



THE EPISTLE

LEADERSHIP: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon them."



President Abraham Lincoln, who saw our nation through arguably its greatest crisis, fully defines leadership. He pushed through The 13th Amendment abolishing slavery against determined foes when it gave him really no political advantage. He held the Union together in spite of great differences. Lincoln once said, "You can keep all of the people happy some of the time, and some of the people happy all of the time, but you can't keep all of the people happy all of the time." People have different needs, wants and desires. Moses too, arguably the meekest man who ever lived, embraced and knew the difficulty of leadership. Overwhelmed, he prayed to God and God assisted him with 70 leaders. The blessing that made it possible was that the Lord placed the same Spirit that was upon Moses upon them. That Spirit was one of service, serving all of God's people and leading God's people in the way of the Lord. Here are some 10 key insights into Godly leadership.

- A leader is called, strives and is enabled by God to do the Lord's work. God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called.
- A leader is primarily a servant. Their role is the well-being of others. Jesus was a leader who was humble, and came to serve all. "Jesus laid down His life for His sheep."
- A leader is a pioneer. A leader pushes forward and is innovative. A leader is willing to go off the map and find fresh ways to overcome challenges and reach goals.
- A leader isn't so much what a person does, but what a person is. A leader's character, drive, compassion, and knowledge shape, inspires and goes before any of their actions or decisions.
- A leader looks out for the best of everyone. Jesus is the head of the body of Christ, who loves and uses all members of His body for the good.
- A leader assumes responsibility. Effective leaders take ownership for failures, are willing to learn from them and realize that "the humble will be exalted and the exalted will be humbled."

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- 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.stjohnndefiance.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

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SERMONS FOR MAY

May 2, "Unless Someone Explains It to Me" by Pastor Mews
Text: Acts 8:26-40

May 9, "Interconnection: Belief-Love-Righteousness" by Pastor Mews
Text: 1 John 5:1-8

May 16, "Dying for the Faith" by Pastor Hopkins
Text: John 17:11b-19

May 23, "The Spirit of Truth" by Pastor Mews
Text: John 15:26-27

May 30, "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Pastor Mews
Text: Isaiah 6:1-8



COMING SOON

The Epistle for June/July will be combined! It will be out on the weekend of June 5/6.

PRIVATE COMMUNION

The Pastor continues 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 Pastor, Walt Smith, and George Kaiser are keeping in contact with our members. If the shut-in person is comfortable having a home visit, arrangements will be made for this visit.

PASTOR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral

Lynn Keller passed away on April 14, and received a Christian funeral on April 17.

Chad Goff passed away on April 13, and received a Christian funeral on April 19.

Marv Thieroff passed away on April 16, and received a Christian funeral on May 1.

Baptism

Ada Mariya Lucas on April 24.
Parents are Dustin & Janelle Lucas.



St. John Lutheran Church decided at the last congregational meeting to begin the process of replacing the office of associate pastor. If you are interested in being on the call committee for this process, please contact Pastor Mews or the church office.



A leader is going to be un liked. As Abraham Lincoln and Moses knew, effective leaders will always have people upset with them as leaders strive for the good of all, not just to keep a few happy. Jesus said, "If they hate you, it's because they hated me first."

A leader is shrewd. As Jesus commended "The Shrewd Manager," a leader finds noble and innovative ways to meet needs and accomplish their goals.

A leader is growing. Godly leaders realize that they can always improve and that growth in faith comes from the Word and the Sacraments and blessing of Christian wisdom around them.

A leader understands the whole. Leaders understand goals, unique needs and strengths among those that they serve. They use this for the best of others. "The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve and save."

God has, is and will continue to develop leaders. Leaders, who are sinners and saints, who live under the cross and seek to serve God's people, lead them in paths of righteousness and holiness. Leaders realize that while their walk on earth is filled with sin and failures, they run the race of faith with the prize of eternal life in front of them through our Lord, who as a leader ultimately died and rose for all.

In Christ,

Pastor Kurt Mews



Cross Training

Our Cross Training program of 2020-2021 has officially ended. Students wrapped up the year on April 28 with a final class/celebration. Our 8th/9th grade students will be confirmed this month at a private service on May 2. They have all grown tremendously over these past few months, and it is a joy to watch them all begin this new step in their faith walk. Have a great summer!

Bible Study Opportunities

Led by Pastor Mews

◇ In Depth Bible Study

"The Spirituality of the Cross" was written by the talented journalist Dr. Edward Veith. This study takes participants through a fresh study of specifics of Lutheranism that is engaging and rewarding. Veith's study will show how the cross of Christ shapes our life so that genuine spirituality of Christ echoes through all our lives even in instances that most would consider mundane. This group gathers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. A Zoom option is also available on Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m.

◇ Genesis Thursday A.M. Bible Study

We will be finishing our study of Genesis, studying about Jacob's death and the summary of the book Genesis. We will begin studying the book of Exodus shortly. The class gathers from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall.

◇ Life with God

Spring/Summer class starts Monday, May 24 through Monday, August 23. Classes are held Monday evenings in the Adult Bible Study Room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This class is for all interested in renewing their faith, learning the basics of Christianity and Lutheranism, or just exploring what our church believes and why we do what we do. Sign up by May 16. Blue forms are attached or see Pastor Mews or the Church office.

One way to pray is to use breath prayers that can be repeated in one breath.



"You are with me"
 "I receive your grace"
 "I want to know you"
 "I belong to you"
 "Help me trust you"
 "For me to live is Christ"
 "You will never leave me"
 "You are my God"





40+ Anniversaries

- Cricket & Mark Hageman (41) May 10
- Bill & Suzanne Hultz (56 yrs) May 16
- Jerry & Sharon Lynn (59 yrs) May 20
- Keith & Shelly Decker (45 yrs) May 28
- David & Kristine Graham (44 yrs) May 28
- Thom & Karen Kent (50 yrs) May 30
- Ted & Phyllis Nicely (63 yrs) May 31
- Dave & Sandra Pergram (46 yrs) May 31

80+ Birthdays

- Maggie Mack (89 yrs) May 10
- Bonnie Gomez (89 yrs) May 15
- Gloraine Stelzer (96 yrs) May 23
- Marvin March (86 yrs) May 26
- Marilyn Guillian (86 yrs) May 29
- Helen Miller (86 yrs) May 29

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Qualified charitable distributions (QCD's) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's) have been permanently extended. Individuals can donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities like the SJL Endowment Fund.

A QCD may be made when the IRA holder is age 70 1/2 or over and the payment is made directly from the traditional or Roth IRA to our Endowment account. If you wish to make a donation to us, there are potential benefits to a QCD, i.e., you will not be taxed on the distribution and it will count toward your required minimum distribution. It will also benefit our church for years and years to come. For information on how to proceed please contact Chairman Dave Memmer at 419.956.1920. Thank you.

Dave Memmer
SJL Endowment Committee

655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, OH 43512
• www.stjohndefiance.com



Scouting News



Cubs will continue in-person meetings this month. These meetings will be held in an outdoor venue with CDC guidelines in place. Included will be special Arrow of Light and Cross-Over Ceremonies for the Webelos who are moving on to the Boy Scout Troop. A number of other recognitions will be given to the younger Cubs as well.

The Pack Committee is currently planning a number of fun and exciting activities for the summer months, as the Pack is active year round.

The Troop will be participating in the Chinquapin District (Defiance, Paulding, Williams, Fulton and Henry Counties) Camporee this month at Camp Lakota. With the theme of Search & Rescue, Scouts will be working with such emergency rescue agencies as Life Flight, the Defiance County Sheriff's Department, local Fire Departments, Paulding EMA, Homeland Security and others to see what it's like to be a responder. Various rescue scenarios will be part of the agenda. If prerequisites are completed, Scouts can earn the Search & Rescue Merit Badge.

The Troop is also planning some service projects as well as for its week-long summer camp experience at Camp Lakota.

Memorial Day weekend provides an opportunity for members of both the Pack and Troop to serve as flag bearers for the St. John Church services. In addition, both units will participate in the city's Memorial Day observation at Riverside Cemetery.

The Boy Scout Troop has for many years recycled newspapers as a conservation project and last month delivered a load of newspapers for recycling. 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.



Church 419.782.5766
• email: sjl@defnet.com

School 419.782.1751
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Meet the Confirmation Class 2021



There are 13 8th grade Jr. Confirmands this year. Their confirmation day is May 2, 2021. They will be introduced at the 11:00 A.M. service (due to COVID) and they will be confirmed at a special service on that day at 12:15 and receive first communion.



Evan James Becher

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

Sponsors: Sara Nye and Jeremy Creps



Megan Marie DeSota

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 37:5

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

Sponsors: Jarred Hageman and Dan DeSota



Allison Jean Doda

Confirmation Verse: Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of
God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first
and also to the Greek.

Sponsors: Janeen Miller and Joshua Nelson



Mason Dean Ducat

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Sponsors: Brian Lichty and Nancy Reinhard



Alden George Friedrichsen

Confirmation Verse: Revelation 2:10

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Sponsors: Rebecca Meek and Tab Emahiser



Harmony Jean Gerken

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 21:22

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith.

Sponsors: Traci and Eric Mozeina



Levi Philip Goff

Confirmation Verse: Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Sponsors: Jonathan and Dawn Thieman



Logan Robert Hutcheson

Confirmation Verse: Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Sponsors: David Norden, Jennifer Norden, Danielle (Norden) Figley and Doug Norden

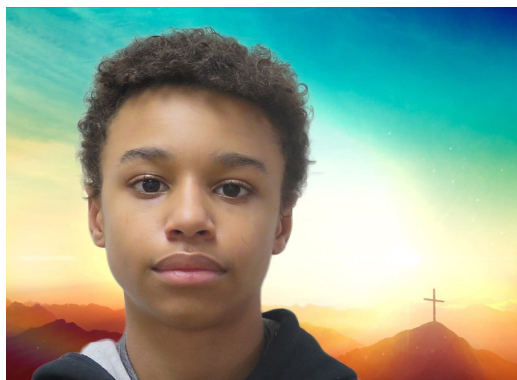


Ava Elyse Stork

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Sponsors: William and Callie Jackson and Jamie Hughes



Damon Isaiah Strohpaal

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 139:14

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Sponsors: Jamie Stohpaul, Jen Bendel and Jeff Reeb

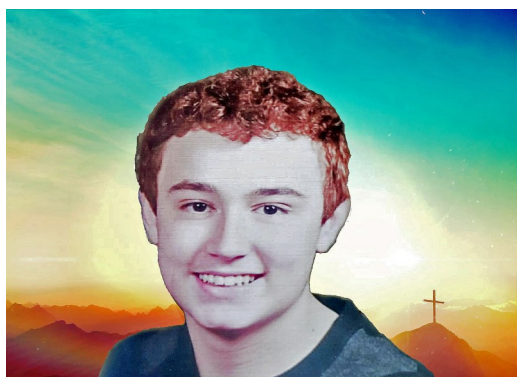


Taylor Elyse Sweinhagen

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Sponsors: Melissa Robison, Seth Stevens, Tiffany Rose, Amanda Schneider, Joseph Robison, Aaron Hostettler



Andrew Martin Tenorio

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

Sponsors: Lisa Strohpaal, Isaac Hinojosa, Ashley Valle, Eric Burns



Malorie Faye Zachrich

Confirmation Verse: Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Sponsors: Tina Wachtman, Megan Lawrence, Kathyne Yemc

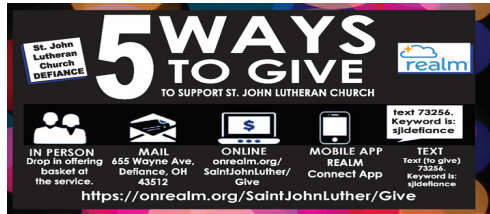
Financial Update

As of April 26, 2021

April revenue: April expenses:

\$86,386.67* \$80,150.70*

*These are approximate numbers.



The Food Pantry

Continues on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In April we served 23 families or 57 people with 112 bags of food with a value of \$1120.00.

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



Ladies Aid

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD."

We hope everyone had a blessed Easter.

Our next meeting is on **May 27, 2021** at 2 p.m. with chair hostess Nancy Baldwin.

The food pantry item for the month is shampoo. Remember this will be our last meeting until August 26, 2021. We hope everyone has a good



LIFE WITH GOD

The spring class starts Monday, May 24 through August 23. Classes are held Monday evenings in the Adult Bible Study Room from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This class is for all interested in renewing their faith, learning the basics of Christianity and Lutheranism, or just exploring what our church believes and why we do what we do. Sign up by May 23. Blue forms are attached or see Pastor Mews or the Church office.

A Message from Rita

Dear St. John Members,

It has been a privilege and honor to serve you in the capacity of church secretary. It has been 14 years since I started in the church office. In those 14 years Pastors and DCEs have come and gone. We had a major renovation of the church in 2011, celebrated installations of new pastors, celebrated 50 plus years of ministry of Pastor Luhring and then celebrated his retirement. I have enjoyed the challenges and learning along the way.



But most of all, as a Stephen Minister, I have learned the value of being present. Many times I could console, hug and offer prayers when times were at their lowest for our congregation members.

Fred and I are going to take some time traveling and see our children and grandchildren. We will continue to volunteer and be a part of the Body of Christ here at St. John. May the Lord bless you.

Rita Bergman



The Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study Group would like to thank everyone who helped us in any way with our Drive-Through Dinner on April 20. The proceeds from the dinner will go to Ravens Care to help people in need in our community. We also want to give a big thank you to Thrivent for our Community Grants.

Thank you to the Endowment Fund for purchasing new carpet for the church.

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We salute those who have served and who are currently serving our country. God Bless America!



Neil Andrews, Navy	John Curl, Army	Bob Heil, Navy
Robert Antoine, Army	Charles W. Dales, Marine Corps	John Heilman, Army
William Antoine, Army	Dick Derringer, Navy	Richard Heilman, Army
Nick Baldwin, Army	Allen Detter, Navy	Ryan Helberg, Air Force
Rex Baldwin, Army	Brandon Dickson, Navy	Paul "Bud" Henry, Navy
Ralph Baringer Jr, Army	Kenneth Diemer, Air Force	Aric Heyman, Air Force
Ralph Baringer Sr, Army	Bernard Dodson, Air Force	Bob Heyman, Air Force
Forrest D. Beaverson, Army	Klayton Dorsey, Marine Corps	Philip Hoag, Army
Angie Bell, Army	Charlie Duerk, Air Force	Bernard Hohenberger, Army
Roger Benien, Army	Aaron Duerk, Air Force	Ernie Holtsberry, Navy
Annette Bergman, Air Force	Ivan Duerk, Navy	Mark Homan, Navy
Carroll Bergman, Army	John Duerk, Navy	Bill Hultz, Army
Fred Bergman, Army	Roger Duerk, Air Force	Jacob Hutcheson, Army
Jason Bergman, Army	Richard Dupont, Navy	Jordan Hutcheson, Army
Joshua Bergman, Army	Keith Eberle, Marine Corps	Ralph Iler, Jr, Army
Mark Bergman, Army	Jon Eickenberg, Air Force	Brent Ingle, Army National Guard
Michael Bergman I, Army	Herbert J. Fessel, Navy	Kevin Juillard, Army
Michael Bergman II, Marine Corps	Earl Fry, Army	Luke Kammeyer, Navy
Scott Bergman, Marine Corps	Jim Gary, Navy	Pete Karzynow, Army
Aaron Berry, Air Force Reserves	Henry "Hank" Gerken, Army	Lynn Keller, Army
Bonnie Bishop, Marine Women's Reserve	Victor Gerken, Army	Victor Keller, Army
Mark Bishop, Army	William "Bill" Goldenetz, Army	Thom Kent, Navy
Wayne Bishop, Navy	Roger Grim, Army	Michael Kolb, Marine Corps
Emmett Blevins, Army	Howard Grime, Army	Tom Koppenhofer, Air Force/Air National Guard
Vern Bok, Air Force/Air National Guard	Eddie Groce, Navy	Al Lange, Marine Corps
Tim Borkosky, Army	Vern Hahn, Army	Estel "Ward" Lichty, Army
Marvin Brandt, Army	John Haviland, Marine Corps	Don Link, Army
Richard Carpenter, Marine Corps	Aaron Hastedt, Air Force	David Lulfs, Army
Brandon Chandler, Marine Corps	Charles Hefflinger, Army	Eric Maag, Coast Guard
John Clay, Marine Corps	Brandon Heidepriem, Marines	Ben Maddock, Air Force
	Harland Heidepriem, Army	

Roger Maddock, Air Force	Travis L. Perry, Marines	Bernard "Butch" Sines, Army
Marvin March, Army	William Phlipot, Army	Elizabeth Smith, Navy
Charles Marihugh, Army	Craig Plummer, Navy	Walter A. Smith, Army
Ed McCray, Coast Guard	Mark Plummer, Navy	John Spreeman, Army
Mitchell McGough, U.S. Navy	Bob Pracht, Army Air Corps	Marv Steingass, Army
Kirby McKeen, Army National Guard	Audrey Renn, Navy	Richard Steffens, Army
Harold Mehring, Army	Charles C. Renn, Army	Tom Stelzer, Air Force
Nelson Mehring, Navy	Charles F. Renn, Army	Joshua Stetter, Coast Guard
Paul Mehring, Navy	Corey Renn, Navy	John B. Straman, Jr, Army Air Corps
Ralph Mehring, Army	Steve Renn, Navy	Leo Swary, Army
Raymond Mehring, Navy	Jr. Retcher, Coast Guard/ Merchant Marine	Joe Symonds, Army
Victor L. Mehring, Army	Raymond "Bud" Rice, Army	Marvin Thieroff, Army
William Mehring, Army	Daniel R. Richard, Army	Kyle Thurlwell, Marine Corps
Clarence Meyer, Army	Geri Ricks, Navy	Jim Tingle, Navy
Theodore Meyer, Army	Mark Roehrig, Air Force	Alan Van Vlerah, Army
Rebecca Meyer, Navy	Philip Hoag, Army	Jordan Viotto, Marine Corps
Evan Miller, Marines	Daniel Royal, Marine Corps	Carl Wachtman, Air Force
Richard Miller, Army	Rogelio Rubio, Army	George Wachtman, Air Force
Jory Morr, Coast Guard	Gavin Saul, Marine Corps	Lois Wachtman, Marine Corps
Brandon Nagel, Marine Corps	Nick Saul, Marine Corps	Loyal Wachtman, Marine Corps
Alexis Nashu, Army	Kenn Sawmiller, Navy	Donald Wade, Army Medical Corps
John Nashu, Army	Don Schatz, Army	Larry Wagner, Marine Corps
Alan Nicely, Air Force	Jim Schatz, Army	Paul Wagner, Army
Andrew Nicely, Air Force	Harold Schomburg, Navy	Richard Wesche, Air Force
Floyd Nicely, Air Force	Roger Schomburg, Air Force	Robert Wesche, Army National Guard
Otto Nicely, Army	Cody Ray Schuette, Army	Jerry Wichman, Army National Guard
Kendra Oehlerich, Marine Corps	Fred Schuette, Air Force	Russ Wichman, Army National Guard
Gene Oelke, Navy	Devon Seymour, Marine Corps	Ed Yeutter, Navy
John Oelke, Army	Jim Seymour, Army	
Ron Osborn, Army	Bob Shaffer, Army	
Jason Parker, Air Force	Franklin C. Shasteen, Army	
Julie Parker, Air Force	Landon Shaw, Marines	
Dave Pergram, Air Force		



FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JOHN MARCH:



I truly enjoy listening to stories of great inspiration. Often these tend to be about people who will not give up; stories of those who stay the course even though the “going gets tough”. This month our character trait focus has been on perseverance. One of my previous pastors related the story of Derek Redmond, a British runner, in one of his sermons. It is a story from the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Redmond hoped to win an Olympic medal in the 400 meter dash. Redmond had been a favorite to medal in '88 at the Seoul Olympics, but a tendon injury had knocked him out of the running. After painful surgeries and rehabilitation, Redmond was ready to compete again in '92 and pursue his goal of an Olympic medal. In his qualifying heat, he took the lead early, but with about 175 meters to go, his hamstring seized up and he was forced to his knees. His Olympic dream was over. Derek never got the medal he hoped for. It's a sad story. Derek Redmond was so determined, and he had suffered a great deal to make his way back to competition.

We would like to believe that such hard and faithful work is rewarded. Not always. The writer of Hebrews 11:29-12:2 tells about the faithful men and women who hoped God would reward them but suffered terrible hardships along the way. It does not seem fair. Even so, the writer encourages us to keep the faith and to be like runners who stay in the race. Run with perseverance and when the going gets tough, keep our eye on Jesus. Run the race and watch for Jesus. We are all in a race. Some of these races are big, like spreading the message of salvation, caring for God's creation or even ending extreme poverty. However, others are more personal. Perhaps the race could be to save a failing marriage, or finish another round of cancer treatment. Or sometimes it simply might be to make it through the day without going insane. Our school has been in the race this year to change, grow and improve. The writer of Hebrews wants us to run whatever race we are given with patience and perseverance. Keep our gaze on Jesus, and all will be well. Keep the faith.

My pastor didn't stop the story of Derek Redmond with the disappointment Redmond faced. Instead, he showed us a video clip that was inspiring. After his hamstring popped and Redmond fell to his knees, the television cameras cut to where his fellow competitors were crossing the finish line. But then they cut back to Redmond. He had gotten to his feet and was hobbling the last 175 meters of the race. It was incredible. He was determined to finish, even though he was in obvious agony and his hopes for a medal were dashed. The crowds were on their feet. Then came another surprise. A man from the stands ran onto the track to Redmond's side. The man was his father, and he put his arm around his son and helped him through the final meters of the race. The security guards were telling him to go away, but he insisted on staying with his son. His father had come out of the stands not to help him win but to help him continue running, so that he would not have to run alone and so that he might have the small joy of crossing the finish line. Wow!

What an inspiring story, and one that truly exemplifies perseverance! Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr., once said that “we do not find the joy of God by winning the race. We find the joy of God by faith, when we make our way down to the track and help each other take one more step. We find the joy of God by faith when we are suffering in agony and suddenly find someone at our side. We find the joy of God by faith when we remember how Jesus walked with us on the earth and suffered and died but rose again. We find the joy of God by faith when we remember that we are not alone, that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses whose faith inspires our faith. They are cheering us on: ‘Stay in the race,’ they cry. ‘We are all going to finish together. Keep the faith! Jesus is with you.’”



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So, as we look back on this year, we definitely have persevered through this portion of the race. It was a tough year with so much change and restrictions due to COVID-19. It was hard, scary at times, and yet we made it through the year in person! Praise the Lord! And with our eyes focused on Jesus, we look forward to next year with excitement and great expectation...and most importantly with perseverance knowing that Jesus is with us!

Praying you have a safe, happy and healthy summer! - John March, Principal



Pictured above are students who received perfect church attendance for third quarter.

Bottom picture is of students who had Baptismal birthdays.



thank you

Dear fellow believers at St. John Lutheran Church. We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love, care, cards, gifts, kind words and overwhelming support during this difficult time. We know that Chad is with His Lord in peace. Your love toward us has been a source of comfort, joy, and blessing. We are grateful for such a supportive and wonderful church family. We love you all.

Thank you,
Carla and Levi Goff and family

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the kind words and support from my church family. It was a hard decision to move on to the next chapter in my life. I enjoyed the challenges and opportunities to grow in my faith and various skills. May God continue to bless St. John and for us to strive to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior.

Thank you,
Rita Bergman



CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet will be reopening soon! There will be limited hours and access due to COVID. Please watch the newspaper, church bulletin, SJL Facebook, Realm, and the church website for more information.



NEW DESK & CHAIR FOR PASTOR MEWS

Pastor will be moving into the Senior Pastor office soon. A new desk and office chair will be purchased for the office. If you would like to contribute to the desk and chair fund, please place your contribution in the offering basket or to the deposit box located right outside the church office in the envelope marked "Desk and Chair."

SPRING 2021 St. John Lutheran church, Defiance, Ohio
LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG) Starting, Monday, May 24, 2021

Does God exist? What happens after death? Why are there so many different religions? Can the Bible be trusted? Why do bad things happen to me? I want to learn more about Lutheranism and become a member of a Christian Church. St. John's "Life with God," explores and answers these questions and more in an informal, enjoyable, yet beneficial way through a 12 session/week course called "Life with God." (LWG) Sign up below, we ask that participants attend 10/12 classes and there are videos over each class that can be viewed for missed classes. For those who complete this course they can become communicant members if they desire. Life with God will be offered each Winter, Spring and Fall. St. John members are asked to attend a "Life with God," class once every five years to renew and refresh their faith!

TOPICS: Evidence for God's existence, Saving Faith, Baptism, The Lord's Supper, The Bible, Law and Gospel, Living a Christian Life, Being a part of the Body of Believers at St. John, Good Works, The Ten Commandments, Worship, Christian Stewardship. Come to learn and grow together.

DATES: Monday, May 24, 2021 to Monday, August 23, 2021. Classes are held on Monday Evenings in the Adult Bible Study room from 6:30-8:30 P.M.. A calendar will be shared then. Bring nothing, on the last class we will bring refreshments to share. After the 2nd class, no new class members are to join.

TEACHERS: Pastor Mews, who has been teaching and leading this for 18 years.

FOR: Adults or High School students desiring to be members of St. John Lutheran Church, or those who want to support those attending. This is also for those who simply desire to renew their faith or explore the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism.

REGISTRATION: To be turned in to the church office by **Sunday, May 23, 2021** or hand to a pastor.

SPRING/SUMMER 2021 St. John Lutheran Church "Life with God" (LWG) Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Baptized: Circle; Yes No Current Church Membership: _____

Check those which apply;

_____ I plan to attend Life with God and my desire is to become a communicant member of St. John.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God to renew my faith and/or to support a friend attending.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God to simply explore and learn about Christianity and Lutheranism.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God and will decide later about possible membership.

Other thoughts or concerns;



May Youth Scoop 2021



Easter Tie-Dye Night!

Mother's Day Spring Flower Sale:

Come support the SJL youth program at our annual spring flower sale on Sunday May 9th. Kirchers will be providing us with beautiful flowers to brighten up your gardens. This is also a great way to show appreciation for all the mothers and motherly figures in our lives.

Order pick-up and cash-n-carry will be on Mother's Day, May 9th between the church services. We will be located out in the parking lot across from St. John on Wayne Ave.

Helpers needed 8:00am-12:30pm on May 9th to sort and carry orders. Please let DCE Intern Cassidy know if you can help.

CAN RECYCLING NOTICE:

We kindly would like to remind everyone that **we only accept pop cans (aluminum)** for our can recycling fundraiser.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT: Soups cans, cat food cans, plastic, or any other materials. OmniSource will not take them. Thank you!

You've Been Flocked! Youth Fundraiser

This warm spring weather has been perfect for the flamingos! If you would like to surprise a friend or family member on their special day, consider hiring SJL youth to flock their yard with colorful flamingos. Flocking forms can be found on the youth bulletin board in the school hallway. Please turn in forms and \$20 payments to DCE Intern Cassidy at the church office.



Jr./Sr. high youth nights:

Sundays at St. John from 6:30-8:00pm.

Join us for fun games, activities, fellowship with friends, and discussion on various Bible topics.

We do not meet on holiday weekends.

DCE Intern Cassidy—Contact Information

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




May 2021 Youth Calendar

						1
2 Confirmation Day @ 12:15pm	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo! 	6	7 <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">DCE Intern Cassidy College Graduation</div>	8
9 Mother's Day!  Spring Flower Sale 8am-12:30pm	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	24	25	26	27 Last Day of School: SJL, Tinora, Ayersville, and Defiance	28	29
30 NO youth night	31 Memorial Day 					

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Book Fair 11:00a M.T. Service 12:00p M.T. FR 5:30p Worship 5:00p Annual Event @ the Eagles
2 Book Fair 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 12:00p Confirmation 6:30-8:00p Jr/Sr Hi Youth YR	3 Book Fair 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:30p - Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts LR 6:30p Boy Scouts	4 Book Fair 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study FR 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 2:00p Tuesday @ 2 Book Club FR 3:15p Zoom Spirituality of the Cross 3:00-? Adult A Title	5 Book Fair 9:00a Mom's in Touch 9:15a Early Childhood Chapel 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 6:30p Krystle's Small Group FR 3:00-? Adult A Title	6 Book Fair 8:55a Chapel - Lorna 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Genesis Bible Study FR 7:00p Elders Meeting AE	7 Book Fair 9-2p PTL Appreciation Meal FR	8 5:30p Worship
9 Mother's Day 8:00a Worship 9a-12:00p- Youth Flower Sale 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30-8:00p Jr/Sr Hi Youth YR	10 9:30a- Finance 1 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:30p Trustees LR 6:30p Cub Scouts LR 6:30p Boy Scouts	11 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study FR 1:00p Knit & Study Bible Study FR 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 3:15p Zoom Spirituality of the Cross	12 11:00a- Endowment Mtg. @ SS 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 6:30p Krystle's Small Group FR	13 8:55a Chapel - 7th&8th Grade 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Genesis Bible Study FR 7:00p School Board Meeting	14 Pastor Mews on Vacation	15 Armed Forces Day Pastor Mews on Vacation 5:30p Worship
16 Pastor Mews on Vacation 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30-8:00p Jr/Sr Hi Youth YR	17 Pastor Mews on Vacation 8:00-8:00p Pickles FR 1:00p ADM Meeting 5:30p - Finance 2	18 Pastor Mews on Vacation 8:00-8:00p Pickles FR 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study FR 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 2:00p Tuesday @ 2 Book Club FR 3:15p Zoom Spirituality of the Cross 6:30p Youth Board Meeting	19 Pastor Mews on Vacation 9:00a Mom's in Touch 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR	20 Pastor Mews on Vacation 8:55a Chapel - Mike McGhee 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Genesis Bible Study FR 7:00p Parish Planning	21 Pastor Mews on Vacation	22 5:30p Worship
23 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30-8:00p Jr/Sr Hi Youth YR	24 9:30a- Finance 1 1:00p ADM Meeting 6:30p Life with God	25 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 1:00p Knit & Study Bible Study FR 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 3:15p Zoom Spirituality of the Cross	26 2:00p Spirituality of the Cross FR 5:45p Hand Bell practice	27 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 8:55a Chapel - Mr. March 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Genesis Bible Study FR 2:00p Ladies Aid	28	29 5:30p Worship 8th Grade Graduation

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 12:00p Finance 2	31 Memorial Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	AE= Adult Education FR= Fellowship Room LR= Lunch Room YR= Youth Room CH=Church GM=Gym LB= Library CB=Church Balcony CO Church Office				