



## PASTORS' SERMONS

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.

## PASTOR LUHRING'S SERMON THEMES

### PASTOR LUHRING'S NOVEMBER SERMON THEMES

Sat/Sun Nov 3/4 Seventh Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Nov 10/11 Eighth Commandment Ex 20  
Sat/Sun Nov 17/18 Ninth/Tenth Commandment Ext 20  
Wed Nov 21 Thanksgiving – "God the Giver" Num 11  
Sat/Sun Nov 24/25 "Stopping Satan in an Ungodly World" Luke 8  
Sat/Sun Dec 1/2 "Jesus Came So You Might Be Surprised"  
John 8:1-11

## THE FRIDAYS' IRON MEN BIBLE STUDY

### FRIDAY'S IRON MEN BIBLE STUDY

Iron Men's Bible Study meets every Friday morning from 6:30AM 7:30AM in Adult Ed Room A. 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.

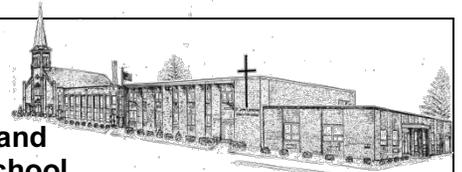
Come join this Friday morning Iron Men's Bible study with Pastor Luhring, Rick Baldwin, Bob Heyman, Walt Smith, Jim Schatz, Tom Koppenhofer, Steve Zachrich, Charlie Koch. Dr. VanVlerah, Bob Dawson.

## The Epistle

November 2018 Vol. 81 # 11

St. John Lutheran Church and  
Christian Day School

655 Wayne Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512



Rev. Donald L. Luhring  
419-782-5766 Fax: 419-782-0954  
sjl@defnet.com  
www.stjohndefiance.com

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

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

### FROM PASTOR LUHRING

### Action Plan for a God-pleasing Financial Life

#### Step 1: Develop and prioritize your financial goals.

- On paper, list short-term (less than one year) and long-term goals.
- Determine the financial cost and time frame needed to achieve each goal.
- Establish a budget by \_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_.

#### Step 2: Through faith, develop a God-pleasing attitude toward your money.

- Commit to reading God's Word.
- Attend church regularly and join a Bible study.
- Seek God's grace and strength to empower me to serve and love Him rather than my money.

#### Step 3: Become a generous giver, a disciplined saver, and a wise spender

- You should commit to give \$ \_\_\_ per week or \_\_\_% of your income to God through your church
- You should save \$ \_\_\_ per week or \_\_\_%.
- You should list all your credit card debt and begin paying off the credit card balances.
- You should try to live within your means.
- You need to distinguish between your needs and wants and live a modest lifestyle.



---

## OCTOBER FOOD PANTRY STATS

---



Through October 31, 2018

79 families served; 282 people served

324 bags of food given

Approximately \$3,240 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

We will put the Christmas bags together on Wednesday, December 3 at 1:30 p.m. Needed items are: Tooth Paste, Toilet Paper, Tooth Brushes, Hand Cream, Hand Soap, Detergent, Combs/Brushes, Shampoo, Deodorant, Kleenex, Conditioner, Razors & Shaving Cream

---

## “FOLLOWING GOD’S FINANCIAL COUNSEL”

---

On Sunday, November 4, we will begin a three-week sermon and Bible study series titled “Following God’s Financial Counsel.” God’s Word speaks to our need to plan, to save, to give, to avoid debt, and to have a right attitude toward the money God has entrusted to us. Since so much of life revolves around financial dealings and decisions, it is wise for us to learn what God’s Word can teach us in this area. The Bible references money and possessions in more than 2,000 verses. We will be focusing on those Scripture passages for three weeks and hope you will join us in worship, attend the Bible studies, and read the daily reflections.

---

## MEIJER’S TO FEATURE ST. JOHN FOOD PANTRY

---

Meijer’s to feature St. John Food Pantry for their Simply Give program November 18 to December 29. On Friday, December 7, they will “Double” the amount. If you buy a \$10.00 gift card they will give us \$20.00 worth of gift cards. Thank you for supporting St. John Food Pantry.

---

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

---

The Call Committee is in the process of setting up telephone interviews with possible candidates and evaluate each based on our needs for pastoral ministry. The process for interviewing three or four candidates will help the Call Committee choose prospective candidates for a congregational meeting held in November or December. The process is moving forward under God’s guidance. Thank you for your prayers.

### Step 4: Seek trustworthy financial counsel.

If the need arises, ask your pastor or other church leaders for referrals of people who could provide you with Christian financial counsel.

### Step 5: Put work in proper perspective.

While at work, you should work hard and keep a proper balance between work, family, and service for the Lord.

---

## LADIES AID NEWS

---

The Ladies Aid will be making noodles on November 13. Please feel free to help us out! We begin around 8:30 a.m. Doughnuts and a lunch are provided during this time together! Remember to purchase your **Thanksgiving** noodles in the lower hallway during the weekend (**November 17-18**) after the church services. Thank you, once again, for supporting the ministry of the Ladies Aid.

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be held Thursday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Jenny George will be giving a program about **"Angel Tree Ministry"**. Come and listen to this interesting project that ministers to others!

Hostesses for this month are Elaine Harris, JoAnn McCray, Sharon Meyer, Gladys Spreeman.

**"A Star in the Night"** is the theme of our Advent by Candlelight service for women and girls age 13 and older. Please consider hostessing a table (see inserts in bulletin) and/or attending and filling a table with friends and relatives. Mark your calendar for December 9 at 6:30-8:00 p.m. for an evening of scripture, songs, and sharing the good news.



The celebration will be in the St. John gymnasium. It will be a wonderful celebration as we prepare ourselves for Christ's coming into our world. A free will offering for Lutheran World Relief will be taken to support those who lost so much due to recent hurricanes.

---

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

---

Soon we will be distributing the offering envelopes. If you would like a box please let the church office know either by calling (419-782-5766) or emailing, [sjl@defnet.com](mailto:sjl@defnet.com)

---

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU

---

I was so over-whelmed!! The whole day was pretty much a surprise to me. GOD IS GOOD!

-- Thank you for all your well wishes, your lovely cards and your help in my celebrating my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. You are all very special to me! I LOVE my church family. The Lord has truly blessed me with each and every one of you in my life.

--Thank you Pastor Luhring and the Board of Elders for allowing my son, Tom, to preach on Saturday and Sunday. It has always been a dream of his to preach from our pulpit, his home church. Pastor Luhring and many others were great in keeping Tom's preaching a secret.

--Thank you Lorna Smith for playing the organ with the congregation singing "Happy Birthday" to me at the beginning of the service.

--Thank you Mike Kemper for singing "What a Friend We have in Jesus." This is my favorite hymn as well it was my mother's favorite hymn.

-- Thank you Bill Phlipot for the special chair, table, banner and lovely bouquet of flowers for the reception.

--Thank you Mary Mick for the delicious cake.

God's blessings to all and I thank you for putting up with this "ole lady."

In Christian Love,  
Wilma

*"Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart."* Psalm 37:4



---

## APPLICATIONS FOR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

---

Applications for Endowment Funds are being accepted until December 5 by the Endowment Committee from any Board or Committee seeking funds. Applications are available in the office.

We also asked those who has received care to share what they perceived others' difficulties were in relating to them. Both caregiver and care receiver respondents shared freely and fully. Here is what they reported, in order of frequency, as major challenges.

1. Knowing what to say to a hurting person
2. Understanding, empathizing with, or validating someone's struggles
3. Talking too much, listening too little
4. Having a "fix-it" mentality
5. Feeling discomfort in the face of someone's pain
6. Focusing on self rather than the hurting person
7. Wanting people to "get over it"
8. Avoiding painful subjects
9. Avoiding hurting person
10. Giving advice, being too direct
11. Minimizing the significance of the pain or suffering
12. Being judgmental
13. Wanting to hear only the positive
14. Responding with clichés, platitudes, or pat phrases
15. Identifying too closely with the other's pain
16. Feeling helpless
17. Handling the anger of those who are suffering
18. Knowing what would be intrusive or welcomed
19. Getting people to open up

This is a formidable list, certainly, but not an insurmountable one. These items on this list are interrelated, which is good news, because as you overcome one area to challenge, it will positively affect other areas as well. Mastering these challenges and turning them into opportunities to relate well to suffering people is what the book, *"Don't Sing Songs to A Heavy Heart"* by Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph. D. and founder of Stephen Ministries addressed in his book.

Stephen Ministers are required to read this book during the training. The 50 hours of training has equipped our Stephen Ministers to help people that are suffering and are discouraged. If you would like a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you for Christian caregiving please call the church office at 419-782-5766.

The Boy Scout Troop attended the Chinquapin District Camporee in October that had a Medieval Theme and tested scout skills. In addition, members have been working on both the Archery and Horsemanship merit badges. A work day with overnight camping to prepare a site for the Polar Bear, a cold-weather camping experience, is being planned.

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.



Those who are suffering are very vulnerable. It's as though they have been stamped FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE. Because suffering people are so fragile, those who relate to them are called upon to function with the greatest sensitivity and compassion they can muster. This is where the challenge lies.

And the challenge of relating becomes many challenges. Identifying exactly what those challenges are was one of the first tasks of our research. We asked caregivers to tell what they thought were their greatest difficulties in relating to those who are suffering.

---

## SCOUTING NEWS

---



### Scouting News November 2018

Scouts from Cub Pack 75 (ages 5-11) and Boy Scout Troop 75 (ages 12-18) continue to look forward to new opportunities and challenges each month.

Cub Scouts and their families attended the Family Fun Day at Camp Lakota in October. Opportunities for climbing the tower, archery, fishing, hayrides, model rocket launching, hiking, arts & crafts, row & paddle boating, carnival games and a costume contest were all available.

Cub Scouts and their families also recently took part in a Fall Festival event that was held at a local residence. Activities included hayrides, putt-putt, potato sack races, apple cider pressing, pumpkin carving, corn shucking and a zip line, among others. Chili, hot dogs, festive desserts and beverages were also provided.

November finds the Cubs looking forward to a "Turkey Shoot" where they will be shooting nerf guns at paper turkeys. Working on fun and engaging advancement requirements is also on the agenda for the month.