

ST. JOHN'S CHIMES

Published monthly in the interest of



**St. John United Church of Christ
204 Seventh Street
Lincoln, Illinois 62656**

November 2025 Newsletter

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

204 Seventh Street ~ Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957

E-mail address: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com | Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

"Letting God's love shine through us to the Community we Serve"

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline

Darlene Begolka

Volume 56, No. 11

Pastor

Office Manager

November 2025

*St. John United Church of Christ
warmly welcomes you to
the Installation of our Pastor
Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline
Sunday, November 16, 2025
4:00 p.m.*

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

*Please RSVP by November 12th
by calling (217-732-6957) or
email (stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com).*

*Clergy are invited to robe and process
(red stoles)
and meet in the Fellowship Hall
at 3:30 p.m.*



PASTOR'S CORNER



GIVING THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Discipleship brings its own spiritual rewards, and St. John United Church of Christ is blest by God's presence and Love. This Thanksgiving will be a season of beautiful Fall colors, and we will give thanks for the 165th Celebration's afterglow. We will be humbled and called to new life by my Installation as your Pastor by the Western Association of the Illinois Conference UCC that will grace our fellowship on Sunday, November 16th at 4pm.

GOD IS FOR YOU!

Jesus Christ is the REASON for the season! I would like us to let go and let God! This time of the year we all can feel like we are under constant assault. Fear, stress, worry, and anxiety are at an all-time high. It can feel like we are at war daily. When we feel that trouble is coming our way or when bad news hits us right between the eyes, we need to become determined to replace fear with confidence in God, - to replace our worry with faith, and to replace our anxiety with HIS peace. God is on our side. God is for us and will see us through. Jesus said:

"Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
(John 14:27).

When we know Jesus in a personal way, every day is Sunday! Worship is something sacred, something you experience in places where no one sees, knows or hears...but Him. It is about when you are at the lowest of the lows and you can't talk to anyone

else. He is there! He is holding you! Carrying YOU! Whispering PEACE to you! Those are indescribable moments between you and your Father and Creator. Open your heart, mind, body and soul to the Almighty God in this time of Thanksgiving. Your smile will be different!

Pastor Ken Kline



LET'S REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

ST. CLARA'S REHAB and SENIOR CARE

1450 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Dave Armbrust

Jerry and Mary Berglin

Edna Mara

Wayne Mara

Ruth Post

Susan Webb

CASTLE MANOR

1550 Castle Manor Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Bill Krepps

COPPER CREEK

203 Stahlhut Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

Steve Aue

VONDERLIETH LIVING CENTER

1120 N. Topper Drive, Mt. Pulaski, IL 62548

Sandy Sanders

CEDARHURST OF SPRINGFIELD

3520 Old Jacksonville Road, Springfield, IL 62711

Helen Opperman

CELEBRATE LIFE...

By: Tonita Reifsteck



It was a small group of 5 that met in Kickapoo Park for the October Celebrate Life, but weather was warm and conversation full of memories of St. John and other events in our lives. Cards were signed for those ill, shut-ins and a sympathy card. There were no birthdays this month.

November Celebrate Life will be on Friday, November 14th at 11:30 a.m. in Wilmert Lounge. We are having a Pizza Party. Reservations are needed so we know what your topping choice is and also how much we need. If you want to come but do not like Pizza, bring your own sack lunch. Everyone bring your own drink. Call reservations with pizza choice into Sandy Wilmert (217-737-0260) or Tonita Reifsteck (217-855-1645). We will be signing Thanksgiving cards to send and have a short meeting to designate where our annual Gifts will be going.

GREETERS

November 2nd: Tonita Reifsteck
November 9th: Dan Row
November 16th: Verdeen Ingram
November 23rd: Lynn Spellman
November 30th:

MISSION NEWS

By: Verdeen Ingram and
Marlene Wilmert, Co-Chairs

SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAYS...The Mission Committee has designated the following Sundays:

- **Second Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken for the **Children of Lincoln project.**
- **On the fourth Sunday of each month** a special offering will be taken for the **Diaper Project for Head Start at Community Action.**



When the temps start to turn cooler that means Christmas is only a few short months away. Which means it's time for the Toys for Tots Campaign. The official start date was October 1st. So, when you are out shopping keep in mind those children who would not have a Christmas without the help of Toys for Tots. We have been informed of some needs: items for boys ages 5-12; items for teens, and books in general. But whatever new toys, games, books, etc. you bring in will be greatly appreciated by the children who may not otherwise have a Christmas. Please have your toys to the church by December 8th.

The Mission Committee has a fundraiser planned for Toys for Tots:

- On Thursday, November 20th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Spirited Republic, Silas Tockey will do an Open Mic on a Mission and that mission is Toys for Tots.

For the month of September, 9 bags of groceries were delivered to the Lincoln/Logan Food Pantry. Again, thank you to congregation for continued support of this project.

**Lincoln Logan Food Pantry
Monthly Distribution Report
September 2025**

Individuals served = 1,245
Children served = 366
Households served = 379

Lincoln Logan Food Pantry (LLFP) is thankful for the summer produce donations and monetary donations, allowing volunteers to serve our customers.

The former St. Clara's Manor is now Trillium Place, 200 5th Street, Lincoln, Illinois providing addiction recovery, counselor and therapy services in collaboration with Carle Health Centers, telephone (217-732-6865).

In addition to Trillium Place, Hope on 5th is a non-profit providing shelter and support for those needing assistance. Families, individuals, and military veterans may call 217-737-6297 about the application process.

As the winter season approaches, please remember to share this information with those needing assistance.

Thank you for your support to LLFP.

Sincerely,
Rick Releford
Norm Newhouse
Co-Managers
LLFP, 217-732-6644



HATS, SCARVES, GLOVES AND MITTENS..



It's time to think about hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. Please bring your items by November 16 and place them under "The Giving Tree". Thanks!

**OPEN MIC on a MISSION
for**



**Thursday, November 20
7-10PM – Spirited Republic**

Sponsored by the Mission Committee from St. John United Church of Christ



Articles for the **December** newsletter should be in the Church Office by **November 19th**.

Save the Date...

**Christmas Dinner
Friday, December 19th
5:30 p.m.**

**Spirited Republic
Order from Guzzardo's Menu**

OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY

By: Jim and Leslie Wilmert and
Tonita Reifsteck, Co-Chairs

Outreach Ministry met on October 7, 2025 with Jack and Nancy Leich, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Sandy Wilmert, Tonita Reifsteck and Pastor Kline present.

Meeting opened with a reading from Woodrow Wilson "There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

Pastor Kline opened the meeting with prayer. Report of council as recorded in Chimes.

OLD BUSINESS report included:

- Dan Row keeps welcoming of visitors exciting; notes are sent within the week. If local residents, information sheets will be shared with pastor ASAP
- Toni announced Prayer Chain and Correspondence Note Cards had been ordered.
- Contact with David Helm at LCHS on student needs gave list: deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toiletries, body wash, soap. More information next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Toni passed out Floor plans of church (NOT TO SCALE/no architect trng) copies will be shared with President Silas Tockey, Maintenance Co-chairs Gary Atteberry and Leland Semple
- Details for Program and lunch after church finalized (POSTPONED TO JANUARY)
- Eagle Scouts (2) will be recognized in December
- Christmas Parade is on Thursday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. New ownership/no theme other than Christmas with Lights. We are registered to plan on having bus lit up and in the parade. Sign up to walk or ride the bus/NO switching from walk to ride. Pencils will be passed out on route.
- COFFEE HOUR – still need hosting support.

THANK YOU to all who supplied/loaned pictures and/or articles for display at the 165/100 Anniversary of St. John. They made for a lot of 'memories' and conversations. YOU helped make that day so special.



Interestingly during the day, a coin – a 1925 penny was shared with me (photo attached) that was given to everyone on the day of the Dedication of this building in 1925. This was Gus Gosda's coin, which is being passed on to a family member.



OUTREACH always appreciates the volunteers who help with Coffee Hour – Make coffee and clean-up afterwards. Treats furnished by Outreach unless someone shares with that on occasion. See Jack or Nancy Leich or Toni Reifsteck with questions or sign up on sheet in Narthex or in kitchen. Enjoyable fellowship prior to worship every Sunday from 9:15 until 10:00 a.m.



Small Town Creations made 2 extra shirts for our display that are now available if someone wanted one and did not get order in both are \$22. Others can possibly be ordered if she has any of the sizes requested left in her stock she ordered for us. See Toni for details.

MEALS ON WHEELS needs team
1st and 3rd Wednesday
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
See/call Tonita Reifsteck (217-855-1645)

**St. John Diners
 Busy Corner in Goodfield
 Saturday, November 15th
 11:30 a.m.**



Are you planning to attend St. John Diners in November? Sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary to let us know. This way we know how many to make the reservation for. Be at the church parking lot on November 15th by 10:45 a.m. to leave for Goodfield. Those driving on their own the reservation is for 11:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS



Beginning Balance		\$12,638.65
Income	\$ 8,025.02	
Transfer	\$10,000.00	
Expenses	\$28,067.43	
Ending Balance		\$ 2,595.24



- November 2nd:
- November 9th:
- November 16th:
- November 23rd:
- November 30th:



**Saturday, November 1st
 8:30 a.m.
 Imo's Café**

All men of the church are Welcome



*We Extend Our Deepest
 Sympathy To...*

The family of Judy Kline.

**NEEDED...
 COFFEE HOUR
 HOST/HOSTESS VOLUNTEERS**



Sign-up sheets are in Narthex and Kitchen.

**TOTENFEST SUNDAY
 November 2, 2025**



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REFLECTIONS ON THE 165/100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

What a grand celebration of St. John's 165 years of influence in lives of people of Lincoln and the 100 years in our current church building that was enjoyed by many on October 26, 2025. From the first chords from the organ as Laura Lee played "Grand Procession" a piece she had written for the 150th Anniversary that was inspired by the story of Wilbur Wilmert, who as a child processed from the old church on 5th Street to this church in 1925 to the last person departing the sanctuary there were moments special to each individual. Led by liturgist Silas Tockey who Welcomed all to worship and led the Call to worship.

Rev. Rich Reinwald read the Old Testament scriptures. Rev. Mrs. Mary Alice Suter read the New Testament scriptures all of which were a part of the worship service of Dedication in 1925. Messages from two sons of the congregation had been sent to be read: "REMEMBER" by Rev. John W. H. Bock presented by Bob Minershagen and "3 Lessons" by Rev. Ted Michalsen read by Hannah Meece both celebrating the ministry of the past but challenged the church on where it should/could go.

Prayers of Joy and needs for guidance were shared and lifted up by Rev. David Marquardt (our bridge pastor in 2023-25).

Recalling that in 1902 Confirmation began in English but services were in German until 1939. David Wilmert brought a bit of history in that vein then prayed the Lord's Prayer in German while Donna Kessinger 'signed' the prayer, a sign of new ways of reaching people of faith.

Pastor Ken Kline officiated at the Communion Table welcoming all as St. John has done for over a century and inviting all to keep their glass communion cup as a memento of this communion- that hasn't changed/always "Christ's table".

Special music by Laura playing for the St. John Singers, led by director Calob Pluhm lifted spirits and reinforced our message we've a story to tell, come and join us.

Everyone was joyful having Joshua Marquardt's joyful spirit back with as he helped ushers with offering. A day already filled with joy was reflected in the benediction by Pastor Kline. Silas Tockey introduced all the guests while a PowerPoint was being set up. A time of memories seeing activities of past years and events more recent gave a thumb-nail image of the life of the St. John family at work and fun times, prepared by Office Manager Darlene Begolka.

Following the Blessing for the meal all moved to Fellowship for the meal: Roast Pork, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Cake catered by Nick Bay/Lincoln Land Catering and served by Laura Lee and her committee: Becky Semple, Sandy Wilmert, Suzanne Tockey, Lynn Spellman.

Following the meal MC Silas Tockey welcomed and introduced the guests of honor: Phil Hoefler (son of Rev. Hoefler), Carol Ricker (daughter of Rev. Warren Seyfert), Tonita Reifsteck (widow of Rev. Wallace Reifsteck), Rev. Richard and Barb Reinwald, Rev. Mary Alice Suter (youth intern 2007), Norma Kramer (widow of Rev. Ken Kramer), Rev. David Marquardt (bridge pastor 2023-2025), Rev. Dr. Ken Kline (Pastor of St. John UCC) and Silas Tockey a worship supply. Recognized but not able to attend were two sons of the congregation: Rev. John H.W. Bock and Rev. Ted Michalsen. As they were recognized Verdeen Ingram presented each with a special ornament with Serenity Prayer etched on a slice of bark. Verdeen explained some of the artifact on display inviting all to browse the displays and items in other parts of the church such as the Wall of Confirmation Classes, Niebuhr plaque on East side of church and pictures in the sanctuary, Wilmert Lounge and the old Stage (Christmas pieces said).

Silas opened the mic to anyone wanting to share any memory etc. (The PA system furnished by

David Helm of Lincoln Community Theater organization.

At the close of the day Pastor Kline gave a blessing for all gathered.

And now this too is history – what is recorded of St. John’s hands in ministry is ours to mold. As the younger generation would say – our history is awesome and so can our future be.

This celebration was possible because a large nucleus of St. John members worked together and stepped up to take a task and did it led by Nancy Gehlbach, Verdeen Ingram, Bob and Sandy Meinershagen, Lynn Spellman, Jim and Leslie Wilmert, Kaye Wilmert and Silas Tockey. Besides those mentioned on Laura Lee’s committee that helped were Janet Johnson, Donna Buse, Donna Kessinger, Roger Michalsen, Dan Row, Ed and Jan Jeffries, Warren Goetsch, Leland Semple and Gary Atteberry helped with set-up, clean-up and/or everything that needed done.

Commemorative Bookmarks were at each of the place settings for those present. Shut-ins and Homebound members will be given one over the holidays and if other members want one there will be some available in Narthex each Sunday or see Toni.

SO GRATEFUL for your participation and help – it’s been a JOY to dig in amongst the files, read the stories and share a small part of it with the St. John family. This won’t be the end of the ‘our story’,

Tonita Reifsteck, Event Chair



ATTENDANCE

September 28th

33 In-Person, 40 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 87+

October 5th

69 In-Person, 149 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 232+

October 12th

35 In-Person, 35 on Facebook, 14 bulletins mailed and website = 84+

October 19th

43 In-Person, 34 on Facebook, 13 bulletins mailed and website = 90+

October 26th

96 In-Person, 36 on Facebook, 13 bulletins mailed and website = 90+

In Loving Memory...



Judy Kline, 82, of Lincoln, Illinois passed away on October 12, 2025, at Lincoln Village Healthcare Center in Lincoln, Illinois. Judy was born on July 21, 1943, the daughter of Francis and Mabel Barrett in Taylorville, Illinois. She married Donald Kline on April 17, 1966, at

the First United Methodist Church in Owaneco, Illinois.

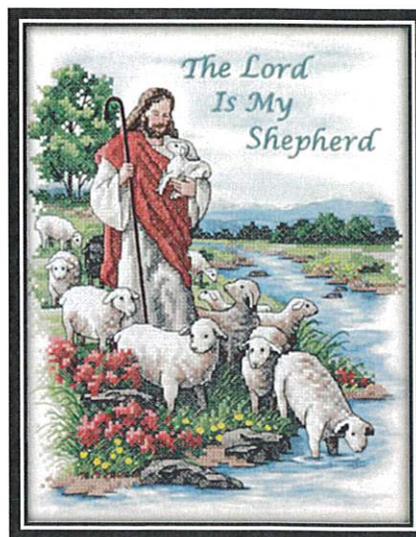
She is survived by her children; Donna (Stewart) Hoyer of Appleton, Wisconsin and Dana Kline of Lincoln, Illinois. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Kline and her parents.

Judy was a member of St. John United Church of Christ in Lincoln, Illinois. She was a member of the Taylorville High School marching band where she played clarinet. She also played the accordion. Judy was in the Chime Choir and Bell Choir and was a member of Family Fellowship and many other various church groups. Donald and Judy were Charter Members of the Railsplitter Antique Auto Club.

Judy worked as a data entry operator in the Driver's License Division for the Secretary of State in Springfield. She also worked as a key punch operator at Myers Industries in Lincoln. She enjoyed playing the organ, participating in church activities, and celebrating Halloween with her creative costumes. She also enjoyed decorating for the holidays.

We would like to thank the staff at Lincoln Village Healthcare Center for their kindness and compassion in caring for our mother. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

A memorial service was held on October 25, 2025 at St. John United Church of Christ with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline officiating.



STEWARDSHIP THEME **"Sacred Hospitality"**

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcome me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Mark 9:37

Ingathering Sunday will be on
Sunday, November 23rd during the
morning worship service.

Watch your mail for your Stewardship Packet



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Brenda Kurtz
- 3 Dan Row
- 6 Lisa Conrady
Cale Costello
Karen Pecoraro
- 8 **Sandy Sanders**
- 9 Twila Muhlach
- 10 Matthew Goetsch
Becky Semple
Scott Semple
- 11 Randy Paulus
- 13 Rich Joseph
- 15 **David Armbrust**
- 18 Tami Pagel
- 23 Nancy Dexter
- 25 Larry Ingram
- 30 Calob Pluhm

The names in **red** are members of our church who are on the visitation list. Let's fill their mailboxes on their birthdays.

SAVE THE DATES...



Thursday, December 4th
Downtown Lincoln Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 6th
Men's Fellowship

Friday, December 12th
Celebrate Life Birthday Group

Friday, December 19th
Christmas Dinner at Spirited Republic

Saturday, December 20th
St. John Diners

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars...



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Pastor Ken is planning to start a Bible Study on Monday, December 1st at 12:00 noon till 1:30 p.m. in Wilmert Lounge. Bring a sack lunch. This Bible Study will meet every Monday.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Dave and Marge Hansen
- 12 Kevin and Angie Kurtz





November Calendar



Saturday, November 1st

Men's Fellowship at Imo's Café at 8:30 a.m.
LCT at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 2nd

St. John Ringers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Singers practice following church
St. John Chimers practice following Singers
LCT at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, November 3rd

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
LCT at 5:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.
Railsplitter Ringers at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4th

LCT at 6:00 p.m.
Outreach and Publicity meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5th

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 6th

LCT at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 8th

LCT at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 9th

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers practice following church
St. John Chimers practice following ringers
Veterans Celebration
LCT at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, November 10th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
LCT at 5:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.
Railsplitter Ringers at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 11th

YMCA from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 14th

Celebrate Life Group at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, November 15th

St John Diners

Sunday, November 16th

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers practice following church
St. John Chimers practice following ringers
Installation Service for Rev. Kline at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, November 17th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Railsplitter Ringers at 6:30 p.m.
Church Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 20th

Financial Oversight at 7:00 p.m.
Toys for Tots Fundraiser from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
at Spirited with Open Mic on a Mission

Sunday, November 23rd

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers practice following church
St. John Chimers practice following ringers

Monday, November 24th

Jubilant Feet at 8:00 a.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.
Railsplitter Ringers at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 25th

Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 27th

Happy Thanksgiving – Church Office closed

Friday, November 28th

Church Office closed

Sunday, November 30th

St. John Singers practice at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour at 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.
St. John Ringers practice following church
St. John Chimers practice following ringers



Note:

The YMCA After School Program
Monday – Friday
3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Prayer List



Alissa Smith
Cheryl F.
Lynn
David
Kathy Staten
Jim Walsh
Kristen
"Pete" Luckhart
Abigail
Middle East
Raymond
Stephanie Opperman
Janet Dullard
Sharlene
Jen Steele
Ellen Schweizer
Beverly
David Dennis
Louise Jeffries
Debbie
Duke
Chris
Allen
Linda Barrick
Wil Buse
Drake Miller
Bill Dennis
Patricia Southerd
Leslie Wilmert

Kevin Wilham
Kathy
Elizabeth Miller
Katie
Jackie Curry
Ron Brawdy
Dorothy
Kelli Thompson
Sandy
Dylan
DJ
Jeremy Cook
Fred
Linda Gehlbach
Nolan
Carol Mills
Ryman Miller
Lainey Miller
Lucy Miller
Kathleen Twente
Kelly Thomas
Russell Hahn, Jr.
Masha Belodubrovskaya and family
Norma Kramer and family
Carroll Richards family

Illinois Conference/Western Association

FACILITIES AND HOMEBOUND:

Dave Armbrust, Steve Aue,
Jerry and Mary Berglin, Judy Kline,
Bill Krepps, Wayne Mara, Edna Mara,
Helen Opperman, Sandy Sanders, Ruth Post,
Susan Webb

Staff of St. John United Church of Christ

Members and Friends of St. John UCC

Rev. Dr. Kenneth W. Kline

Darlene Begolka

Carolyn Pech

Dana Birts

Laura Lee

Calob Pluhm

Darlene Begolka

Ministers

Pastor

Office Manager

Financial Manager

Custodian

Organist

St. John Ringers and St. John Singers Director

St. John Chimers Director

Church Council for 2025-2026



Silas Tockey, President

Randy Pech, Vice-President

Laura Lee, Secretary

Keith Birnbaum, Current Fund Treasurer

Bob Meinershagen (Elder), Special Funds Treasurer

Kaye Wilmert (Elder), Financial Secretary

Donna Kessinger

Roger Michalsen, (Elder)

Carolyn Pech

Contact us:

Email: stjohnucclincoln@yahoo.com

Website: stjohnucclincolnillinois.com

St. John United Church of Christ

204 Seventh Street

Lincoln, Illinois 62656

217-732-6957



**"Letting God's love shine through us to the
Community we serve"**

