



The Epistle

NEWSLETTER

FALL BACK

Remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 1.

VOTE

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

ADVENT TEA

Ladies Aid is hosting an Advent Tea on Nov. 22 at 2:30 p.m. More details on page 13.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, November 25 for Thanksgiving Eve worship at 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BAGS

Sixty Christmas bags will be assembled for distribution on Nov. 30. Details on page 6.

POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! Will you help beautify the church? Order forms available on page 7.

“Why did you become a pastor?”

Thank you for your kind and generous words, cards and gifts during Pastor Appreciation Month. It is a joy to be your pastor. Recently, I was asked by our school's 5th and 6th grade teacher, “Why did you become a pastor?” Reflecting on that, the Holy Spirit led me to say, “It was because God called me.” Our NW Ohio Circuit 1 pastors are studying C.F.W. Walther's Church and Ministry book at our meetings, specifically this thesis; “***The ministry of the Word or the pastoral office is not a human institution, but an office that God Himself established.***” So let's take a few minutes to talk about the call as a pastor.



Many of you remember “Walther League,” during your high school days. It refers to Dr. C.F.W. Walther, our first synodical president and our first synodical seminary president. His pastoral book offers treasures of Biblical, confessional and church father insight into the Godly call of the pastor.

- 1. The Bible's witness clearly states that the pastoral office is not a human invention, but an office that God has established.** The Old Testament predicted New Testament era pastors who would be God's shepherds, teachers of righteousness and those who proclaim the Word. Jesus Himself called apostles into ministry to “Feed His sheep”, including calling 70 disciples. The character of the ministry refers to the calling only by God. “The Holy Spirit made pastors overseers. God has appointed them to be apostles, prophets and teachers.” Called pastors are co-laborers with called servants such as elders, servants of Christ, stewards of God's mysteries.
- 2. Our Church's confessions witness clearly that pastors hold a divine office by God.** Our confessions state that pastors are called when they are considering a call and congregations are considering calling them. Faith is maintained by men, as God has instituted the office of oral ministry. The church's ministry is preached and heard. God sends forth all equally, as the ministry comes from the common call of God. The confessions are clear and bold.

<cont'd on pg 3>

- CHURCH SERVICE TIMES -

Traditional Services: 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. Sunday and Contemporary Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, OH 43512

• www.stjohndefiance.com

Church 419.782.5766

• email: sjl@defnet.com

- LIVE STREAMING -

5:30 p.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study, Sunday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

School 419.782.1751

• www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherandefiance



SERMONS FOR OCTOBER



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November 1, "What's Heaven Like?" by Pastor Mews

Text: 1 John 3:1-3 Theme: Jesus & Heaven

November 8, "Wise and Foolish" by Pastor Mews

Text: Matthew 25:1-13 Theme: Living Faith

November 15, "An Equal Opportunity Day" by Pastor Mews

Text: Zephaniah 1:7-16 Theme: Grace & Judgment

November 22, "It's been YOU All Along" by Pastor Mews

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28 Theme: Resurrection

November 25, "Forgotten Words" by Pastor Mews

Text: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Theme: Appreciation/Repentance

November 29, "Why Doesn't God End COVID?" by Pastor Mews

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9 Theme: Truth & Grace

PRIVATE COMMUNION

The Pastors continue to offer private Communion for anyone who wishes to have Communion. Please call the church office for an appointment.

SHUT-IN CALLS

We have around 30 people who are designated as shut-ins in our congregation. The Pastors, Walt Smith, George Kaiser and Jim Schatz are keeping in contact with our members. If the shut-in person is comfortable having a home visit, they will make arrangements for this visit.



PASTOR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

Funerals

Mary Alice Moats passed away on October 22 and received a Christian funeral on October 26.



Memory Verse CHALLENGE

The church confesses to Christ, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The church is encouraged to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16). Psalm 1 teaches us to meditate on God's Word day and night. You are invited to join your brothers and sisters in the LCMS in memorizing a Bible verse each week. Find out more at lcms.org/worship/memory-verse-challenge.

3. Private writings of the Church's teachers witness that the call of the pastor is divine.

Dr. Luther emphasized that ministers are called by God, and Christ by His death and resurrection established it. To Luther this is not a human Ordinance. It was ordained by Christ and the Holy Spirit. To him, while there are books, God sent humans like Moses to speak, and prophets are sent. St. Paul urges 'bishops,' called men, to be in every city. Luther writes that at times pastors become scapegoats and suffer all things from everyone, especially when rebuking public vices. The early Lutheran theologian *Chemnitz* affirms that the New Testament teaches God granting gifts to men to be pastors. God has gifted pastors so that God can speak through them and these gifts are not to be neglected. The faithful shepherd, *Gerhard*, writes that the Holy Spirit gives pastors the title of shepherds, laborers and husbandmen as those who preserve the ministry. The Church prays for elected Pastors, and Jesus Himself took on human flesh to enter into ministry. As the Father sent Christ, Christ sends pastors. *Mentzer* holds that Christ instituted this office with authority and dignity, and it isn't the quality of men, but ascribed to by God. *Heshusius* explains that no one is to pastor without a divine call and God has appointed true ministers. To separate from called ministry is to separate from the church. *Deyling* states that the Trinity is the originator of ministry and God imparts salvation through these men. *Ignatius* writes that all things are to be done by divine accord for a pastor, and *Cyprian* holds the reverence of God's demands of dignity of the pastor.

May we all know that pastors are sinners and the saints. God works through them to bring us Good News of our salvation, forgive sin, administer the Sacraments and to comfort us through the peace of Christ.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please join us on November 8 at 2:00 p.m. in the lunchroom for the six month budget review and other important financial discussions on the state of the church and school.

Stewardship—"Abiding Produces Fruit"

God calls us to live lives of abundant fruitfulness (good works—thoughts, attitudes, or actions that glorify God). The key to bearing fruit is found in John 15 where Jesus tells us that He is the Vine and we are the branches. As the Vine provides nourishment to its branches, Jesus fills, sustains, and empowers us! It is the connection we have with Jesus, the Vine, that makes our fruit possible. Jesus said, "I am the Vine; you are the branches.



Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit..." (John 15:5) By God's grace we understand that through our own power we are unable to bear fruit. Because it is Jesus Who enables us to be fruitful, we can bear much fruit in our lives, thus bringing glory to our Heavenly Father (John 15:8). God's Word refers to the connection between the vine and the branches and our connection with Jesus as "abiding", through His Holy Word and through the Sacraments, Jesus abides **in** us, stays **with** us, and makes Himself at home **with** us. Through Word and Sacrament we stay in touch with Him, remain attached to Him, and receive life and power from Him. His life-giving Word abides in us, making us fruitful, like healthy branches on a good vine! If our connection with Jesus is severed, it is because we have caused the separation. Jesus will "never leave us nor forsake us" (Hebrews 13:5).

The more we "abide" in Jesus, the more we will share our time, talents and money with God by serving and witnessing and giving to others. Each and every day we are given opportunities to bear fruit. Some acts of service may be as small as opening the door for others and they may be as big as spending several days helping someone in need. It may be giving money sacrificially to help others in need. By God's grace we can be ready and willing to bear fruit, bringing glory to God.



Prepare Ye

A series of special Services for Advent. By Rev. Reed Lessing

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3



This worship series focuses on the many different ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord's birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

Week 1: Ponder: We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation. Theme verse: *"We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple." Psalm 48:9*

Week 2: Pray: We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be. Theme verse: *"But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me." Psalm 69:13*

Week 3: Praise: We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait. Theme verse: *"Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name." Psalm 30:4*

Week 4: Proclaim: We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save. Theme verse: *"The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness." Psalm 145:6*

Join us on Wednesdays starting
December 2 at 1:00 p.m.
and **7:30 p.m.**



Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25

7:30 p.m.

Pastor Mews Preaching "Forgotten Words"

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

I'm Fine

There's nothing whatever the matter with me.
I'm just as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
I think my liver is out of whack
And a terrible pain is in my back.

My hearing is poor, my sight is dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I have arch supports for both my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.
Sleeplessness I have night after night,
And in the morning I'm just a sight.

My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
I'm peacefully living on aspirin.
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let them know the shape we're in.
-Genevieve Baker

Bible Study



Monday

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. "Life with God"

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study
 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"
 3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Zoom meeting,
 C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity" Pastor Mews

Wednesday

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Moms in Touch, Faye Luhning every other Wednesday
 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Fellowship Room C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity" Pastor Mews
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Cross Training
 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Penny Mueller's Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Senior High Hangouts for the youth

Thursday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Room, "Genesis Bible Study" Pastor Mews (discussing Abraham & Isaac)

Friday

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Adult A Room, Iron Men Bible Study Pastor Luhning

Sunday

9:30 - 10:30 p.m. Cassidy's Office, Youth Bible Study
 Lunchroom A, "Proverbs" Phil Rohlf
 Lunchroom B, Bible Study Faye Luhning
 Fellowship Room B, "The Book of Acts" Jeff Rohlf
 Fellowship Room A, Bible Study



Because of Bethlehem

This is a new four week Advent Small Group Bible Study from Max Lucado. Max's work includes the popular and faithful, "He Chose the Nails," small group study. Participants in an engaging, yet meaningful, manner explore the meaning of hope, belonging, joy and growth during our anticipation of The Birth of the Christ Child.

"Because of Bethlehem" will explore answers that will give us all hope. God knows what it's like to be a human. When we talk to him about deadlines or long lines or tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we have a friend in heaven.

Sign up for "Because of Bethlehem" will take place beginning on Sunday, November 1 in the lower hallway. Sign up information will be on Realm as well. All are welcomed.

Cross Training

Thank you to all who helped and attended our Fall Reformation Festival BLAST Event! We had so much fun with everyone.

See below for an overview of November's schedule for Cross Training:

- Nov. 4—Week 9: Regular Classes
- Nov. 11—Week 10: Regular Classes
- Nov. 18—BLAST EVENT: "Thanks-living" Servant Event
- Nov. 25—NO CROSS TRAINING (Thanksgiving break)

If you have any questions about our program, please contact DCE Intern Cassidy at 419.782.5766 or email at holeso-sjl@defnet.com

THRIVENT FINANCIAL
Action Teams

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to fund an important project for our church, school and community. Positive change begins with taking action! As a Thrivent member you can choose to lead a Thrivent Action Team to make an impact on a cause you personally care about. If you have questions about Action Teams, please contact Deb Wagner 419.782.1751 and she will be happy to help you.



In December the Food Pantry will be distributing non-food items to our families in need. We are asking for donations of items that they cannot purchase with their food stamps.

The following items are needed:

Liquid Hand Soap, Bar Soap, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothbrushes/Toothpaste, Laundry Detergent, Shampoo/Conditioner, Comb/Brushes, Lotion, Deodorant, Shaving Cream/Disposal Razors, Tissues.

Please bring your donations to the church office by November 23. We will be assembling 60 bags on Monday, November 30 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Your help would be appreciated.

Thank you for your donations!



Church Decorating

The Fellowship Board is asking for your help in decorating the church for Christmas. We will decorate the church on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. A couple men are needed to assist in setting up the large tree in front of the church. Others are also needed to decorate the tree, balcony and altar.



Angel Tree Program

St. John will be participating in the Prison Fellowship Ministries Angel Tree Program again this year. Each child will have two Angels on the tree, one for a clothing item and one for a fun or toy item. Each gift should be a \$20.00 value. Please return the wrapped gifts with the Angel attached to the outside of the gift to the church office by Sunday, December 13. St. John Youth Group and other volunteers will then deliver the gifts to families. If you are unable to shop for a gift a monetary gift may be given to the church office. The Youth Board will choose an Angel and shop for the gift for you. Monetary gifts may also be given to the church office to assist with the food baskets that are prepared and given to each family.

Any questions contact
Jenny George at 419.784.4008
or Cassidy Holeso 419.782.5766



2020 ENDOWMENT MINISTRY REQUEST FUND FORM

St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was formed in 1992 to establish a perpetual fund dedicated to enhance the Lord's work in non-budget areas with emphasis on new ministries, capital improvements, educational supports, and evangelistic outreach. Only the fund earnings can be designated for such use. If you believe your project qualifies for consideration, please submit a fully completed form by December 1. Forms are available in the church office.

As faithful stewards of God's gifts, St. John Lutheran Church Endowment Committee and Ministry enhances and blesses the ministry efforts of our church and school through financial gifts and grants to support ministry projects and efforts from non-budget areas. Please submit the form at least 30 days prior to the ministry project. This enables us to review, record, share and expand the blessing and impact of the endowment ministry entrusted to us. Thank you for your cooperation and diligence as we serve God's Church together. Please contact the church office to pick up a form.



Financial Update

In November we will be doing our yearly Stewardship Campaign. Last year we had 117 families tithe during the Stewardship campaign. Please prayerfully consider doing a pledge or increase your pledge this year. Together we can keep the ministries of St. John operating.

Thank you,
Jeff Rohlf, Stewardship Chairman

Oct. revenue:	Oct. expenses:
\$115,826	\$103,631

*These are approximate numbers.



Poinsettia Order



Poinsettias will decorate the church during the Christmas Services. *They may be taken home after the service on Christmas Day.*

Proceeds benefit the Angel Tree Project. Fill in the order blank below and place it with your check in an envelope in the offering plate, in a box by the youth bulletin board, or mail it to the church office. Payment must accompany orders. Please make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Youth. Thank you!

Sponsored by St. John Lutheran Youth Group

Deadline for placing orders is November 22

Names(s) _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

8.5" pot Number of plants @\$13.50 _____

Red _____ **White** _____ **Pink** _____
Marble (red/white) _____
Jingle bells (pink/red) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Given in memory of (deceased):

Given in honor of (living):



All Saints' Day Candles

In memory of Ilo Cox
By Krystle & Mabel Adams

In memory of Don Cox
By Krystle & Mabel Adams

In memory of Yvonne Nelson
By Krystle & Mabel Adams

In memory of Deanna Miller
By Krystle & Mabel Adams

In memory of Charles C. Renn
By Fred & Rita Bergman

In memory of Joe & Dorpha Bok
By Marilyn & Steven Buchholz

In memory of Becky Buchhop
By Jeff & Katie Buchhop

In memory of Bernard & June Dodson
By Jerry & Nancy Call

In memory Leon & Mary Call
By Jerry & Nancy Call

In memory of Kathy Mansfield
By Jerry & Nancy Call

In memory of Alexander & Ethel Detter
By Neal & Judy Detter
Stuart, Joanne, Danielle & Abigail Detter
Jonathon, Beth, Ethan, Drew & Jonah Detter

In memory of Allen & Judy Detter
By Neal & Judy Detter
Stuart, Joanne, Danielle & Abigail Detter
Jonathon, Beth, Ethan, Drew & Jonah Detter

In memory of Henry Lewis III
By Charlie & Carol Edwards

In memory of Earl & Naomi Fry
By Charlie & Carol Edwards

In memory of Mary Edwards
By Charlie & Carol Edwards

In memory of Sharon Turnes
By Charlie & Carol Edwards

In memory of Rosemary Sanborn
By Charlie & Carol Edwards

In memory of Carolyn Willford
By Diane & Mike Elchinger

In memory of Roger Grim
By Diana Grim

In memory of Deb Johnston
By Greg & Joyce Johnston

In memory of Michael Fronk
By Greg & Joyce Johnston

In memory of Leo J. & Donna Swary
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of Walter & Betty Schroeder
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of Judy Meyer
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of Paul & Dorthy Meyer
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of Paul J Fry
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of all Fry/Hartley Family Members
By Donald & Shelly Fry

In memory of Vern Hahn
By Jeff Hahn

In memory of Hal Haviland
By Pam Haviland

In memory of Richard & Doris Heilman
By John & Carolyn Heilman
Heilman Families

In memory of Philip Heilman
By John & Carolyn Heilman
Heilman Families

In memory of George & Marge Steingass
By John & Carolyn Heilman
Heilman Families

In memory of Dick Steingass
By John & Carolyn Heilman
Heilman Families

In memory of Jana, Hazel & Lilly DeFord
By Ken & Carolyn Hoyle

In memory of Larry Joost
By Sandy Joost

In memory of Jo Luderman
By Sandy Joost

In memory of Gladys & Lorenz Joost
By Kori Joost & Judd Garlock

In memory of Jean, Larry & Jim Joost
By Kori Joost & Judd Garlock

<cont'd on pg 9>

In memory of Daniel & Virginia Kent
By Thom & Karen Kent

In memory of Carl & Mary Badenhop
By Thom & Karen Kent

In memory of Our Parents
By Mike & Susan Kolb

In memory of Dorothy Dietz
By Marsha Lantz

In memory of Jim Rath
By Marsha Lantz

In memory of William & Frances Maddock
By Roger & Emma Maddock

In memory of John & Loretta Drennan
By Roger & Emma Maddock

In memory of Ada & Peral Halpin
By Roger & Emma Maddock

In memory of Laura Griesinger
By Roger & Emma Maddock

In memory of Ted & Helen Lutz
By Roger & Emma Maddock

In memory of Bonnie Hoops
By Mike & Jan McGhee

In memory of Sharon Rowe
By Bill & Roberta Phlipot

In memory of Evelyn Phlipot
By Bill & Roberta Phlipot

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Verlin Barth
By Bill & Roberta Phlipot

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Link
By Bill & Roberta Phlipot

In memory of Rhonda Schweitzer
By Bill & Roberta Phlipot

In memory of Joseph Skeldon
By Karen Pracht
Barbara & Dennis MacArthur
Elaine & Jim Skeldon
Judy & Neal Detter

In memory of Bob & Marvelle Pracht
By Karen Pracht
Barbara & Dennis MacArthur
Elaine & Jim Skeldon
Judy & Neal Detter
Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

In memory of Henry Bischoff
By Jim & Nancy Rensi

In memory of Janice Smith
By Mike & Marianne Shawley

In memory of Ralph & Mildred Hartman
By Walt & Lorna Smith

In memory of Margaret Smith Fenton
By Walt & Lorna Smith

In memory of Colleen Hartman
By Walt & Lorna Smith

In memory of Uncle Don Cavender
By Walt & Lorna Smith

In memory of Valetta Keeterle
By Mark & Nancy Roehrig

In memory of Norman & Rose Roehrig
By Mark & Nancy Roehrig

In memory of Charles Miller
By Marvin & Helen Steingass

In memory of Marilyn Rayle
By Marvin & Helen Steingass

In memory of Sharon Thurlwell
By Linda Thurlwell

In memory of Ray Warncke
By Lonnie & Constance Warncke

In memory of Gene Koehler
By Lonnie & Constance Warncke

In memory of Charlotte Warncke
By Lonnie & Constance Warncke

In memory of Russ Wichman
By Rod Wichman

Thank you for supporting SJL Youth!

Thank you to all who donated and submitted candle requests to St. John Lutheran Youth Group for All Saints' Day! We hope you enjoy your candle as a remembrance of loved ones who have impacted you in the past. SJL Youth are so grateful for everyone's generosity and support of our youth program!





Realm isn't just about what the church can do with tracking money. They also make it easy for members to give and track their giving. They offer a way to connect the church's website so they can accept online giving. Donors can set up on a one-time gift online or in the Connect app for their smartphone. There's even a way to give specific fund or give in an ongoing way. Giving through the website or smartphone app makes paperwork simpler. Some people prefer to use cash or write a check and we can enter this information on your giving. The church can create annual giving statements for tax purposes. However, a member can also go online and track their own giving.

Realm is PCI compliant, which is extremely important when it comes to online giving and security of credit card information.

Go to St. John Defiance webpage (<https://www.stjohndefiance.com>) and then click on the Realm tab and then on the onrealm.org link (<https://onreal.org/SaintJohnLuther/Give>) to give electronically.

Please email, sjl@defnet.com to be invited to St. John Lutheran, Defiance Realm Group. We have 203 St. John members who are active with Realm. Please join today so you can receive the most up-to-date information.

Thank you



God Blesses Tithers

A message about Stewardship

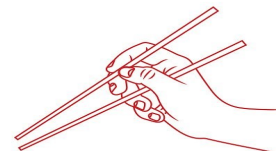
A man visits hell where he sees people sitting around a big table laden with food. Everyone has three-foot chopsticks with which to eat their food, but they are angry, frustrated, and hungry because the chopsticks are too long to get food into their mouths. Then he visits heaven where he sees another table with an abundance of food. Once again the diners are using three-foot chopsticks, but they are joyful, content and full. The people have learned that by feeding and serving others with their chopsticks, they have plenty to eat.

This attitude of fulfillment and contentment belongs to all who are generous in giving to and serving others, for God blesses us as we give our tithes and offerings to the Lord's work. We don't give to be blessed, but the Lord promises to *"open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need"* (Malachi 3:10).

As we respond to God's love for us by giving, He reacts by giving us even more. *"Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you"* (Luke 6:38). When we give to others, we experience one of the true joys of being Christians. The blessings we receive from God as a result of our generosity are much greater than anything we can give to Him. God doesn't need our gifts, but He asks us to give them, He accepts and uses them, and gives us joy in sharing them.

In our prayers, we can ask God to help us understand and experience the words of Solomon, *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered"* (Proverbs 11:24).

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me to importance of giving and for giving me joy and satisfaction from sharing with others. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JOHN MARCH:

Dear St. John Family,

It is hard to believe that we are already in November! I must admit that I do like Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is truly a special time in our family. Since my wife is Canadian and their Thanksgiving is in October, we literally spend two months focused on Thanks-giving! Thanksgiving is such a great time to truly reflect on our blessings and to thank God for them! We have so much to truly be thankful for. I came across this devotion about Thanksgiving that I thought I would pass it on to you in hopes that it is something you might consider doing with your family this year.

Thanksgiving: The Forgotten Holiday

By Candy Arrington

Sandwiched somewhere between Halloween and Christmas is a Thursday holiday that is slowly becoming more miniscule in the minds of millions of Americans – Thanksgiving. If you search hard, you might find one small section of Thanksgiving cards, autumn decorations, and a turkey platter amid the aisles and miles of Halloween costumes, Christmas decorations, and toys.

For some, Thanksgiving is a day to get a list together prior to a day of marathon Christmas shopping. Somehow our perception of Thanksgiving Day has gone askew. We've forgotten the reason for celebrating that first Thanksgiving. Gratitude for survival!

Historically we think of Thanksgiving as a time of feasting for the Pilgrims and Indians. In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had been in America less than a year. During those months, over half their original population died from disease or starvation. The Pilgrims hosted the first feast not to try the latest recipes, but to celebrate life with their Indian friends and give thanks to God for His provision in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps you'd like to redirect your family toward gratitude this year. Just as many enlist the help of an advent wreath to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth in December, focus on thanks-giving this November by doing the following:

Week 1 – *Write Bible verses that name the attributes of God on fruit-shaped cutouts. Place them in a basket or cornucopia. During a time of family devotions or at a meal, have each family member select a fruit from the basket and read the verse aloud. Then discuss ways your family has experienced each of God's qualities.*

Week 2 – *Think about reasons for ingratitude. Most of us are incredibly blessed, yet we find reasons to complain. This week, any time family members complain about something, have them place money in a jar. Then at the end of the week, donate the money to the soup kitchen or mobile meals to help with Thanksgiving meals.*

Week 3 – *Think of someone you love and appreciate, but rarely see. Make plans to call, send a card, or visit that person. Find out if there is a special need, pray with the person, and provide materially or with an act of service.*

Week 4 – *Focus on praising God. Let each family member select a praise chorus or hymn. Sing a different one at each meal instead of saying a blessing. Thank God for material provision, physical health, spiritual blessings, our country, our church family.*

These are just a few ideas to help you get started. Use your creativity to come up with others and enjoy making a holiday to remember.

We are truly blessed and have so much to be thankful for. May this month of November be a time of true "thanksgiving" in your family.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

-John March, Principal



November

40+ Anniversaries

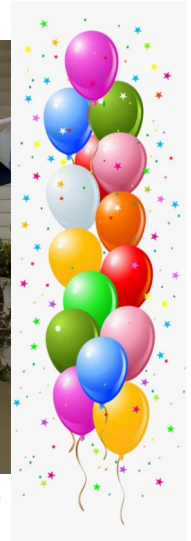
- Bill & Marsha Wagner (47 yrs) Nov 3
- Clarence & Jean Meyer (70 yrs) Nov 5
- Otto & Donna Nicely (56 yrs) Nov 7
- Marvin & Maxine Thieroff (67 yrs) Nov 8
- Jim & Jeannette Tingle (47 yrs) Nov 10
- Ken & Cindy Sawmiller (44 yrs) Nov 12
- Fred & Rita Bergman (50 yrs) Nov 21
- Bill & Roberta Phlipot (45 yrs) Nov 22
- Mike & Terry Koenig (43 yrs) Nov 26
- Paul & Ramona Burkhart (62 yrs) Nov 29
- Roger & Emma Maddock (52 yrs) Nov 29
- Jim & Sandra Morris (45 yrs) Nov 29

80+ Birthdays

- Allen Wichman (82 yrs) Nov 24
- Joanne Henry (90 yrs) Nov 25
- Ken Harris (84 yrs) Nov 29



Lorna Goldenetz turned 100 on October 22!!
Picture from the birthday parade.



Senior High Gathering:

Get a Grip (1 Peter 5:6-7)
Attention: All Senior High Students!



Due to COVID, the annual Ohio District Sr. High Gathering will be divided into 4 regional minigatherings.

These mini-gatherings will still have music, a Bible study, keynote speaker, workshops and service events.

St. John youth will be attending the mini-gathering on Sunday, November 22 at St. Paul, Napoleon from 1:00 - 9:00 p.m.

While one city is having Dr. Micah Parker and the Scally Brothers Band, the other will be doing some community building, Bible Study, and break-out sessions. Then things will switch so both cities have the complete program all in one day! The same will happen in the other cities on Sunday. The cost will be \$50 per person (price might be lowered - so don't let that keep you away!). This will cover honorariums and travel expenses for our presenters. This fee will also provide a dinner meal, snacks and any other supplies needed. To get the registration forms, contact DCE Cassidy at holeso-sjl@defnet.com or call at 419.782.5766

Thank You!

The birthday parade was a MOST welcome surprise! Thank you for such a thoughtful and fun-filled birthday gift! May God Bless You All!
-William Johnson

To all the birthday parade volunteers; Thank you so much for my drive by, card, balloons, and poster. It was GREAT! Thank you again for all your time and work. It is greatly appreciated.

-Murlan Miller

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The Food Pantry

Continues on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In October we served 51 families or 181 people with 315 bags of food with a value of \$3150.



Thank you to our congregation for supporting this ministry and to all our volunteers who help with their time and talents to continue operating.



Meijer of Defiance will again feature St. John Lutheran Food Pantry from **Sunday, October 25, 2020 through Saturday, January 2, 2021**. Please pick up a \$10.00 scan card in the church office and take it to the Defiance Meijer store to be scanned and add \$10.00 to your receipt to be given to St. John Pantry as Meijer gift cards at the end of the campaign.

Please note on **Tuesday, December 1** and **Saturday, December 12** Meijer will **DOUBLE** your contributions. For every \$10 Simply Give Card purchased on these dates, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, bringing the total to \$30 for a single customer purchase. Each purchase resulting from **Double Match Days** will be matched by Meijer up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 for the campaign.

Thank you to Meijer for continuing to support our Community and Food Pantries in Northwest Ohio and all our congregation members who support the food pantry.

Deb Hastedt
Food Pantry Manager

Ladies Aid

This being the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34. Let us not forget that God is in control and we need to be thankful for our many blessings.

We will be making noodles on November 10, and bagging them the next day. We will have them for sale after services November 14 & 15. Our next meeting is November 19 at 2 p.m. Barb Dales will be the hostess. We will be finishing last-minute details for our Advent Tea to be held on November 22 at 2:30 p.m. Don't forget to get your reservations in to hostess a table or come as a guest to the Tea.

We will be distance socializing and hoping to see you at the meeting and at the Tea.

Prepare The Way

Advent is a season as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.



On Sunday, November 22, at 2:30 p.m. the Ladies Aid is coordinating this year's "Advent Tea". Each hostess will decorate a table and provide appetizers for their guests. The program will include Scripture readings and singing some favorite songs. Let us "Prepare the Way" for the celebration of the birth of Christ! If you would like to host a table please call Roberta Phlipot at 419.395.2108. A free will offering will be received for this event to support Marshall's Mountain, a non-profit organization for continued research on Pompe disease.





Sharing for Inspiration

The Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 8-9, was encouraging the Corinthian congregation to join with other congregations Paul had planted, in a gathering of gifts to share with the saints in Jerusalem who were suffering because of persecution and famine. In that appeal, Paul wrote, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." We may not realize that when God moves us to give gifts, beside providing for ministry needs, our gifts cause thanksgiving among God's people.

On Thanksgiving Day, it might be your family tradition to go around the table naming something for which you are thankful. What would happen if we changed our focus to: Who has shown thanksgiving because of something God empowered me to do with his gifts? While giving is never meant to be bragging, the giving of our gifts can be an inspiration for others to give.

With that in mind, if you have put a Lifetime Plan for Giving in place from your estate, to family and ministry, have you shared that plan with those closest to you? By sharing, they get to rejoice in God's indescribable gifts, and they get to begin considering how they can do the same. May the Lord bless your sharing! If you would like assistance in setting up a family meeting for this purpose, your LCMS Foundation gift planning counselor can help.

Contact Eileen Fitzenreiter at Eileen.Fitzenreiter@lfnd.org or 419.822.6461.



SCOUTING NEWS



A Halloween Party in October, with safe guidelines due to COVID, was held at a local residence and provided great fun for the Cubs. A variety of activities were available, including making cider with an apple press, bird feeders from pine cones, and fire starters. Pumpkin carving/painting and Putt-Putt golf were also enjoyed. An advancement ceremony followed by snacks, and candy concluded the day.

In addition to the Halloween Party, Cubs with a family member participated in a Family Fun Day at Camp Lakota. A Turkey Shoot will be held later this month.

Duty to God is an important obligation that is recited in the Scout Oath. Reverence is the 12th point of the Scout Law. As such, completing the appropriate religious award, a voluntary achievement, for their age group is promoted by the Pack leadership. While the awards are commonly presented during Scout Sunday in February, Marty Frank recently earned and was recognized for his God and Family Award.

Troop members attended the Chinquapin District "Back to Scouting" Camporee (Defiance, Paulding, Williams, Fulton, Henry Counties) at Camp Lakota in October. Hiking, fire-building skills, knife/axe safety, first aid, poison ivy identification and knots were all included and met a number of advancement requirements. The Scouts also made some excellent meals with everyone helping in cleanup.

Both the Pack and Troop once again this year participated in the annual Boy Scout popcorn sales. Profits from the sales will help support both units in providing excellent programs for the youth. Thanks to all who made a purchase!

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 may be addressed to Mike Saxton, Chartered Organization Representative, at 419.439.2079.



St. John Lutheran Church DEFIANCE

5 WAYS TO GIVE

TO SUPPORT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

realm

IN PERSON Drop in offering basket at the service.	MAIL 655 Wayne Ave, Defiance, OH 43512	ONLINE onrealm.org/SaintJohnLuther/Give	MOBILE APP REALM Connect App	TEXT Text (to give) 73256. Keyword is: sjldefiance
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text 73256. Keyword is: sjldefiance

<https://onrealm.org/SaintJohnLuther/Give>

OVERVIEW

Realm, in its simplest form, is our church database. Realm is a product of ACS Technologies (ACS) and we have been a client of ACS for years. The member information that the church office had in our ACS database has been converted into Realm, i.e. your address, your phone, your email, etc.

You should have received an email invitation to join Realm. Please email, sjl@defnet.com or call the church office at 419.782.5766 to receive an invite. To get started in Realm, we want to share some basics about your account profile and how to update and manage it. Realm now empowers you to keep your information up-to-date. Maybe your address has changed and you forgot to notify the church. Now you will be able to log into Realm and change that yourself. Each person has their own unique record in Realm. Each person, therefore, will need their own unique email address to access Realm. If you share an email address with a spouse/partner, only one of you will be able to access Realm. We encourage you to reach out to the church office at 419.782.5766 and provide separate email addresses. Each person/record is assigned a Family Position (head, spouse, child). By default, ACS Technologies/Realm assigns the head of household position to the male record of household accounts. This is out of St. John Lutheran’s control. You can update/change as needed. Each member of the church will have a record in Realm regardless of age. At the age of 21 child records convert to their own household account. **Please DO NOT add a member to your family in Realm.** You risk making a duplicate record for you or your family members. Please contact the church office if you believe you need to add a family member, and we will make sure they do not already have a record first.

GIVING

You can check your giving history or pledges, or print a list of your past giving. As you give throughout the year, keep track of it within your profile's giving history. This lists all of your contributions, whether they're manual, online, or pledges to a campaign. The date range you select determines the gifts you see, and you can print a list of your current gifts or contributions. You can filter your list of contributions to view the ones you want. 1. Sign into Realm. 2. Click Giving on the main menu. 3. To narrow the list of contributions, click the filter icon, select limiting criteria, and click Filter. We encourage members to give online via Realm. For more information on giving online, please contact Rita Bergman, sjl@defnet.com or 419.782.5766.

CURRENTLY

We have **seven families** who use the automatic giving and love the convenience of this program. We encourage you to set up your automatic giving to St. John. We have 205 St. John members who are using Realm, 261 people who have not set up an account, and 580 individuals for whom we do not have email addresses. Realm is the easiest and fastest way we can communicate to the congregation. If you are not on Realm, please send a request to sjl@defnet.com or call the church office at 419.782.5766.



Stay Connected!

- www.stjohndefiance.com
- Realm—onrealm.org
- St. John Lutheran Defiance, OH youtube.com
- Podcast: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964>
- St John Lutheran, Defiance, OH YouTube
- Facebook.com
- www.stjohntigers.com
- sjl@defiance and [@mews_kurt](https://twitter.com/mews_kurt)





November 2020 Youth Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	2	3	4 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm	5	6	7
8 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	9	10	11 Cross Training 6:30-8:00pm	12	13	14
15 Youth Movie Night!  6-8pm	16	17	18 Cross Training BLAST Event 6:30-8:00pm	19	20	21
22 Sr. High Gathering 1-9pm No Youth Night	23	24	25 No Cross Training Classes	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 	27	28
29 No Youth Night	30					

NOVEMBER YOUTH SCOOP 2020

Current Activities:



Jr. & Sr. High Youth Bible Study: Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30am in DCE Cassidy's office.

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Nights: Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm at St. John.



Sr. High Youth Gathering—November 22nd at St. Paul in Napoleon 1:00-9:00pm

All students in 8th-12th Grade are invited to attend this event! The theme is “Get a Grip” and will focus on 1 Peter 5:6-7. The main speaker at the Gathering will be Micah Parker and music will be provided by The Scally Brothers Band. There will also be fun activities, engaging bible studies, and food/snacks provided as well!

Please contact DCE Intern Cassidy if your youth would like to attend, or if you'd like to be a chaperone.

BUILD. GROW. SERVE

DCE Intern Cassidy—Contact Information

Phone: 419.782.5766 ext. 106 / Email: holesosjl@defnet.com



“You’ve Been Flocked!” Youth Fundraiser



SJL Youth have been decorating yards around Defiance with these colorful flamingos! Want to flock a friend or family member for any occasion or just for fun? Fill out this short form below and return to the church office. Contact DCE Intern Cassidy if you have any questions!

*** Price to flock someone: Minimum of \$20 ***

Your name: _____ Who the flocking is for: _____

Their Address: _____

Date to flock: _____ Time frame that works best to flock: _____

Special Occasion? _____



November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	2 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:45p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Telecare 6:30p Life with God 7:00p Salary Study/Budget Meeting FR	3 Election Day 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study AE 2:00-4:00p Tuesdays @ 2 FR 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 4:30-6:30p Election Drive Thru Dinner	4 9:00a Mom's in Touch at Tim H 9:15a Early Childhood Chapel 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p Penny's Adult Bible Study LR	5 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Pastor Mews's Bible Study 7:00p Elders Meeting	6 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study	7 5:30p Worship
8 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 2:00p Congregational Meeting 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	9 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:30p Trustees 5:45p Finance 1 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God	10 8:30-?? Noodle Making FR 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study AE 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity AE 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30 Altar Guild AE 6:30p PTL Mtg LR 7:00p Youth Meeting YR	11 Veterans Day 8:30-?? Noodle Bagging FR 11:30a Endowment Mtg @ SS 2:00p Mere Christianity AE 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p Penny's Adult Bible Study LR	12 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Pastor Mews's Bible Study 7:00p BCDS Mtg	13 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study	14 4:00p Baptism 5:30p Worship- Communion
15 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 11:00a Worship/Communion 10:30a BOM Leader Luncheon Small Group LR 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	16 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:45p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God 7:00p COVID Meeting	17 DELAY START 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study AE 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 2:00-4:00p Tuesdays at 2 FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity	18 9:00a Mom's in Touch at Tim H 2:00p Mere Christianity 6:30p Cross Training BLAST Event 6:30p Penny's Adult Bible Study LR	19 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Pastor Mews's Bible Study 12:00-2:00p Knit & Study FR 2:00p Ladies Aid Meeting 7:00p Parish Planning	20 6:30a Iron Men's Bible Study 6:30-9:00p Angie's Advent Small Group FR	21 5:30p Worship 10:00a-4:00p Cubscouts GM & LR
22 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 1:00-9:00p St. Paul, Napoleon 2:30p LA Advent Tea GY	23 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:45p Finance 1 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God 6:30p Cassidy's Advent Small Group FR	24 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesdays @ 10 Bible Study AE 2:00-3:00p Mere Christianity FR 3:15p Zoom Mere Christianity 6:30p Bonin's Small Group AE	25 NO SCHOOL 2:00p Mere Christianity 7:30p Thanksgiving Service	26 Thanksgiving Day NO SCHOOL 	27 NO SCHOOL	28 5:30p Worship

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR 5:00p Congregational Christmas Dinner	30 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:45p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts GM & LR 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God 6:30p Advent Small Group FR	AE= Adult Education GM= Gym FR= Fellowship Room LB= Library LR= Lunch Room CB= Church Balcony YR= Youth Room CH= Church CO= Church Office				