

# *The Lighthouse*



St. John's  
Lutheran Church  
NEWSLETTER

January 2026

*Gather, Give, Grow and Go with God!*

Every year we hear of people making resolutions. I've done it myself, only to have those resolutions quickly forgotten or broken. The last couple of years I have been creating a living/leading well plan, setting goals for myself to work on through the year. It is great to have goals but if you have set them, how did you formulate them? Did you meditate on them? Have you discerned if this is something that can be done?

As I have been discerning my plan for the year, I also look at the scripture for guidance. There is another practice that some take on in the new year, rather than make a resolution, and that is choosing a **Word or Phrase for the Year** one can live into. In our Bible Study, this last fall, we have been reflecting on the epistles (letters) of Paul the apostle. The book of Ephesians has risen to the forefront for me as Paul gets a little stern with the church of Ephesus. Paul reminds them that they are a **New Creation** in Christ. Paul reminds them they are called to a new way of life, a dying to the old self, a dying from our sinful nature.



When we make resolutions, or create living/leading well plans, or set a goal for the new year, how have we made ourselves accountable to what we have set in motion? Like I said, I don't know how many times I have broken a resolution. Do we not follow through on these because we set the bar so high we can't possibly achieve it and easily give up? I believe slow and steady can win the year if we are seeing forward progress.

Alongside my plan for the year, I feel it has been important to have a word or phrase for the year. Something that can simplify my plan. So, Paul's words of new creation have been speaking to me. In baptism we all have been made new in Christ Jesus. The reminder as the body of Christ, we can do anything together and with Christ at the center. I wholeheartedly believe that Christ has to be at the forefront of your mind, no matter what you do in life. And yes, this is contrary to what society would, probably, have you think. Being called to be the light in the world is not just a cliché! This is our lived reality if we are living in Christ! If we are thinking of Christ first, in *everything* we do, then we are truly living out our calling as a Christian.

Paul's words to the church of Ephesus speak to us today! It's hard, sometimes, living our calling as the children of God. Just like the church body of that time, today's church experiences its own challenges, but we are being made new every day. We will not get it right every day but that is the beauty of God's grace in our lives every day! Every day we rise we are reminded of a new day God has given us and the new creation we are because of what Christ has done for us. I encourage you to look at scripture and meditate on what your word or phrase of the year could be. God is speaking to us every day in our Holy Scriptures and through each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. God Bless you in the New Year!

In Christ-  
*Pr. Stacy*



**Income & Worship Attendance Summary**

November 2025

	Actual Current Month	Budget Current Month	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual vs Budget
Total Offerings	\$13,743.65	\$12,295.00	\$141,095.57	\$135,200.00	\$5,895.57
Total Revenue	\$14,692.65	\$12,295.00	\$165,189.20	\$135,200.00	\$29,989.20
Total Expenses	\$15,375.68	\$15,880.75	\$186,800.24	\$184,483.25	\$2,316.99
Profit/Loss Net Cash Increase/(Decrease)	(\$683.03)	(\$3,585.75)	\$(21,611.04)	(\$49,283.25)	\$27,672.21
Average Weekly Attendance for November (In-person attendance only)					66

Please feel free to contact the church office for a complete financial report.

**2025 Council Information:**

Sara Beth Holman- President, Stewardship Liaison  
 (email address: sara.b.holman@gmail.com)  
 Amy Spaude- Vice President  
 Desiree Kozlovsky- Secretary, Outreach Liaison  
 Barb Dorn- Financial Secretary, Technology Team Liaison  
 Curt Anschutz- Building & Grounds Liaison  
 Pastor Stacy Malzhan



Michelle Marchand- Outreach Team Liaison  
 Bev Possley- Worship Team Liaison  
 Betty Stevens- Outreach Team  
 Rob Urbaniak- Youth & Education Team Liaison  
 Steve Larsen- Treasurer



***A reminder that Karie will be working from home on Monday, December 29, Tuesday, December 30, and Wednesday, December 31, 2025. The office is closed on New Year's Day and Friday, January 2, 2026.***

# *Annual Congregational Meeting Notification*



**Please join us as we review the 2025 Annual Report and discuss important matters for 2026 and beyond. We MUST have a quorum to complete voting. ALL active congregation members are encouraged to attend.**

**Please discern and pray about stepping into important leadership roles in the church:**

- **Treasurer**
- **Buildings and Grounds Chairperson**
- **Outreach**
- **Council Members (4 openings)**

**Contact a council member for details on these important ministries.**

**Watch your email in January for a copy of the 2025 Annual Report for your review prior to the meeting.  
Thank you!**

# Youth & Education



## Faith Finders! (Sunday School)

Classes take place weekly following Worship until 11:00 a.m.

### Sunday School Registration Forms:

<https://forms.gle/qpCVuLgxfAFkUGnp8>

Children ages 3 and up are welcome to attend! Children are always welcome to bring a friend as well! Please see Miss Karie if you have any questions.

**Sunday School Classes resume January 4, 2026!**



~The LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) is open to all  
Teens ages 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades~

**Club 9 Class:** Weekly Classes on **Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Breakfast Club:** Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 2026, at Kingdom Come Food Pantry.

**Meet at church at 7:40 a.m. Breakfast at JoJo's. Volunteer 9-11am.**

Sign up with Miss Karie today!

### LYO Bible Study:



**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO Miss Karie's SEMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

Following Worship in the LYO Room downstairs.

1/7/2026	New Year Break	No Class
1/10/2026	LYO Breakfast Club	
1/18/2026	LYO Bible Study, 10:15-11:00	<b>PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO Miss Karie's SEMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE</b>
1/14/2026	Club 9 Class at Church; 5:45-7:00pm	
1/21/2026	Club 9 Class at Church; 5:45-7:00pm	
1/25/2026	<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	
1/28/2026	Club 9 Class at Church; 5:45-7:00pm	

*Ministries*  
& OUTREACH



**Brown Bag Bible Study**

Meets weekly on  
Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Please bring your lunch and join us for an engaging Bible Study.  
All are Welcome!

**Resumes Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**



*Thank you*  
VERY MUCH

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for your contributions to the Toys for Tots program. Over 500 children will benefit from your kindness.  
God Bless,  
Toys for Tots  
Osceola County



## ***Foot Care Clinic***

***Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>***

***St. John's Lutheran Church  
1253 County Road J  
Little Suamico, WI***

*Clinics will take place in the Fellowship Hall (located on the South Side of the building) and continue based on clinic use and community need.*

*We will be booking for 10-minute appointment intervals  
from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.*

***Appointments are required*** and may be made by calling Karie in the St. John's Church Office at (920) 826-7785.

*Foot Care includes nail trimming and filing. No callous removal.*

*Clinics are run by Misti Popour, licensed nail technician.*

*Fee is \$20.*

Mealtime Activity Card

# Holiday Would You Rather...



- Would you rather stay at home or go somewhere for the holidays?
- Would you rather go to the store to pick out gifts or buy your holiday gifts online?
- Would you rather drink egg nog, apple cider, or hot chocolate during the holidays?
- Would you rather go crazy decorating for the holidays or minimal decorating?
- Would you rather eat turkey, beef, or fish during the holidays?



**ParentTip:** Always think safety when doing this or any other family activity.

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**Find Resources like this and SO MUCH MORE on our customized website!**

<https://faithforwardnow.org/church/stjohnslittlesuamico/>



Fun, Faith, Family.™

Get ready to **TALK**,  
to **PLAY**, to **PRAY**,  
to be **FAMILY**

**WELCOME!**  
FREE interactive and creative resources for every family.  
INVITE and share with all parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends.

**Scan Here!**



**St. John's Lutheran Church**

<https://stjohnslittlesuamico.org/>



**Free Resources For All Families!**

Welcome to the Faith Forward resource Web site. This FREE site is for everyone. We encourage you to invite and share with all parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Enjoy these creative, fun activities and discussions to practically and playfully be family!

**FREE "Faith on the Go" RESOURCES**

📄 This Week's Download

Come back each week  
or  
add your email to receive weekly

📧 Subscribe For Weekly Emails



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## *St. John's WELCA Officers*

*Sindi Anschutz- President   Tammy Yager- Vice President/ Treasurer   Angie Larsen- Secretary*

*Upcoming Meeting Date: **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** Following Worship*

*ALL women of the church are welcome to attend! Our meetings are filled with discussion and decision making about how WELCA may best support our church, the local community and the greater community and world.*

*Please join us!*



**Click here for more Synod-wide WELCA News:** [Synod WELCA Newsletter~ Open Door](#)

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*God's blessings and peace to all of you as we are still celebrating the amazing birth of Jesus and the world that he changed in so many ways. Thank you for everything that you have shared, created, supported and encouraged for our projects this year. I am so grateful for each of you and I want you to hear it from the bottom of my heart.*

*As I reflect on 2025, there are so many accomplishments, relationships, inspiration, opportunities and challenges. Sometimes I feel like the waistband on my jeans- sometimes overwhelming & disappointing, yet they're durable and have my needed pockets and it's a good day when they fit well!! LOL Change is hard work and most of us have so much on our plate to handle, manage and love. I pray for each of you to be strengthened, encouraged, comforted, supported and loved. That you feel God's embrace every day, the Holy Spirit guiding you in every moment and that our Bibles would go max speed and jump into our hearts and minds as we run through life. Because of God's promise to be with us, He can handle all the big stuff and we can look forward to the opportunities in 2026. Please prepare your hearts for the direction of WELCA at St. John's to prioritize our focus and our energy for its best purpose.*

*And finally, just a moment to share a perspective from the series "The Chosen" when mother Mary was with the disciples and they were asking what it was like to be the mother of Jesus. Her very intimate observation was that even in his majesty, he was a baby who NEEDED HER- her specific nurturing, care and love, and it was her highest calling. As a first time mother, as a young mother, as a displaced mother, as a scared but faithful mother, I found that to be so insightful. (If you get a chance to watch the series or you'd like to, let me know. I've learned a lot, and it has really helped my faith.)*

*God bless you and bring you peace *

*Sindi*



### Message from the Executive Director

By Crystal DeCleene

#### The Spirit of Community

As we enter the holiday season, my heart is filled with gratitude for the incredible spirit of community that makes it possible for families facing homelessness to find safety, stability, and hope through EPH. That spirit is visible in the **partnership of 22 local churches**; the generosity of many dedicated individuals who selflessly share their time, talent, and financial resources with EPH; and the commitment of a passionate team of staff members – all coming together with a shared purpose and steadfast belief in our mission.

Thanks to your support, we are witnessing lives being transformed every day. Families are moving from homelessness into safe, stable homes through our transitional and long-term supportive housing programs. Families that were once at risk of experiencing homelessness are avoiding eviction and regaining stability through our prevention program. Parents are gaining new confidence and life skills through case management, and children have a stable home where they can grow, play, and dream.

One mom had this to share: *"I thank God for the incredible blessing that EPH has been in (our) lives. Without your help, I don't know where I would have been or what I would have done. But with your support and guidance along the way, we still have a place to call home, and our future looks a little brighter."*

Each story of transformation began with people like you—people who chose to make a difference through their gifts, volunteer hours, and prayers – and reflects the power of a community coming together to lift one another up. It is this spirit of community that makes it possible for the mission of EPH to continue to be carried out. Together, we are providing families with homes, hope, and opportunity.

From all of us at EPH, thank you for helping us celebrate the spirit of community and being part of this mission. Wishing you a blessed and joyful holiday season.

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*"I thank God for the incredible blessing that EPH has been in (our) lives. Without your help, I don't know where I would have been or what I would have done. But with your support and guidance along the way, we still have a place to call home, and our future looks a little brighter."*



# In our Community



## St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

6051 Noble St, Sobieski WI (Off of Cty. Rd. S)

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Bingo starts at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 10th & 24th, 2026

Saturday, February 7th & 21st, 2026

Saturday, March 7th & 21st, 2026

Bingo will be held in the church basement with elevator access.

\*\*\*Food and Beverages

Concessions will be available for sale

\*\*\*50/50 Raffle

**COME OUT FOR FUN AND BE A WINNER!!**

\*Per the State of Wisconsin children under 10 years of age are not allowed at Bingo events

## 2026 MEMORY CAFE FUN!! IN THE WOLF RIVER REGION



### January

#### Paint by Numbers

- **Oconto:** 1/5 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- **Keshena:** 1/7 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- **Mountain:** 1/15 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- **Tigerton:** 1/22 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- **Shawano:** 1/27 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center



### March

#### Easter Craft

- **Oconto:** 3/2 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- **Keshena:** 3/4 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- **Mountain:** 3/19 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- **Tigerton:** 3/26 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- **Shawano:** 3/24 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center

### February

#### St. Patrick's Day Craft

- **Oconto:** 2/2 @ 1pm at the Bond Center
- **Keshena:** 2/4 @ 1pm at the (FACE Center) Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- **Mountain:** 2/19 @ 9:30am at Mountain Community Center
- **Tigerton:** 2/25 @ 12:30pm at Tigerton Community Center
- **Shawano:** 2/24 @ 2pm at Shawano Civic Center

*Memory Cafes offer a safe, supportive place for individuals with memory loss and their caregivers to socialize, share experiences, and engage in meaningful activities. Everyone is welcome- come connect with others in your community!*

For questions or to register for any Memory Cafe ~ Please call:  
Liz at:  
1-855-492-ADRC (2372)



## SUPPORT GROUP

We are here to help

**DO YOU CARE FOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER W/DEMENTIA OR MEMORY CONCERNS?**



*A place where caregivers can share their journey, in a safe, supportive environment and find out they are not alone.*

- ✓ **Keshena:** 4th Mon./month @ 1-2pm at the FACE Center-Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek
- ✓ **Shawano:** 4th Wed./month @ 1-2pm at The Daily Drip ~215 Main Street
- ✓ **Oconto Falls:** 1st Mon./month @ 10-11am at the Oconto Falls ADRC
- ✓ **Lakewood:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs./month @ 1:30-2:30pm at Lakes Country Public Library
- ✓ **Virtual:** 4th Mon./month @ 3-4pm via Microsoft Teams. Call 715-526-4708 to register.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Call 1-855-492-2372  
Ask for Liz  
Liz@adrcwolfriver.org

www.adrcwolfriver.org  
W7327 Anderson Ave.  
Shawano, WI 54166



## A QUICK MEMORY CHECK FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW!

Get a Free, Confidential Memory Screen at the ADRC!

A quick 15-minute memory screen is a simple wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. It provides a helpful baseline for where you are today and can guide future check-ins if needed. Appointments and results are confidential.



Benefits of an annual memory screen include:

Annual memory screens provide early detection & better treatments- just as blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, & stroke screenings do. Early detection also supports early planning and peace of mind. Whether you've noticed changes or just want a baseline, our Dementia Care Specialists are here to help.

Contact Liz at the ADRC of the Wolf River Region by calling 1-855-492-2372 to schedule an appointment.



# January 2026



For the most current event and calendar information, go to our website and click on the  
 “Events & Calendar” tab:  
[St. John's Little Suamico Website](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day <b>Office Closed</b> 	2 <b>Office Closed</b>	3 6pm AA Meeting
4 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! Building & Grounds	5	6 9:00am-Noon Foot Clinic  10:00am, Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am, Fitness Class Level 1 	7 OEC Meeting in Fellowship Hall 4pm-8pm	8 11:30am, Brown Bag Bible Study	9 <b>Office Closed</b>	10 9am-11am: <b>LYO Breakfast Club!</b> 6pm AA Meeting
11 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship! Faith Finders! WELCA Meeting	12 <b>Karie out of office</b> 5:30pm, Worship Team	13 10:00am, Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am, Fitness Class Level 1  6:00pm, Council	14  5:45pm-7:00pm, Club 9 Class	15 9:00am-12:00pm Joint GB/Shawano Conference Pastors' Meeting at St. John's.  <b>Articles for Newsletter Due</b>	16 <b>Office Closed</b>	17 6pm AA Meeting
18 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship Faith Finders! LYO Bible Study	19 6:00pm, IRS Book Club	20 10:00am, Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am, Fitness Class Level 1 	21  5:45pm-7:00pm, Club 9 Class	22 11:30am, Brown Bag Bible Study	23 <b>Office Closed</b>	24 6pm AA Meeting
25 <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Fellowship	26	27 10:00am, Fitness Class Level 2 11:00am, Fitness Class Level 1  5:30pm, Y&E Team	28  5:45pm-7:00pm, Club 9 Class	29 11:30am, Brown Bag Bible Study	30 <b>Office Closed</b>	31 6pm AA Meeting



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## JANUARY

- Jan. 2 RaeAnnah Kissinger
- Jan. 8 Dawn Demeny, Easton Eder
- Jan. 9 Lisa Rosenberg
- Jan. 10 Pamela Krumrei
- Jan. 11 Hanna Krejcarek, Rob Urbaniak
- Jan. 13 Tammy Kissinger, Landon Mittelstaedt
- Jan. 15 Kaydence Harper
- Jan. 16 Sara Arndt
- Jan. 17 Darell Brehmer
- Jan. 18 Ken Pagel
- Jan. 19 Mike LeVeille
- Jan. 21 Riley McDermid
- Jan. 22 Robert Luedke
- Jan. 24 Ken Yost
- Jan. 25 Michelle Marchand, Melissa Nelson
- Jan. 28 Tina Bergh, Collin Marchand

## Monthly Fellowship Groups- 2025

As we begin the New Year, our new Fellowship Hour Volunteer Schedule will also begin!  
Please be sure to sign up on the sheets hanging to the right of the Kitchen Door or  
Use the Link Below to volunteer.

### [Fellowship Hour Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

#### Faithful Servants for January

**Worship Assistants are Needed for January Services.**  
**Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

	Sunday January 4	Sunday January 11	Sunday January 18	Sunday January 25	Sunday February 1
<b>Acolyte</b>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>	<i>Needed</i>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Nancy Gleffe <i>Three Needed</i>	Ginny Burkart <i>Three Needed</i>	<i>Four Needed</i>	Shellie Virutes <i>Three Needed</i>	<i>Four Needed</i>
<b>Communion Steward</b>	Nancy Gleffe	Ginny Burkart	Lorna Koch	Shellie Virtues	Helen Malueg
<b>Greeters</b>	Ginny Burkart Pat Rosenberg	Nick & Kim Dunks	Tim & Karie Peters	<i>Two Needed</i>	<i>Two Needed</i>
<b>Reader</b>	Sara Beth Holman	Kim Dunks	Sara Beth Holman	Desiree Kozlovsky	Bev Possley
<b>Scrip Volunteers</b>	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt				
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve & Angie Larsen Dave Zimmerman	Andy Dorn Fran Miller John Warren	Tracey Krumrei Pat & Shellie Virtues	Jerry & Michelle Cooper Family	Elora Currel Lorna Koch John Warren
<b>Technology Team</b>	Doug Malueg	Sara Beth Holman	Barb Dorn	Nikky Urbaniak	Sara Beth Holman
<b>Welcome Center</b>	<i>Needed</i>	Nancy Valentine	Pat Rosenberg	Beth Wentz	Eunice Redlin
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Barb Dorn* Dave & Ginny Burkart	Kelly Stellmacher* John Warren	Doug & Jenn* Cassel Betty Stevens	Barb Dorn* Rob & Nancy Gleffe	Barb Dorn* Dave & Ginny Burkart

**Please let Karie Peters know if you would like to join any Worship Assistant rotations for upcoming services.**



*It seems that our world is FULL of acronyms~*

*What do ours mean?*

*ELCA- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

*VBS- Vacation Bible School*

*EPH- Ecumenical Partnership for Housing      LYO- Lutheran Youth Organization*

*WELCA- Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America*

# From the Church Office

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**Annual Report Submissions are due to the office**  
**NO LATER THAN January 4, 2026.**

## *Annual Congregational Meeting Notification*



**Mobile Giving**

**Fast  
Simple  
Secure**



Giving made even EASIER!

Simply scan the St. John's QR Code and complete your mobile donation in minutes!





**All Announcements are Due to the Office**  
**NO LATER THAN THE WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT DATE.**



There are PRAYER CARDS in the Narthex beneath the nametags and in the pews. If you have a special prayer request, please complete the form and place it in the offering plate or place it in the office mailbox. Your prayer will be added to the Prayer List and will remain there for 3 weeks. If you wish to have the person's name continue to be listed, you must notify the church office in writing on a prayer card or by email. Be sure to let us know when someone may be removed from the prayer list as well. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

**Please be sure to send your February Lighthouse submissions to the church office no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Location:**

**1253 County Road J, Little Suamico, WI**

**Mailing Address:**

**PO Box 55, Little Suamico, WI 54141**

**Office Phone: 920-826-7785**

**Website: [www.stjohnlittlesuamico.org](http://www.stjohnlittlesuamico.org)**

**Email: [stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org](mailto:stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org)**

**Pastor Stacy Malzhan**

*Emergency Contact# 906-202-4415 (text ok)*

**Karie Peters**

Office Manager, Director of Family & Youth Ministry

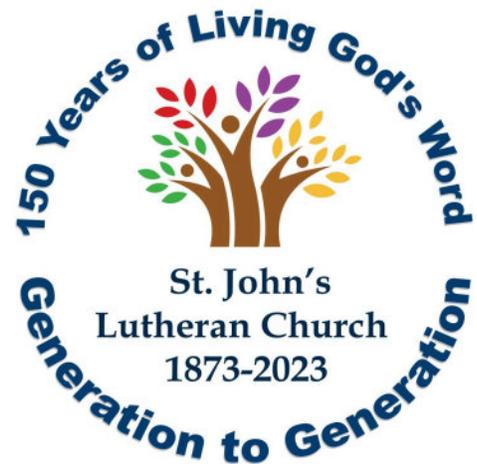
**Janet Francies, Jan LaSota & Wayne Wentworth**

Keyboardists

**Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Call for an appointment with Pastor Stacy.**



*God Bless!*