applications are being reviewed before extending interviews.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled October 27 at 6:30 pm.
- The following Council meeting is scheduled for November 24 at 6:30pm.
- The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for ~~November 15~~ at 12 noon. NOTE: *the meeting date was subsequently changed to November 29 because of scheduling conflicts.*

Executive Session: Council entered executive session for 30 minutes with the CALL committee and then for 1 hour for personnel.

Adjournment and Prayer: Meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Submitted respectfully,
Moriah Plattner

September Financials

Brief Financial Report

	Sep-26	2026 YTD
Income	$48,238	$431,989
Expenses	$39,273	$369,572
Net	$8,965	$62,417

Giving was 1.9% lower than budgeted for the month.

Expenses were 16.64% less than budgeted for the month.

From Pastor Dale's desk…

What time is it? Stewardship Time?

NOVEMBER 2026



THE FALL OF THE YEAR has traditionally been a time in the Lutheran church for an emphasis on stewardship. I recall days of the "Every Member Visitation" where teams of two would leave the church on a particular Sunday after worship, armed with pledge cards and offering envelopes, to attempt to visit all the families in the church and to receive their commitment for the coming year. They asked the question, how would they use their time, talents, and treasure to serve the Lord through the church?

While I've not heard of any congregation doing that program for years, the question remains: how will I use what God has given me to serve the Lord through our church, St. John Lutheran Church? So, the stewardship of my time (*24/7*), my talents (*the gifts and skills God has given me*) and my treasure (*all those dollars that flow through my hands*) should reflect my ongoing commitment to serve the Lord in every aspect of my life.
So maybe today, take a look at what you are doing with what God has given you!

God bless you,
Pastor Dale

LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD, SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH WHATEVER GIFT EACH OF YOU HAS RECEIVED.

1 PETER 4:10



What do Goats Have to do With Jesus?

Well this project isn't really just about goats,
This project is all about LOVE!

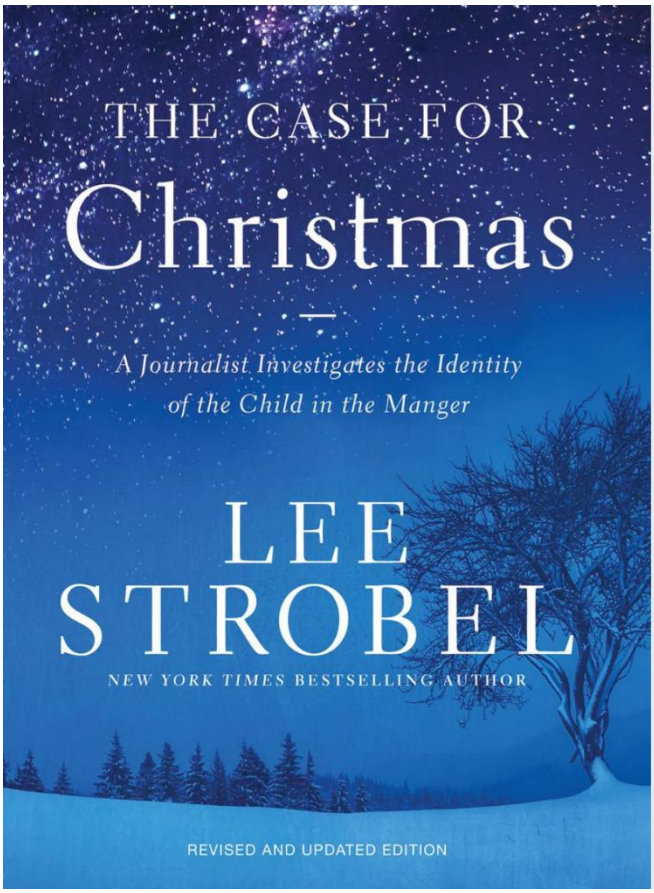
This year we're focusing on the Way of Love, which teaches us how to live like Jesus by caring for others, being generous, and sharing God's love in new ways.
In 1 John 4:19 we are reminded that
"We love because He first loved us."

Jesus loves us, cares for us, and walks with us every day. And because we are loved so deeply, we can share that love with everyone, including our friends all the way over in Tanzania. Our friends in Kashasha are working hard to care for their families and strengthen their community. One female goat costs about $250, and the gift of just 1 goat can bless an entire village for years to come.

Whether you are hosting a youth event, or looking for a fun family or parish project, this opportunity to learn more about our Tanzanian companions and share the love of Jesus is for you—no kid-ing!

SCAN ME!

Check out all our Goat-tastic Resources or Donate by scanning this QR code!



ADULTS OF ALL AGES

Join us during WOW!
for an Advent Bible study

6:30 PM in the Parlor
November 4 • November 11
November 18 • December 2





WOW! Pajama Party

W.O.W ON DECEMBER 2!

Wear your PJ's and join us for a fun night at W.O.W!

Meal: 5:30 - 6:30 PM
WOW - 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Don't forget!
We are collecting PJ's, socks and underwear for local foster kids until Dec 6th
All sizes: Birth to Teen



Saturday, December 5th, 2026 | 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Ways to Join the Fun:

- Decorate a table and attend
- Buy tickets ($20 per person) as a hostess, invite guests, and attend
- Buy a ticket for yourself (and friends) and attend

Table Decorating Info:

- Plan a table for 8-10 with a holiday theme
- Set up: Friday, December 4th, 9 AM - 6 PM
- Have fun with a beautifully decorated table, string orchestra, and brunch by Romer's

Table Judging Categories:

- Most Elegant - Best Christmas - Best Religious - Historical/Vintage - Best Movie/Book/Song/TV - Best Winter/Nature - Most Playful/Unique

To Decorate:
Contact Beth Heiby (419-733-7964), Kim Gardner (419-733-7639), or
Mary Meyer (419-733-0195), along with your category, by the end of October.
Decorators get first seating for their table!

For Tickets:
Cost is $20 per person. Contact the office anytime, or available after Sunday services on Nov 1, Nov 8 & Nov 15, or call/text Beth Heiby.

For ALL the details, visit:
purpledoorchurch.org/festival-of-tables

Thank you so much for your interest in this event!
Beth Heiby - Kim Gardner - Ellen Staehler - Mary Meyer
Sandy Kennedy - Susie Nelson - Gayetta Hogan

LOVE TO BAKE? BRING YOUR BEST!
NO TIME? STORE BOUGHT WORKS!



COOKIE Exchange

LET'S BAKE, SHARE, AND CELEBRATE
THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 9TH
5:30 - 7:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL
ST JOHN LUTHERAN
(PURPLE DOOR CHURCH)

Bring 3 dozen cookies to share and go home with 2 dozen delicious cookies from the exchange.

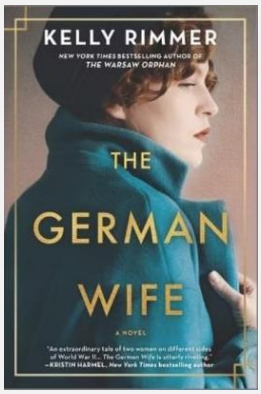








ALL WELCOME TO JOIN!



Book Club

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 23 at 1:00 PM in the Library

Our book this month is *The German Wife,* a historical fiction novel inspired by Operation Paperclip, a secret U.S. intelligence program that pardoned and employed former Nazi scientists after World War II.

Sewing Circle

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS

Upcoming dates:
Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday, November 24

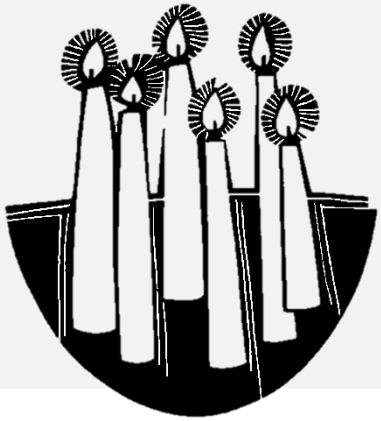
Thanks to our wonderful sewers at St. John and St. Paul and our volunteer transporters, we were able to send around 210 quilts to Lutheran World Relief in October!



Night of Promise Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
7:00PM IN THE SANCTUARY

A quiet service of hope for those who need the calming reassurance that God is always aware and always present during the anxious, uncertain, and difficult times in our lives. Anyone from our church and community is invited to attend.



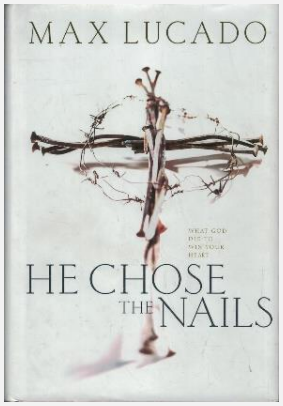
2026 Advent Devotional – *Songs of the Season*

The folks at St. John and St. Paul have been busy preparing the annual Advent Devotional for 2026. Copies of this wonderful resource will be available for the first day of Advent, Sunday, November 29. Pick up your copy and join us as we prepare for the coming of the Lord with our favorite Christmas hymns.

New Member Class

Are you new to the church, or are you just interested in learning about what we believe and what we practice as Lutherans? Join us for some short sessions to learn more about the ministries and history of St. John, the beliefs of the Lutheran church, and what it means to be a Lutheran. Contact the church office or Vicar Mary if you are interested: **office@purpledoorchurch.org** or **m.miller@purpledoorchurch.org**

Shalom Circle - Lenten Study



Shalom invites all ladies of the church to join us as we begin our new Bible study in January. We will be viewing the video, “He Chose the Nails” by Max Lucado. This 5-session program will take us through the Lenten Season. Please let the church office know if you are interested and would like to purchase a copy of the study guide.

Shalom meets on the first Thursday of the month in the Parlor at 1:00 PM. Contact Barbara Gallman (419-586-7981) for further information.

Monday Night Bible Study



The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus Christ, seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the seven-season show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus’ revolutionary life and teachings. Join us on Monday evenings in the Parlor at 7:00 PM.



20s & 30s Bible Study Group

If you're in your 20s or 30s and looking to connect with other adults, we'd love to help you get plugged in! Join us for Bible study this month on Tuesday evenings in the Parlor as we begin our Advent series from the Bible Project.

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 PM - *Hope*
Tuesday, November 24, 6:30 PM - *Peace*

Contact Ingrid at i.tebbe@purpledoorchurch.org or (419) 953-7003 to be added to the group and stay in the loop on upcoming events and opportunities. Come as you are. We'd love to connect with you.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Join us on Thursday mornings in October as we study the Book of Exodus. This book recounts the Egyptian oppression of Jacob's descendants and their miraculous deliverance by God through Moses, who led them across the Red Sea to Mount Sinai where they entered a covenant with the Lord. After God establishes covenantal laws and instructions for the tabernacle, what follows is a story of rebellion, repentance, and divine mercy. Join us in room 106-D at 9:45 AM every Thursday. Hope to see you there.





Thursday Night Bible Study - St. Paul

Join us at St. Paul (outside of Northstar) for Bible study every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall. There isn't any homework to do, and you can join for just one session, or all every week! Contact Vicar Mary with any questions: m.miller@purpledoorchurch.org or (419) 305-2222.

Don't see your Bible study or group included here? Contact the office to share information for next month's newsletter.

Cookie Angels

"Start your Ovens!" The cookie freezer is defrosted, cleaned, and organized. It is now ready for restocking. In the month of October alone, you supplied cookies to over 500 WOW participants and supported funeral dinners and the Sunday Welcome Center. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Did you know…

St. John is a generous contributor to the C.A.L.L. Food and Clothing Pantry. It is often asked, "What is needed?" In response to this, we are doing "Items of the Month."
Last month we highlighted personal hygiene items, particularly for women and children. The need at CALL and in our community for these items is great, so this month, we are again asking for your support in providing these items.

C.A.L.L. MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER ITEMS OF THE MONTH

Pads & Tampons
Toilet Paper
Diapers (all sizes)
Underwear (all sizes)



Santa's Helpers

As in the past, we will collect money during the months of October and November for our early-December deliveries. Our goal is to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to some members of our church family. We send monetary gifts to our active-service military friends. We also deliver care packages to our local homebound and nursing home friends and to those just needing a "hug" this time of year.

If you would like to make a donation, place it in the offering plate or church office marked "Santa's Helpers." Donation cans will be placed in the Narthex for the month of November. Thank you for helping us to show these special people that they are loved and remembered by their friends at St. John!

November

WALKING SCHEDULE

MEET AT 10:00 AM

PURPLE DOOR PACERS

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
	2 **Walk at church**	**3**	**4**	**5** **Walk at church**	**6**	**7**
8	**9** **St. Marys Tow Path** With Zion Walkers	**10**	**7**	**11** **Walk at church**	**12**	**13**
14	**15** **Anthony Thomas Chocolate Factory**	**16**	**17**	**18** **Walk at church**	**19**	**20**
21	**22** **Walk at church**	**23**	**24**	**25** No walking **Happy Thanksgiving!**	**26**	**27**
28	**29** **Walk at Church**	**30**				

ANNIVERSARIES
NOVEMBER

Mike & Sue Fennig	11/3
David & Jennifer Barrett	11/6
Matt & Amy Gilmore	11/11
Gary & Barb Timmerman	11/20
Bill & Cindy Grier	11/21
Beverly & Stewart Kellermeyer	11/22

Help us to celebrate you! If your anniversary or birthday is missing from these lists, let us know.



NOTES FROM
THE CONGREGATION

Thank you for all the cards that were recently donated for the Card Ministry. And thank you to Pastor Dale for delivering them.
Garry Gray

As our season closes, we want to pause and simply say thank you! We appreciate your help keeping our soccer fields looking great. We love partnering with you all so we can provide the best middle school soccer season possible. These athletes had a lot of fun creating memories and lots of wins as a team. We appreciate you all!
CMS Soccer Board

THANK YOU to everyone who donated their time, money, and efforts to our Operation Christmas Child mission. We packed 836 boxes thanks to your support!
Jenelle Gross

BIRTHDAYS
NOVEMBER

Sheryl	Frahm	11/1
Vicki	Weisman	11/1
Betty	Borger	11/4
Colin	Buening	11/6
Jane	Smith	11/7
Austin	Timmerman	11/7
Lynne	Fuelling	11/9
Kristi	Stachler	11/9
Graeme	Stewart	11/9
Phil	Schumann	11/11
Barbara	Hare	11/12
Carolyn	List	11/12
Diane	Menchhofer	11/12
Mike	Fennig	11/15
Carolyn	Shinn	11/15
Vicar Mary	Miller	11/16
Judy	Muhlenkamp	11/17
Jodi	Weisman	11/17
Sam	Schmitz	11/19
John	Maury	11/20
Kenzie	Kellermeyer	11/21
Leah	Plattner	11/21
Dorothy	Bader	11/24
Cory	Timmerman	11/25
Paige	Kuehne	11/28
Ruth	Kuhn	11/28
Natalie	Zizelman	11/29
Wendee	Bertke	11/30
Jeff	Nelson	11/30

CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths
Terry McGlaughlin 9/25
Mary Dieringer 10/22

CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

8 –SUNDAY
9:00 am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
10:45 am Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary

9 – MONDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers/SM Tow Path
7:00 pm Bible Study/Parlor

10 – TUESDAY
9:00 am Bible Study/Parlor
9:00 am Sewing Circle/Sewing Room
6:30 pm 20s & 30s Bible Study/Parlor

11 **– WEDNESDAY (VETERANS DAY)**
8:30 am St. John Flyers/FLC
1:00 pm Book Club/Library
5:30 pm WOW Meal/FH
6:30 pm WOW for all Ages

12 – THURSDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers/FH
10:00 am Bible Study/106-D
6:30 pm Community Outreach/Library

13 – FRIDAY

14 – SATURDAY
2:00 pm Side Quest Adult Group/Brew Nation

15– SUNDAY
9:00 am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
10:45 am Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary

16 – MONDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers
7:00 pm Bible Study/Parlor

17 – TUESDAY
9:00 am Bible Study/Parlor

18 – WEDNESDAY
8:30 am St. John Flyers/FLC
5:30 pm – WOW Meal
6:30 pm – WOW for all Ages

19 – THURSDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers/Dog Park at Boat Ramp

20 – FRIDAY

21 – SATURDAY
2:00 pm Side Quest Coffee Club/Youth Rm

22 –SUNDAY
9:00 am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
10:45 am Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary

23 – MONDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers/East Bank Road Shelter House
7:00 pm Bible Study/Parlor

24 – TUESDAY
9:00 am Bible Study/Parlor

25 – WEDNESDAY
8:30 am St. John Flyers/FLC
NO WOW (Thanksgiving)

26 – THURSDAY (THANKSGIVING DAY)
CHURCH CLOSED

27 – FRIDAY

28 – SATURDAY

29 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00 am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
10:45 am Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
12:00 pm Congregational Meeting/FH

30 – MONDAY
10:00 am Purple Door Pacers
7:00 pm Bible Study/Parlor

These dates and events are subject to change. Please stay up to date with cancellations and postponements on our website or Facebook.

SERVING IN WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Altar Flowers	Altar Guild	Flower Delivery
8:	8 & 15: Joann Plattner (9am)	8: Angela & Greg White
15:	8 & 15: Karen Leugers (10:45am)	15: Linda Long
22:	22 & 29: Mary Meyer (9am)	22: Judy Menchhofer
29:	22 & 29: Ingrid Tebbe (10:45am)	29: Vicki Weisman

9:00 am

	Ushers/Greeters	Readers	Communion Assistants	Welcome Center	Assisting Minister
November 8 *(corrected)*	Todd Hone, Dave McMurray, Mike & Diana Spicer	Todd Hone	Sue & Myron Buxton	Margie Fennig	Kent Miller
November 15	Dan Bird, Ron Heindel, Mike Overman, Steve Siebert	Mike Overman	Don Green, Ed Fuelling	Lauren Fuelling	Carrie Cubberley
November 22	Judy & Lee Fennig, Sam Schmitz, Shane Stachler	Sam Schmitz	Jim & Margie Fennig	Don Green	David Barrett
November 29	Terry Fisher, Beth Heiby, Ed Fuelling, Tim Menchhofer	Ginny Wade	Judy & Lee Fennig	Yolanda Hone	Cindy Wendel

10:45 am

	Ushers/Greeters	Readers	Communion Assistants	Welcome Center
November 8	Buening Family	Adalyn Caylor	Emilie Buening, Pam Rasawehr	*Volunteers Needed*
November 15	Dylan Karbowiak, Michelle & Brian Miller, Pam Rasawehr	Karen Leugers	John Maury, Michelle Miller	*Volunteers Needed*
November 22	Trey Stover Family	Gabe Ventura	Emilie Buening, Pam Rasawehr	*Volunteers Needed*
November 29	Dennis Dagley, Bill & Cindy Grier, Tena Potts	David Barrett	John Maury, Michelle Miller	*Volunteers Needed*

Our Pastors

Mary Miller
Vicar
m.miller@purpledoorchurch.org
Phone: (419) 305-2222

Pastor Dale Schaefer
Support Pastor
Racingrev2003@gmail.com

Our Staff

Jenelle Gross
Director, Children's Ministry
j.gross@purpledoorchurch.org
Phone: (419) 586-2332 Ext. 1004

Ingrid Tebbe
Director, Youth & Young Adult
i.miller@purpledoorchurch.org
Phone: (419) 586-2332 Ext. 1005

Don Trisel
Business Manager
d.trisel@purpledoorchurch.org
Phone: (419) 586-2332 Ext. 1003

Diane Menchhofer
Council President

Property Steward .....Kim Plattner
Custodians.....Nicole Soder, Dayle Ross
Finance Asst. ..... Emily Stewart
Contemp. Music Dir. .....Kim Trisel
Children's Choir Director Cindy Wendel
Video Creator..... . Sarah Plattner
Audio Director ..... Ashley Wagnild
Social Media Cord......Bec Stover

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