
PASTOR LUHRING'S STRONG FAMILIES SERMON SERIES

Pastor Luhring's continuing sermon series on building strong families began April 17/18. This is a study on the Ten Commandments. They are available to hear on St. John's web site www.stjohndefiance.com

June 5/6 Strong Families: Prospering With Integrity Seventh Commandment
June 12/13 Strong Families: Telling The Truth Eighth Commandment
June 19/20 Strong Families: Learning To Be Content 9/10 Commandment
June 26/27 Love Is Not Easily Angered I Corinthians 13:5



INVITE FRIENDS TO CHURCH

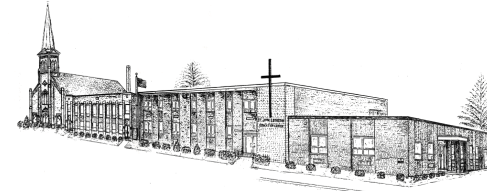
PASTOR'S SERMON SERIES: Please extend an invitation to your unchurched family members and friends to attend services with you. Many people say that they did not attend a church service "Because nobody invited me". So invite your friends to hear God's Word and to become a member of God's Family. Your pastor's Sermon Series are designed to be contemporary and aimed for bringing God's Word to bear on our most significant struggles and challenges of life. Because of Jesus we have hope for tomorrow, confidence in the future, light in our darkness, victory in each trial, rest when we are weary and love for a life time – for Jesus is the Light of the world. Our worship services focus on God's story and how it can still impact lives with stronger faith today and with hope for tomorrow. Bring a friend to worship.

THE FRIDAY'S IRON MEN BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

"**This We Believe**" is a new study of our Lutheran Church's position on selected topics of faith and practice. We will study information on over 50 topics: abortion, anti-Semitism, assisted suicide, charismatic teaching, participating in civic events, cloning, cohabitation, cremation, end-of-life issues, fertility treatment, gambling, immigration, intinction, lay reading of scripture, organ donation, pornography, reproductive technology, undocumented aliens, unity within the synod, etc. etc.

"Iron Men" meet at 6:30 each Friday in the Lunch Room with donuts and coffee. All men are invited to join this one-hour study Friday mornings from 6:30-7:30. You are invited! See you next Friday!

June/July 2010 **The Epistle** Vol. 62 #6 & #7
St. John Lutheran Church and School
Defiance, Ohio



PURPOSE STATEMENT

Worshipping God's Name...
Teaching God's Word...
Living with Christian Values...
Caring with God's Love

Donald L. Luhring, Pastor
655 Wayne Avenue
Defiance, Ohio 43512
419-782-5766
Fax: 419-782-0954
E-mail: sil@defnet.com
Web Site: www.stjohndefiance.com

From Pastor Luhring. . . .

I strongly encourage every member at St. John to become involved in a ministry that you will enjoy and feel called by God to serve in. If you just want to sit around passively over the next ten years and waste your life on things that will not last, you probably want to find another church because you are not going to feel comfortable when I and other leaders at St. John come after you to be mobilized to serve. I want you to know a non-ministering Christian is a contradiction of terms. God calls believers to minister to the world and to the church.

Here is a problem I find: We teach our people that every member is a minister but we take the very best and turn them into meeting attenders and building care takers. You can drain the life out of people by scheduling a constant string of committee meetings. When I find a critical and cantankerous Christian, I usually discover he is not involved in a ministry and certainly not involved in a ministry that fits their shape, their strengths, and their abilities. Again and again I find people changing their attitudes when they get involved in a ministry where they can see how God is using them to serve.

A very sad picture: Most churches are structured where the lay people do the church maintenance at the church and the paid staff does ministry. So you end up with, say, a couple hundred members responsible for maintenance of the church while a pastor and the staff are supposed to do all the ministry. How stupid is that? This kind of structure not only burns out the staff, but it keeps members who are gifted by God to minister, from being mobilized to serve. We invite every member to discover their gifts and use them to serve.

In Third Base Class 301: We teach that every Christian is created for ministry, saved for ministry, called into ministry, authorized for ministry, commanded to minister, to be prepared for ministry, needed for ministry, accountable for ministry, and will be rewarded according to their ministry!

a number 1 rating at competition on May 8. Several of our seventh and eighth grade students are members of the Jr. High Band, and thus an important part of its success.

Right to Read Week - Right to Read Week was celebrated May 3 - 7 with a variety of daily activities for students. Included, in part, was Puzzle Day, Poetry Day, Dress-Up as Your Favorite Story Character Day and Mystery Day. In addition each day, there was DEAR Time (Drop Everything And Read) and Mr. Saxton presented information regarding different types of literature during morning announcements.

Worship the Lord with Gladness - In keeping with this year's theme "Worship the Lord with Gladness" where students give of themselves to help others, Mr. Steketee's fourth grade class logged 110.5 hours of service during the third quarter grading period. Students not only volunteered in the food pantry and Clothes Closet, but also spent time with residents at the Kingsbury House as well as with special needs students at Defiance Middle School. One student even spent time helping to raise funds for a church mission trip to Jamaica. Since the beginning of the school year, Mr. Steketee's students have provided a total of 306.5 hours of service.

USE YOUR VALUES TO GUIDE FINANCIAL DECISIONS

Your values serve as an important foundation for how you manage your money. They're the things that are most important to you—for example, your faith, family, friends, health, education or giving back. Your values give you a rock-solid sense of who you are and what you believe in. Your values come from experiences in life. They also drive your decisions and actions for example, if you value your health, you may exercise daily. If you value learning, you may continue your education by attending classes.

Developing a clear and compelling list of your values makes it easier to choose how you want to use your time, talents and treasures.

When it comes to your money, you have three choices:

1. share
2. save
3. spend

As a steward of your resources, having a guideline for how you use your money can be helpful.

What's more, your values can be a clear, consistent guide to who you are and what you want to become. Investing time and energy to define your values and then aligning your actions with your values is a powerful way to achieve your financial goals and live the life of your dreams.

For more information on how your values can help you achieve your financial goals, contact Bob Heyman Financial Representative, at 419-782-0228 or e-mail address, bob.heyman@thrivent.com, today or visit thrivent.com.

TIME OUT

Time is a gift from God, to be either used wisely, or wasted away. God allows us to choose how to use his gift. Do you use God's time for loving and caring deeds? It's so tempting to take time out, especially in the hazy, lazy days of summer. There is no purpose in taking time out from Christian study or worship to waste away the summer!

SIMPLE DEFINITION

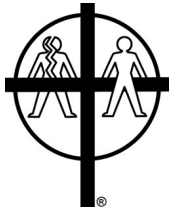
Stewardship may be defined simply as how we use our bodies, minds, spirits, time, talent, and all resources including finances and other material gifts as servants of God. It is what we do with all that we have, to do whatever tasks God calls us to do. It is also to support God's church and other mission stations as places of worship, learning, service, and Christian fellowship. The bottom line, according to St. Paul, is this: "It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (1 Cor. 4:2) if God can trust us to be reliable and fervent in the use of God's gifts to us, well, that is all that is asked of us.

ENDOWMENT

A gift of life insurance of \$15,000 has been given by Delora Duerk to the Endowment Fund in loving memory of Barbara Ann Duerk, daughter of Delora and the late Harland Duerk.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Breaking Free: The Journey, The Stories by Beth Moore is the new women's Bible study for **Sisters in Christ: A Women Supporting Women Bible Study**. In this DVD series, Beth leads women to discover the transforming power of freedom in Jesus Christ and to identify personal obstacles in their lives. Our group meets on the second Monday evening of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our next meeting is Monday, June 14th, and we invite you to come for this new study. Please join us in Penny Mueller's home at 3117 Sandlewood Drive. At 6:00 we share a meal of pizza and salad provided each time. If you prefer, you may come at 7:00 for the Bible study only. We would love to see new faces. Feel free to call Penny Mueller (419-784-3299) or Judy Detter (419-393-2054) for more information.



Stephen Leaders and Ministers

STEPHEN LEADERS

Pastor Donald Luhring
419-782-5766

Penny Mueller — 419-784-3299

Rita Bergman — 419-782-4213

Faith Smith — 419-782-2073

Sheryl Frederick — 419-784-3104

Sandy Joost — 419-542-8564

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Ruth Benien
Dawn Grant
Brian Grant
Deb Hastedt
Larry Joost
Sharon Lynn
Marilyn Reeb
Wendy Hulbert
Jeanette Tingle
Kristina Baxter
Brenda Gary
Jeff Pruitt
Dolena Bergman
Cathy Heyman
Lisa Buntain
Lauren Pruitt
Bill Phlipot
Mary Ann Hurst



St. John Staff Directory

Pastor

Rev. Donald Luhring
782-5766

Associate Pastor

Pastor Joshua Schmidt

Christian Day School Principal

Mike Saxton
782-1751

Director of Youth

Zech Teasdale
DCE Intern

Director of Technology

Rita Bergman
419-782-5766

Director of Assimilation

Nancy Schatz
419-782-5766

Senior Choir Director

Jan Kaiser
784-0706

FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE CONTINUED....

| May 29 & 30 | Service | Offering | Attendance |
|------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| | 6:30 PM | \$1,953.00 | 96 |
| | 8:00 AM | \$2,358.00 | 92 |
| | 9:30 AM | \$2,387.00 | 148 |
| | 11:00 AM | \$1,348.00 | 68 |
| Bridge | 11:00 AM | \$1,472.25 | 97 |
| TOTALS | | \$9,518.25 | 532 |
| DEBT Reduction | | \$ 35.00 | |
| DIRECT DEPOSIT | | \$ 50.00 | |
| SCHOOL TUITION | | \$1,546.50 | |
| TIGERS' DEN FEES | | \$1,280.00 | |

PASTORAL ACTS



BAPTISMS

Serenity Marie Berry
May 9, 2010

Finn Rau Tingle
Trig Rau Tingle
May 9, 2010

CHARITABLE CHRISTIAN CRAFTERS

The Crafters will not be meeting in the month of June. They will meet on Thursdays in the month of July from 9:00-11:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Volunteers are needed for our summer Sunday school. If you would like to help please call Sarah Cavin at 419-438-6003. The summer classes will begin in June.

FINANCIAL AND ATTENDANCE

\$21,938.46 Needed Weekly to Meet Our Budget

STATISTICS FOR MAY

| <u>May 1 & 2 Service</u> | <u>Offering</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 6:30 PM | \$3,128.06 | 96 |
| 8:00 AM | \$2,921.00 | 84 |
| 9:30 AM | \$4,210.00 | 151 |
| 11:00 AM | \$1,555.00 | 215 |
| 11:00 AM Bridge | \$1,419.00 | 110 |
| TOTALS | \$13,232.06 | 656 |
| DEBT Reduction | \$ 45.00 | |
| DIRECT DEPOSIT | \$ 1,170.00 | |
| SCHOOL TUITION | \$ 644.00 | |
| TIGERS' DEN FEES | \$ 1,562.00 | |

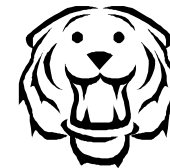
| <u>May 8 & 9 Service</u> | <u>Offering</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 6:30 PM | \$2,138.28 | 92 |
| 8:00 AM | \$2,893.00 | 90 |
| 9:30 AM | \$2,600.00 | 142 |
| 11:00 AM | \$2,219.00 | 174 |
| 11:00 AM Bridge | \$2,699.00 | 87 |
| TOTALS | \$12,549.28 | 585 |
| DEBT Reduction | \$ 55.00 | |
| DIRECT DEPOSIT | \$ 170.00 | |
| SCHOOL TUITION | \$ 4,458.91 | |
| TIGERS' DEN FEES | \$ 3,595.70 | |

| <u>May 15 & 16 Service</u> | <u>Offering</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6:30 PM | \$1,871.06 | 99 |
| 8:00 AM | \$2,519.00 | 88 |
| 9:30 AM | \$3,136.00 | 158 |
| 11:00 AM | \$1,327.00 | 98 |
| 11:00 AM Bridge | \$ 892.00 | 115 |
| TOTALS | \$9,885.06 | 558 |
| DEBT Reduction | \$ 50.00 | |
| DIRECT DEPOSIT | \$ 50.00 | |
| SCHOOL TUITION | \$1,325.42 | |
| TIGERS' DEN FEES | \$1,278.00 | |

| <u>May 22 & 23 Service</u> | <u>Offering</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 6:30 PM | \$1,953.00 | 96 |
| 8:00 AM | \$2,358.00 | 92 |
| 9:30 AM | \$2,387.00 | 148 |
| 11:00 AM | \$1,348.00 | 68 |
| 11:00 AM Bridge | \$1,472.25 | 97 |
| TOTALS | \$9,518.25 | 532 |
| DEBT Reduction | \$ 35.00 | |
| DIRECT DEPOSIT | \$ 50.00 | |
| SCHOOL TUITION | \$ 1,546.50 | |
| TIGERS' DEN FEES | \$ 1,280.00 | |

May 29 & 30 Continues on page 15 >>>

SCHOOL NEWS



St. John Student Success - St. John students have transitioned very well into area schools with a number of our students experiencing notable successes. At Defiance High School, for example, several of our St. John graduates have recently been recognized for their accomplishments.

Natalie Maxey, a junior and an honor student at DHS, was recently selected as a delegate to Buckeye Girls State. Buckeye Girls State is an American Legion Auxiliary program designed to educate young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. Selection involves an interview process of school-recommended students that have excelled academically, been involved with extracurricular activities and possess outstanding leadership qualities. It is an honor for any student to be selected.

Anna Meyer, in addition to being an honor student, has excelled in cross country and track. As a cross country competitor, Anna, a senior, has recorded the 8th fastest time in DHS girls cross country history. In track, she has been part of relay teams that have set 3 school records.

Stephanie Diemer, also an honor student and a senior at DHS, was selected to the 2010 Prom Court. The Prom Court is voted upon by the student body, and being elected represents the respect and admiration that Stephanie has among her peers.

High School Graduation for St. John Graduates - With their high school graduations pending in the very near future, all five of St. John's 2006 8th grade graduates have excelled academically during their high school careers.

Defiance High School seniors **Stephanie Diemer, Matea Gilmore and Anna Meyer** are all Honor Graduates, with each earning an Honor Diploma and the Award of Merit. Anna is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Kaylee Rohlf and Micayla Fitzsimmons will both be graduating from Four County Career Center. Kaylee, a nursing student, is an Honor Graduate, and has earned the Vocational Honor Diploma and the Vocational Award of Merit. In addition, Kaylee is a member of the National Career and Technical Honor Society. Micayla, who consistently has been an Honor Roll student, recently passed her state boards and is now licensed as a cosmetologist.

St. John is very proud of all of these students and feels privileged to have been a part of their personal growth.

7-8th Grade Chicago Trip - Students in the 7-8th grade class will depart for Chicago on Tuesday, June 1 and return on Wednesday, June 2. Among the attractions will be the National Vietnam Memorial Art Museum, the Chicago Field Museum, Shedd's Aquarium, Navy Pier, a Blue Man Concert, an "E" ride, the Sears Tower, Ed Debevic's and a "Block Party" that includes Hard Rock Cafe, a sporting goods store, a 50's Rock-n-Roll McDonald's and Rain Forest Cafe. Students and chaperones will be staying overnight at Concordia University, River Forest.



Tin Caps Reading Field Trip - St John students traveled to Fort Wayne on May 26 to enjoy a Tin Caps baseball game. Free tickets were received by 102 of the 113 students (Kindergarten - grade 8) because of the completion of reading goals in the Tin Caps Reading Program that was conducted during February and March.

Scrip Visa Cards - Visa Gift Cards are no longer available through our Gift Card Program. The new federal Credit Card Act legislation will make offering these cards for gift card programs extremely difficult. The American Express Gift Cards will still be offered and can be used at any establishment that accepts the American Express Credit Card.

New Scrip Retailers - Great Lakes Scrip Center has added two new gift cards: Quiznos and Six Flags Theme Parks. The Quiznos Gift Card is now available in a \$10 denomination with a 9.74% non-profit contribution. Six Flags universal tickets are available for \$30 with a 7.74% non-profit contribution. The Six Flags tickets are redeemable for single one-day admissions at any Six Flags Theme Park and may be used for both adults and children.

Annual Fund - The Board of Christian Day School is presently conducting its Annual Fund. The Annual Fund helps our school by providing needed monies for many special updates to our school. This year's goals include technology upgrades, computer maintenance and educational software, scholarships for needy families, updating our library with Accelerated Reader materials, and teacher classroom allowances. In addition, monies will be made available for student activities and the 8th grade class trip, both of which in the past were made possible only by student fundraisers (magazine sales, candy bar sales, Scott Card Company sales). **It is never too late to make a donation, everyone of which is truly appreciated.** Please contact the school office with requests for donor cards, or with any questions.

Box Tops for Education - **Thank you** for participating in the Box Tops for Education program. Just recently, St. John received a check in the amount of **\$1107.28** for the clipped coupons that were sent in. This money from the Box Tops program is designated for computer software and will prove very beneficial in expanding our computer capabilities. **Please remember that Box Tops for Education is an ongoing program with a collection box in the cafeteria for drop-off.**

PASTOR JOSHUA SCHMIDT, 26 years old, is from Holt, Michigan and is married to Kristin from Missouri. On Thursday, June 24th, Pastor and Kristin will spend a day in Defiance looking for a suitable apartment or house to rent for a year. Pastor Schmidt will be ordained into the Holy Ministry on Sunday afternoon, June 27th at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Holt, Michigan at 3:00PM where he and his parents are members. Pastor Schmidt and Kristin will then be traveling back to St. Louis, Missouri to pack up their apartment and begin the move to Defiance. An installation service for Pastor Schmidt is planned for Sunday, July 11th at St. John Lutheran at 4:00PM with a supper following.

His biography sheet stated that Josh is open to directing contemporary worship, prefers family ministry, young adults, and youth; he is interested in outreach to postmoderns (The Bridge's focus) and prefers the Midwest. His vicarage evaluation stated that he was a man above reproach, sacrifices, never grumbles, genuinely cares, and "everyone loves Josh!" His wife, Kristin, is a Lutheran teacher.

Our Job Description for Pastor Schmidt

- 1 Develop Contemporary Worship
 - a. To guide the Contemporary Lutheran Worship Service as training and support for musicians, drama and singers.
 - b. To continue to develop Contemporary Youth Worship for an outreach worship opportunity with Worship Team, Youth, and Young Adults.
- 2 Develop and lead the Ministry of Assimilation
- 3 Develop and lead an effective Evangelism Ministry

The Call Committee consists of Otto Nicely (Chm), Angie Morris, Sarah Cavin, Jen Zachrich, Ivan Duerk, Michael Kemper, Rodney Wichman, and Pastor Luhning.

ZECH TEASDALE, DCE

"Zech Teasdale" is St. John's new DCE youth intern beginning Tuesday, June 1, 2010. Zech is single and his parents live in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his family are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. His dad is a Lutheran pastor and his mother works with real-estate. Zech has a love for sports and plays Frisbee with a vengeance. A brief Service of Induction for Internship will be held at all services on Saturday/Sunday, June 5/6.

The Youth Board is inviting members to help welcome Zech to Defiance and the beginning of his year of internship. He has chosen an almost fully furnished apartment of a member of St. John. He would welcome a used dresser and a wardrobe. The Youth Board would like to help him begin filling his pantry with gift cards and cash gifts that would enable him to cover start up expenses the first couple weeks in a new community. We welcome Zech to our ministry team at St. John and we pray for him and his beginning an exciting year of ministry as our intern!

MAY FOOD PANTRY STATISTICS



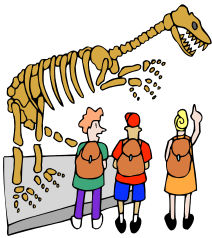
112 Families Served
411 Bags of groceries given
Approximately **\$4,195.00** worth of food given

MAY SOCIAL WELFARE STATISTICS

\$250.00 Rent (Evictions)
\$127.00 Water (Shut Off)
\$286.00 Toledo Edison (Shut Off)
\$396.00 Ohio Gas (Shut Off)
\$60 For Gasoline (to go to Doctor Appointment)
\$33.22 Telephone
Total Given: \$1,152.22

LADIES AID

The ladies will meet on June 24 at 2:00 P.M. We will meet in the Fellowship Room. Jan McGhee will give us a talk on Dinosaurs. For those who do not know her parents live in Wyoming and archeologists continue to dig up dinosaur bones on their ranch. Come and see actual pictures of their dinosaur bones. Ask a friend to join you. Refreshments will be served.



STEPHEN MINISTRY



When We Need God's Love Most

When do we need God's love most? Of course we need that love every second of our lives. But at times God's love is especially precious to us, times when: We lose a loved one Life becomes so confusing that we do not know where to turn; or Life just becomes meaningless and depression sets in. At times like these, it is very important to have someone who cares. Our congregation has trained lay people, Stephen Ministers, who offer a ministry of Christian caring here at St. John Lutheran. Call the church office about being assigned a Stephen Minister at 419-782-5766.