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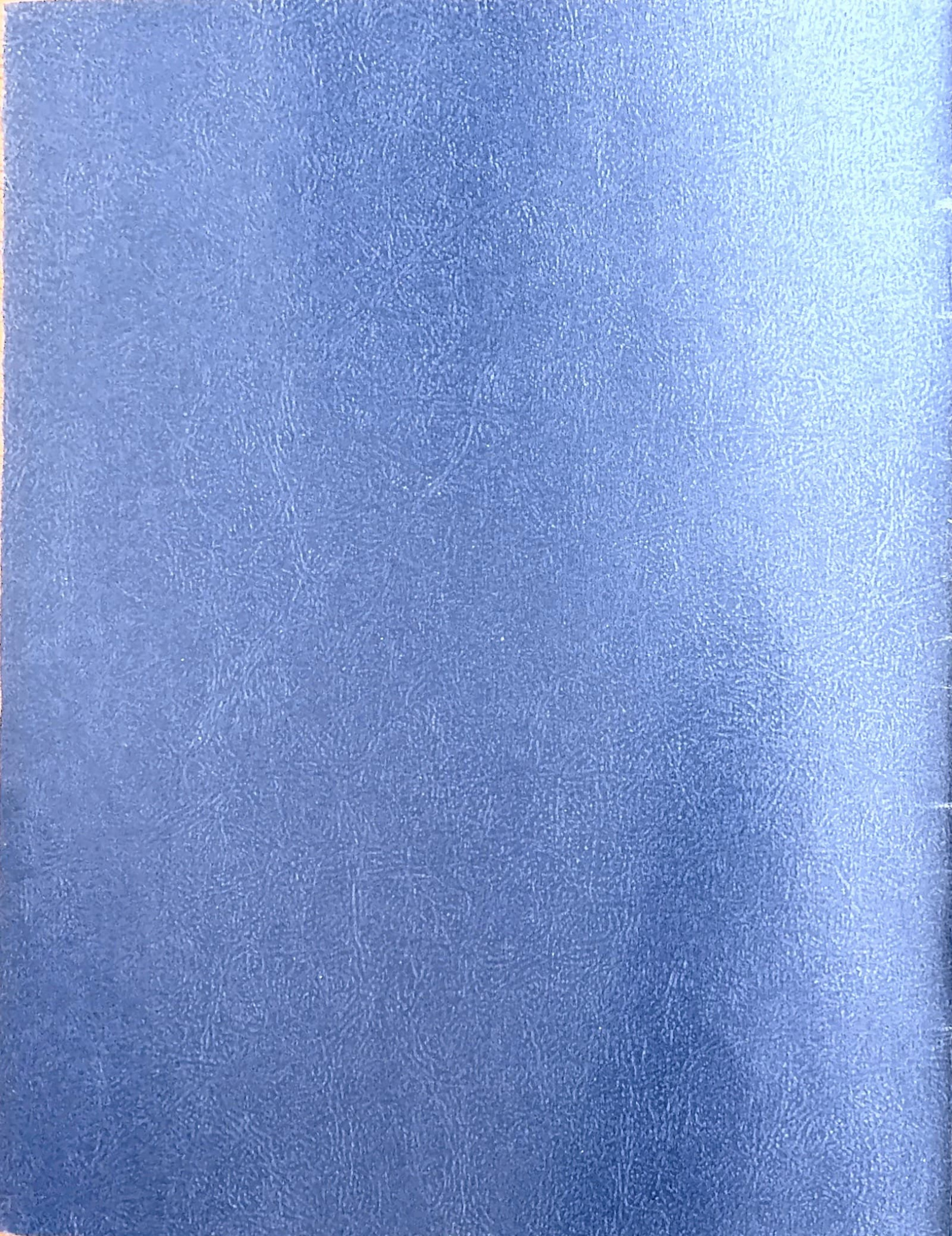
CHURCH
DIRECTORIES
AND PORTRAITS

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St. John's Lutheran Church
Covington, Ohio
1855-2005





Reverend Stephen L. Nierman

A picture is worth a thousand words. Each picture in our 150th anniversary pictorial directory speaks a thousand words about God's grace and our response. We are the church, the people of God (I Peter 2:9), the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:27). We are Christ's eyes, ears, nose, tongue, and hands at this place at this time. We are called to serve (Matthew 25). Our mission statement provides direction: **Unified in Baptism through the Holy Spirit, Called by Jesus Christ to *proclaim, teach, love, and serve others.***

How do we organize ourselves to do this work? The membership model of the church and its chaplaincy model of ministry are neither compelling nor powerful enough for being church in today's world. With the advent of the postmodern (and post-

Christian?) world, people come seeking the experience of God. So, we worship. We receive the sacraments. We study the Bible. We pray. Our faith strengthened, we serve others inside the home, in the community, and around the world.

May God the Holy Spirit, who made us His people through baptism, continue to keep us steadfast to God the Son through word and sacrament, so that we can do God the Father's work in His world for another 150 years.

Pastor Stephen L. Nierman

Our Church Staff



Kristin Gephart - Music Director



Beverly Zimmer - Organist



Stephanie Wood - Secretary



Connie Adams - Youth Director



Sallie Griffin - Financial Secretary



Ron Clark - Treasurer



Laura Schmidt - Voice Editor



Charlie Bruyere - Acolyte

History of St. John's Lutheran Church

A Journey of 150 Years

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Covington, Ohio was organized during the summer of 1855 by Rev. Constantine Koeberlin; although, people gathered for worship in each others' homes several years prior to that. The first 32 charter members worshiped in a rented church until 1863 when the first church building was purchased on South High Street. Twelve years later, the present church building was built at the corner of Bridge and South Wall streets; the year was 1875. The present parsonage was built in 1885. A large bell tower with a steeple was added on the front of the church in 1893. Being a predominantly German community, the services were all conducted entirely in German for many years. Both English and German were used until 1915.

In 1925, St. John's Lutheran Church underwent major renovation. The bell tower was moved from the front of the church to the south side where it is presently, and the steeple was removed. The sanctuary was extended, and the rooms in the back of the church were added for Sunday school classes and other purposes. Under this addition, a basement was also added. The present pipe organ was installed, and other furnishings were added including the pulpit, the altar, and the rose window, to name a few.

In 1938, St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Newberry Township burned, and rather than rebuilding, merged with St. John's. The size of the congregation increased dramatically because of this. By the 1950's, St. John's Lutheran Church had 550 baptized members. There were two services held every Sunday, and many groups and classes were offered including the Fisherman's Club, Luther League, St. Paul's Missionary Society, Luther Chorus, Adult Instruction classes, Lutheran Brotherhood, and Women's Circle meetings.

In 1962, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELCA) merged with several others forming the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). In 1982, the LCA merged with the ALC and AELC to form the present ELCA. Both of these transitions brought more liturgical, traditional hymnbooks to St. John's.

Over the years, the congregation has reached out to the local community and the world in many ways. The congregation began donating food every month to a local food pantry and conducting regular visits to the Covington Care Center. At various times over the years, the church has supported its own softball, basketball, and volleyball teams as well as a Boy Scout Troop. Globally, the congregation has sponsored a church in Haiti and the Rocky Boy Mission in the Rocky Mountains along with various other missions around the world.

The physical changes to the church over the last few decades include a redecorating project around 1980 that included painting and replacing the carpet. In 1991, the basement was renovated and enlarged. A large fellowship hall was added along with a large new kitchen, an elevator, an upstairs bathroom, and another room in the back of the church presently used as a nursery. In 1997, the name and the cross were added to the front of the church.

In 2005, St. John's Lutheran Church is celebrating our 150th Anniversary, and we are currently served by Rev. Stephen Nierman. We have a strong, loving congregation of approximately 300 baptized members. We are proud to support a growing youth group, a choir, social ministries, and various Sunday and evening classes periodically throughout the year.

Fellowship



Easter Brunch



Memorial Day Parade



Children's Sermon



Fort Rowdy



Musical Laughter



Wagon Ride

We gather together ...



Choir



A Joyful Baptism



Making Crullers

... in His name.



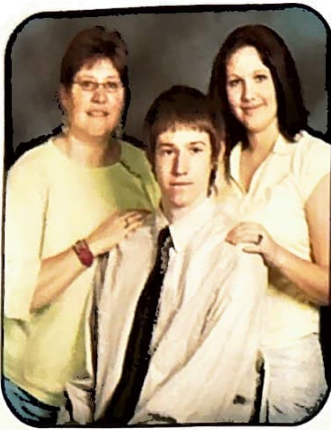
Children's Choir



Eating Together



Making Fruit Baskets



**ALLEN, Pam
Aimee, Robert**



ALTHOFF, Bob & Jane



APPLE, David



ARMSTRONG, Joey & Nancy



AYERS, Art & Becky



AYERS, Eleanor



BEAVER, Viola



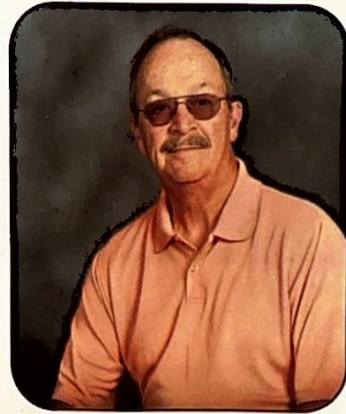
**BESECKER, Bill & Angie
Jessica**



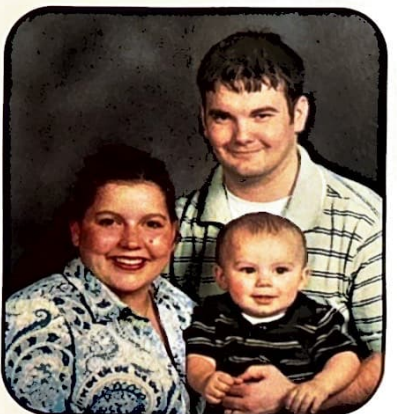
BESECKER, Jerry & Barb



BODKIN, Mildred



CLARK, Ron



**CLARK, Ryan & Elizabeth
Niklaus**



COLBY, Roger & Norma



DAVIS, Esther



DELAET, Vesta



DRIELING, Joe & Phyllis



FENNER, Tom & Marian



FLETCHER, Tim & Jeanette
Annie, Zach, Mitch



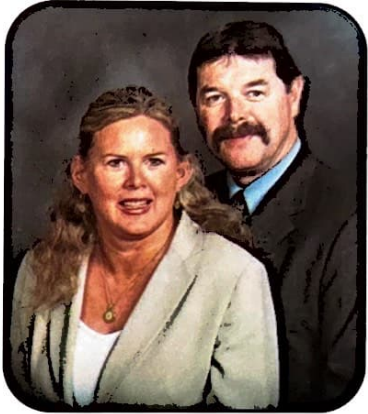
FLORY, Eric & Dawn
Kaityln, Meredith, Landon, Jaiden



‡GEARHARDT, Ashley



GEARHARDT, John & Karen



GEARHARDT, Larry & Michelle



GEARHARDT, Robert & Nancy



GEPHARDT, Scott & Linda



‡GEPHART, Eric & Kristin
Bryce



GEPHART, Holly
Ryan



GRIFFIN, Sally



‡GURKLIES, Bob



‡HAHN, Richard & Gloria



HINES, Marvin & Nola



HOLFINGER, Carl & Opal



‡HOLFINGER, Robert & Evelyn



HOLLOPETER, Leon & Betty
Nick, Erica; Mary Sampson



HORMAN, Charlie & Ann



INGLE, Scott & Miriam



KAY, James & Cindy



KELCH, Naomi



KIEHL, Darrell & Carlene



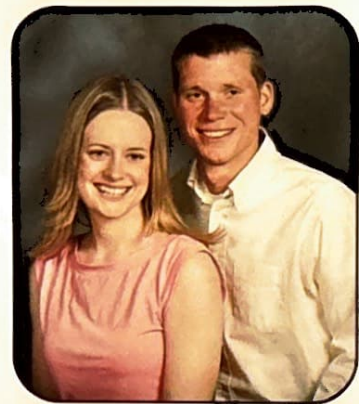
KIEHL, Delbert & Jacqueline



KIEHL, Genevieve



KING, Brooks & Briana



LARSON, David & Rachel



LARSON, Jim & Linda



LEISTNER, Billy & Frances



LONGENECKER, Rick & Sandy
John, Jane



MARTEN, Kevin & Vicki



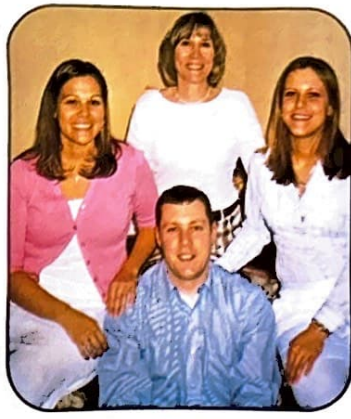
MARTIN, Ray & Marie



MC KIBBEN, Bill & Betty



MC KINNEY, Dale & Marge



**‡MILLER, Christine
Justin, Ginny, Amanda**



MORROW, Linda



MORROW, Margaret



MUTZNER, John & Marjorie



‡NIERMAN, Pastor Stephen & Pastor Alicia



PERRY, Jim & Pattie



POTTS, John & Nancy Gethers



‡ROETH, Arthur & Winifred



ROETH, Harold & Luella



‡ROETH, Noel



**SCHMIDT, James & Laura
Charles**



**SHAFFER, Andy & Kate
Libby**



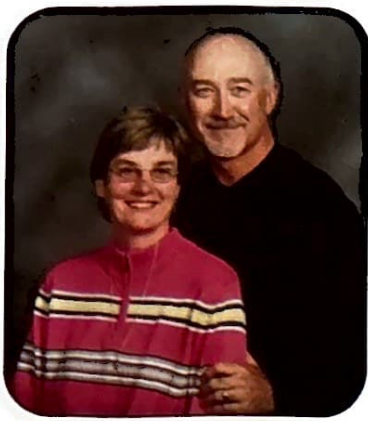
**SHAFFER, Tony & Amy
Mackenzie, Alex, Jake**



‡SHIVELY, Derrek & Oberly, Tiffany



**‡SHIVELY, Jeff & Deb
Aaron, Brent**



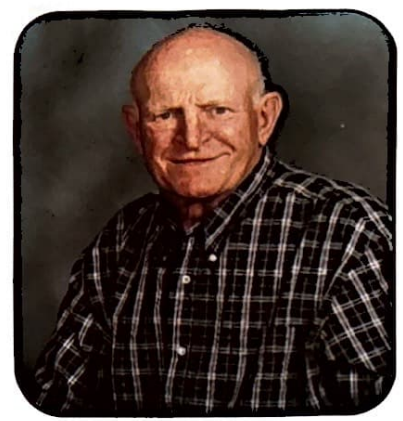
SHORT, Rick & Kathy



SIMMONS, Marjorie



SMITH, Elsie



SMITH, Lowell



STACY, Lester & Wanda



**STANGEL, Karen
Lena, Amber**



SUBLER, Ruth



WARNER, Dorothy



**‡WARNER, Keith & Vickie
Cassandra, T.J.**

NEW MEMBERS/UPDATES

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