

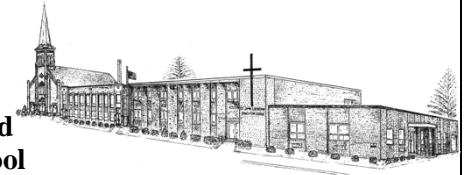


# The Epistle

September 2018 Vol. 79 # 9

**St. John Lutheran Church and  
Christian Day School**

655 Wayne Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512



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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

## **FROM PASTOR LUHRING**

**Be a Missionary in Your Workplace!** Did you know that, no matter what you do for a living, you can use your work to bring glory to God? You can use your business and your workplace to further God's kingdom. How do you do that? One way is to use your business contacts to spread the Gospel and to build God's kingdom.

**How many employees and co-workers** do you have around you in your company? Are there fifteen or fifty or more? Begin praying for each one of them. Be available to talk and encourage them. Establish a good friendship as a Christian and as a friend. Did you know that as a co-worker you have far more influence on your co-workers than even a pastor or a missionary?

**Would you like to influence** other workers at the place of your employment? In today's global economy, the new missionaries and most effective witnesses are businessmen and businesswomen. There are many countries that won't let a pastor or a missionary in, but they will gladly welcome your business. When you use your business for the one thing that is going to outlast everything else – the building of the Kingdom of God – you are being a Kingdom Builder and not just a wealth builder. There is nothing wrong with using your work to build wealth. But Jesus said in Matthew 6:20, "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." The only way you can invest in Heaven is to invest in people who are going there. When your workplace points people to God, you are storing up treasure in Heaven to use for eternity. You are advancing God's Kingdom!



**Stephen Leaders  
and  
Ministers**

**STEPHEN LEADERS**

Pastor Donald Luhning  
419-782-5766

Penny Mueller - 419-784-3299

Dr. Jeff Pruitt - 419-395-1875

Kristina Phipps - 419-266-  
1672

**STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Dolena Bergman

Brenda Gary

Karen Haaser

Linda Hageman

Deb Hastedt

Sharon Lynn

Kathy Reynolds

Mary Ann Hurst



**St. John  
Staff Directory**

**Pastor**

*Rev. Donald Luhning*  
419-782-5766

**Christian Day School**

**Principal**

*Shellie Kosmerchok*  
419-782-1751

**Youth Leader**

*Angie Morris*  
419-782-5766

**Senior Choir Director**

*Darci Van Vlerah*  
419-395-2460

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**Christian Heroes – Part 2**

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Marty and Linda Gross have been active members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon, Ohio for 38 years. Truly Grateful that God has blessed them with their church, two daughters, new sons-in-law, and now a granddaughter, Marty and Linda made a charitable plan that will take place at the surviving spouse's death. The remainder of their tax deferred investments will roll over into a charitable trust. No tax will be due since the trust is tax exempt. The trust will pay income to their daughters for 20 years and then their church ministries. It's called the "Give It Twice" trust. This is especially good for qualified retirement plan monies.

We thank the Lord for Christian heroes like Marty and Linda. Our Endowment Committee stand ready and able to assist any of our members who have a special charitable intent.

Dave Memmer - For the SJL Endowment Committee

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**PASTORAL ACTS**

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**Deaths:**

**Mylo Gerken** passed away on August 17, 2018

**Daniel Roehrig** passed away on August 22, 2018



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**AUGUST FOOD PANTRY STATS**

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**Through August 28, 2018**

78 families served; 284 people served  
422 bags of food given  
Approximately \$4,220 worth of food given

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in." Matthew 25:35*

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## SEEKING TO FILL THE ROLE OF ASSOCIATE PASTOR AT ST. JOHN

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**The Board of Elders** has begun to look at the options for filling the position of “associate pastor” at St. John after the acceptance by Pastor Schiemann to a Call to move to Bozeman, Montana. The role of “associate pastor” has the guidelines of sharing in the total pastoral ministry of St. John with the goal of focusing on and responsibility for the ministry of the Contemporary service and its aim at reaching the youth and younger families of the congregation. The role of the “associate pastor” also includes the ministry of evangelism and reaching into our community to share the Gospel with the unchurched. The focus of our Lutheran Day School for the associate pastor is also included as we invite many families from our community to send their children to our preschool, kindergarten, and 1-8 grades.

**A Call Committee** will be appointed with seven members, including representatives from various boards and ministries. Ladies and youth are also to be considered on this committee. The Call Committee will work with the requirements of the Ohio District in preparing a list of prospective pastors to meet the ministry needs and challenges at St. John. The congregation will be given opportunity to suggest names which will be sent to the District for approval.

**Two options:** One option is to call a pastor who is already serving a parish in our Synod. There are some 400 vacancies in churches of our LC-MS. This is the option that gave Pastor Schiemann a call to leave Defiance and go to Montana. The second option is to call a NEW pastor graduating from the seminary who has just completed his training and will be placed in a congregation like Pastor Schmidt and Pastor Schiemann were when they came to Defiance. The Board of Elders is suggesting that we begin by looking for an associate pastor who is serving in the field already and call them from their parish to St. John.

**Keep the calling process** in your prayers and be assured the God is working through our prayerful considerations in the weeks and months ahead.

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## LADIES AID NEWS

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Our next meeting will be held in the Fellowship Room on Sept. 27th at 2:00 PM. The program will be presented by Dawn McKibben. She will be speaking on Women's Prison Ministry.

The hostess committee is: Emma Maddock, Diana Grim, Janet Seymour and Colleen Worline. Suggested item for the food pantry is Laundry detergent.

Happy Birthday Pastor Luhring! (Sept. 22nd)

Have you ladies ever considered joining our group? Please join us at our next meeting. We would love to have some new members, and will show you some of the important work we do within your church, and beyond.

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## LUTHERAN INFORMATION CLASSES

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The next Lutheran Information Class begins Sunday evening, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00PM in the Adult Ed Room with Pastor Luhring teaching. This class will review the basic teachings of the Bible and of our Lutheran Church for church membership. Consider joining this class for your own personal growth in faith and your understanding of the Bible. Upon completing the class non-members are offered the opportunity to join St. John Lutheran Church at our New Member Welcome on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and participate in receiving the sacrament of The Lord's Supper. Members are invited to support prospects by speaking with them about the class and sharing names of unchurched neighbors and family members.

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## SCOUTING NEWS

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### Scouting News September 2018

Scouts from Cub Pack 75 (ages 6-11) and Boy Scout Troop 75 (ages 12-18) continue to look forward to new opportunities and challenges each month.

Although there were no weekly meetings during the summer, the Pack remained active with fun activities each month. September, however, brings a return to those regularly scheduled meetings. The Pack will hold an overnight camping experience at Camp Lakota and looks forward to the many opportunities the camp provides.

After spending a week-long Black Swamp Area Council Summer Camp session at Camp Lakota in July, the Troop is currently finalizing plans to attend the Fall Invitational Camporee on South Bass Island, the 26<sup>th</sup> annual, this month. Camping is in the shadow of Perry's monument and adjacent to the shores of Lake Erie.

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and their families all enjoyed a picnic and swim party at a local residence in August. With approximately 30 individuals in attendance, it was a fun and memorable event.

The Boy Scout Troop has for many years recycled newspapers as a conservation project. Anyone wishing to recycle newspapers can place them in the garage on the east side of the south parking lot. Money made from their sale is used to help pay for Scouts to attend summer camp.

Youth and adults are always welcome to attend pack and troop events to learn more about the program. Questions at any time can be addressed to Mike Saxton, Chartered Organization Representative, at 419-439-2079.



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## PASTORS' SERMONS

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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 sermons 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.

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## PASTOR LUHRING'S SERMON THEMES

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Pastor's sermon themes for September focuses on "Strong Families – and The Ten Commandments!" Invite an unchurched family member or neighbor to our worship services!

Sat/Sun Sept 1/2 How To Cope With Cranky Workers Rom 12:18  
Sat/Sun Sept 8/9 Ten Commandments Strong Families Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Sept 15/16 First Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Sept 22/23 Second Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Sept 29/30 Third Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Oct 6/7 Fourth Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Oct 13/14 Fifth Commandment Ex 20

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## THE FRIDAYS' IRON MEN BIBLE STUDY

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Beginning Friday Sept 7 - Iron Men's Bible Study meets every Friday morning from 6:30AM 7:30AM in Adult Ed Room A. Topic for a couple weeks Topic: Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School-Matthew and Mark's Gospels with Bruce Wurdeman: The four hundred-year period of transition between the Old and New Testaments witnessed significant changes in Israel's History. In Palestine groups like the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes, and others filled the stage. Superpowers like the Persians, Greeks, and Romans were the dominant geopolitical players. Into this milieu comes Jesus, and the Word Incarnate along with His disciples would change the world forever. Come join this Friday morning Iron Men's Bible study with Pastor Luhring, Rich Baldwin, Bob Heyman, Walt Smith, Jim Schatz, Tom Koppenhofer, Steve Zachrich, Charlie Koch. Dr. VanVlerah, Bob Dawson.



## Calendar for Stephen Ministry Training

Sunday Evenings Starting, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

October-February 2018 - 2019

October 7	The Person of the Caregiver all leaders
October 14	Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours
October 21	The Art of Listening
October 28	Distinctively Christian Caring – Part 1
November 4	Distinctively Christian Caring – Part 2
November 11	Process versus Results in Caregiving
November 18	Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly – Part
December 2	NO CLASS
December 9	Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger versus Opportunity
January 6, 2019 Retreat:	Telecare: The Next Best Thing to Being There
January 11	Using Mental Health Professionals and Other Community Resources
January 12	Confidentiality Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief
January 20	Dealing with Depression: The Stephen Minister's Role
January 27	Bringing the Caring Relationship to a Close
February 3	Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care
February 10	How to Make a First Caring Visit and Follow Me
February 23 & 24	Stephen Ministry Commissioning

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## Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People***.

### ***Stephen Ministers are there:***

...***after*** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

...***after*** the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...***after*** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...***after*** the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”

...***after*** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”

...***after*** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.

...***after*** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

...***after*** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

...***after*** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

...***after*** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “***After People***.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

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