

THE EPISTLE

Christian Education: Not Just Child's Play!

In John 6, Jesus claims to be the Bread of Life. And while some grumbled at that, Jesus clarified that He prophesied before, '*All will be taught by God.*' Jesus brings His Bread/Word for all.

While the Reformation brought many great blessings to the church: renewed emphasis on the God's Word, the proclamation of salvation by grace alone and an individual's conscience interacting as sinners and saints in the world, there is one thing that the Reformation unintentionally brought. That is the notion to some that Christian education is solely for children. While we champion our Lutheran Education history in our school of 150 years, our success with Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Catechism and Cross Training programs, we tend to forget that "*All will be taught by God.*" Christian education is for all, and yes, that includes you. A parent at a Lutheran School once remarked that they just loved Lutheran Education. I asked them what about Lutheran Education did they love. They shared they loved the school, the teachers, the content of the school and other blessings. Thank God. I then asked what about Lutheran Education did they love for themselves? There was little reply. Did they love to learn the Catechism, Bible stories, the deep truths of Lutheran Church fathers? What? What book of the Bible was most beneficial? What topic touched them the most?

Jesus did welcome the little children and He rebuked those who saw children as those more to be seen than heard. Jesus calls us to have the faith of a little child, to be dependent upon God much like the ways children are dependent upon adults for all they need. But if one reads Scripture carefully, Jesus mainly ministered, taught and reached out to adults. He mentored 12 adults to be His disciples to take the saving message of the cross to all. He mainly taught adults!

It's been said that the Church teaches children and plays with adults, yet "*All will be taught by God.*" Last winter, 2019, the "Built on the Rock," program by Ted Korber was presented to our church to help our church function and grow! Facts and research demonstrate that the fastest growing LCMS Churches are those with the most adults engaged in Bible Study. The research also indicated that these congregations have mature members in the faith who are able to set Godly goals and visions and assist the church to work through problems and difficulties.



<continued on page 3>

- CHURCH SERVICE TIMES -

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

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/stjohnnlutherandefiance

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SERMONS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 5, "*Taming the Tongue*" by Pastor Mews

Text: James 3:1-12

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 12, "*Long/Winding Roads to You*" by Pastor Mews

Text: Isaiah 54:4-10

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 19, "*Service: Love in Work Clothes*" by Pastor Mews

Text: Mark 9:30-37

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 26, "*Handful of Prayers*" by Pastor Mews

Text: James 5:13-20

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Church Staff NEW Emails

Pastor Mews:

pastor.mews@stjohntigers.com

DCE Cassidy:

cassidy.holeso@stjohntigers.com

Secretary Dani:

church.secretary@stjohntigers.com

Secretary Diana:

dgrim@stjohntigers.com



Back to School

The last of August means it is back to school. Keep the teachers and administrators in your prayers; they have a big responsibility!

Be prepared to stop for a school bus when it is stopped to pick up its precious cargo or when the students leave after the school day is done.

LIFE WITH GOD

The fall class starts Monday, September 13, through November 29. 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 September 12. Blue forms are attached or see Pastor Mews or the Church office.

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

Baptism

Catherine Rose Pearce on August 1, 2021.
 Parents are Greg & Kristin Pearce.

Funeral

Dave Martin passed away on August 10 and received a Christian memorial on August 14.

Dusty Richard passed away on August 17 and received a Christian funeral on August 21.

Marriage

Kent & Laura Shiningar were married on July 31.



Finally, the best way to teach a child is through example, and the greatest teacher anyone is ever going to have is their parents. Parents and adults set Godly examples about God's Word and growth. Think about it: the children are urged and made to go to Sunday School and Bible class while the parents go to Bob Evans for the Grand Slam Breakfast. What does that say? What example is set? How can parents and other adults be Godly teachers if they themselves are not familiar with or into God's Life-giving Word? *"For His Word is of Spirit and Life."*

So join a Bible study, be involved in one yourself, and by God's grace grow and mature into the faith and grace in which you were called, because it is our Savior's heart and intent that *"All will be taught by God."* Peace and grace to you all as we mature in faith! Pastor KFM



Our Lord invites us to bring everything on our hearts to Him in prayer. The Prayer Chain has been reorganized in the last few months. Prayer requests may be directed to Judy Detter at detterjudy@gmail.com or Penny Mueller at pennym41@gmail.com.

If you would like to be included with Prayer Warrior email recipients of the Prayer Chain, please email Judy Detter at detterjudy@gmail.com or Penny Mueller at pennym41@gmail.com, and we will add you to our current list of recipients.

The Prayer Chain is published every Wednesday via email, with urgent request updates as necessary. Prayer is a wonderful gift our Lord has given us. Please join with us in prayer!



Cross Training

Our Cross Training program officially begins on Wednesday, September 1st at 6:30pm in the St. John lunchroom. This will be a movie-themed event, so wear your favorite movie t-shirt and come for trivia, a meal, and a quick overview of our program and events for the year. All families with children in 1st-8th grade are invited to attend this kickoff event to learn more about our program.

Our Cross Training leaders are excited for another year of strengthening the faith of our youth through strong Christian education. Leaders include Pastor Mews (8th), Mike and Nancy Kemper (7th), Dick Bonin (6th), Troy Hastedt (1st-5th), Kristina Phipps (Classroom Aide), Emily Wichman (Desk Attendant), and DCE Cassidy (Opener-Leader and BLAST Event Coordinator). Acolyte schedules are also being put together and will be sent out to parents before the end of the month. If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for Cross Training, please contact DCE Cassidy at Cassidy.holeso@stjohntigers.com or call at 419.782.5766.



Sept. 1 – BLAST Event #1: Cross Training Kickoff

Sept. 8 – Regular Classes; Signed Covenant forms due to DCE Cassidy

Sept. 15 – Regular Classes

Sept. 22 – Regular Classes

Sept. 29 – Regular Classes



THE NEED FOR A SECOND CALLED PASTOR:

The Ohio District President, Rev. Kevin Wilson sent this letter to Pastor Mews and the elders of SJL and they believe it is edifying and beneficial for all children of God at SJL.

(Received on July 12, 2021)

Dear Pastor Kurt,

The general rule for the number of pastors needed for a medium to large size congregation is one pastor for 125 to 150 in weekly worship attendance.

This means the pastor is actually relationally connected to more members - maybe 200 or so. Since members attend services with different frequency, the number we use is 125 to 150.

This is one reason why members become disappointed or dissatisfied in churches with one pastor for 300 to 400 in worship. There is no way for the pastor to stay relationally connected with so many people.

Usually, such churches see worship attendance decline over a number of years. To an extent, the congregation declines to the size where one pastor can provide care for the worshippers.

A couple of further observations:

While this seems counterintuitive, two pastors will not have the same ability to relationally connect with members. When a new Associate Pastor is called to a church, the Administrative Pastor may connect with 150 to 175 members while the Associate Pastor has relationships with 100 to 125 members. Within three years, these numbers are reversed. This is because the Senior Pastor has more administrative duties and invests more time with leaders.

Another note: The above ratio of worshippers to pastors is to maintain a church. Growth in membership or worship attendance usually requires more staff. Initially, this could be a specialized staff member (DCE, DFLM, etc). However, to disciple 425 or more in worship will ultimately require an additional pastor.

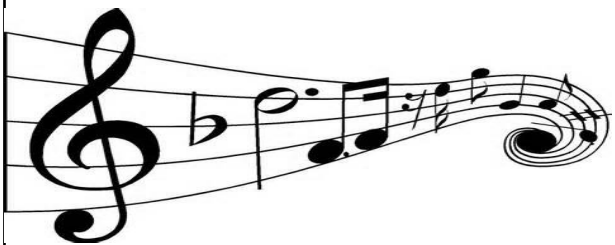
President Wilson

Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson
President



SENIOR CHOIR

Practice will begin Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30 in the library of the church. Anyone who enjoys singing and fellowship is welcome. If anyone has questions or would like to know more, please contact Darci Van Vlerah, 419.980.1435. We look forward to seeing you.



Thank you



Thank you St John's family for your prayers, love & support you have so freely given. You are true examples of what it means to be a church family!

The Dusty Richard Family



Hand Bells

Hand bell practice will begin Wednesday, September 8 at 5:30 in the choir loft. Please contact Lorna Smith if you are interested in participating 419.782.7465.





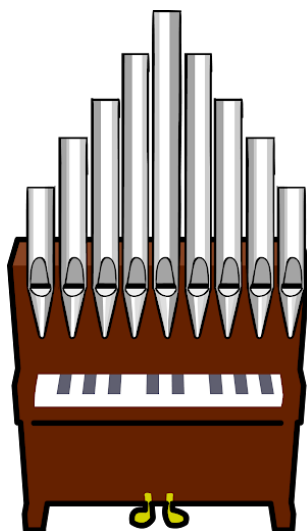
SEPTEMBER

40+ Anniversaries

Larry & Susan Meyer (61) Sept 11
 Gerry & Jenny George (43) Sept 23
 Doug & Cindy Heller (42) Sept 28

80+ Birthdays

Ramona Burkhart (83) Sept 14
 Ron Burke (90) Sept 17
 Clarence Meyer (92) Sept 17
 Marilyn Burke (89) Sept 20
 Helen Steingass (86) Sept 21
 Marian March (81) Sept 25
 Bill Johnson (85) Sept 30

ORGAN REPAIR NEEDED

After a recent inspection from Lima Pipe Organ Co. it was found that all the plastic axle bushings in the organ need to be replaced with new bushings. New felt washers are also needed. This will eliminate any issues with the rollers becoming misaligned. There are nearly 500 plastic axle bushings in the organ that need to be

replaced. The cost to replace all the axle bushings and felt washers is \$9,350.00. If you would like to contribute to the organ repairs, please place your contribution in the offering basket or into the deposit box located right outside the church office in an envelope marked "Organ Repairs."

TUESDAYS at 10 will begin a new study on Tuesday, September 10 in the Fellowship Room. Our topic will be "Life 101" led by Janet Koch. We meet every Tuesday 10:00-11:00 a.m. Come join us.

Scouting News

After a busy summer with a variety of activities, including a Welcome Back Picnic in August, the Pack has now returned to its weekly schedule of meetings. Age-appropriate activities for Kindergarten through grade 5 are engaging, fun and include both inside and outside hands-on adventures. Completing various achievements results in the Cubs being properly recognized.

The Troop will be attending the Troop 360 Fall Camporee this month on the shores of Lake Erie. Camporee attractions include a ferry boat ride to spend all day on South Bass Island. Activities there include participation in the Put-in-Bay Historical Parade, a visit to the Nature Center, as well as tours of the island's agriculture, Perry's Monument and the historic caves. Camping will be at Waterworks Park in Port Clinton where fishing and swimming will be available.

Both the Pack and Troop are currently selling popcorn, an annual fundraising event for both. Monies earned help provide outstanding programs for the youth. Your support would be truly appreciated.

Service to others is an important part of Scouting. Thus, among other projects, the Cub Scout Pack recycles pop tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House, which enriches the lives of children by providing comfort, care and support to families. Thanks to all who have dropped off the tabs in the large barrel in the St. John cafeteria!

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 the 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.

FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JOHN MARCH:

Dear St. John Family:

It's hard to believe that by the time that you are reading this, the 2021-2022 school year will have already begun. We are looking with great excitement toward this school year. We are implementing a state-of-the-art English Language Arts curriculum this year. This curriculum is going to help our students build an exceptionally solid literacy foundation. We are also beginning a new "House System" within the school. Each student will be part of a "family group" based on four of Jesus' disciples: Matthew, Peter, Paul, and John. We will be giving the students opportunities to both participate and lead on the sports field, on the stage, in service to others, and in academic settings. This wide range of opportunities serves to help students develop as well-rounded people and helps ensure that all students have a chance to shine! As well, we have some new, qualified teachers who bring with them years of experience teaching students in various situations and with different needs. They have a love for our Savior and want to share Jesus with their students and their families. Their exuberant and positive caring personalities will be a great asset for our school. Please help me welcome Krista Ordway (2nd grade) and Mikayla Tressler (1st grade) to the St. John Family.



I truly love this school. I have such fond memories going to school here as a child. The foundation that was laid during the years I attended St. John from K to 8th grade has had a lasting impact on me. It was during these years that my love for my Savior grew and blossomed. I learned important truths about Scripture and who God is, and who I am in Christ. St. John truly helped my parents "train up a child". The school and teachers stood beside my parents guiding, encouraging, and discipling me in my walk with Jesus. And that, my friends, is the most important thing in this world. As British missionary Charles Studd wrote in his famous poem, "Only one life 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

When I attended the school the majority of the students came from families who were members of the church congregation. Over the years, that has changed drastically. This is absolutely heartbreaking. As a church, we need to be promoting our school and encouraging our member families to send their children here. Although the public school may have good teachers and provide solid academics, the one thing that is missing is God. The foundation of these schools, the lessons, and the worldview of the teachers who are not believers in Jesus are not based on the Word of God or the Savior of the world. As believers of Jesus, we need to be filtering everything through a Christian worldview and filter. We live in a period of time that is exceptionally anti-Christ. It is more important than ever to make sure that our children have a solid foundation built on Jesus Christ.

At St. John Lutheran School we teach the Bible. Not only do we have dedicated time each day where our students delve into the Scripture, but our curriculum aligns with Christian values. Our teachers can talk about the Triune God and how He is part of and impacts every lesson that is being taught. For instance, we use the Scripture to show the students the truth about creation. This is not able to be done in a secular school.

We include prayer as part of our school day. As a faculty we gather before school for a time of prayer and reflection on God's Word. We specifically lift up our school families each and every day. Prayer changes things! At the start of the day our entire student body prays together over announcements. This is lead by the students: from the youngest to the oldest. It is awesome hearing the prayers of the children. Their child-like faith is so inspiring to me personally! And then there are times throughout the day when the students have opportunities to pray personally, whether as a class or individually....for something specific or an impromptu time when it is obvious we need Jesus in a situation. We know firsthand the importance of prayer in the life of a believer and believe in the importance of modelling it and instilling that in the lives of our students.

We are able to focus on character development. We can address the needs of the whole child. Since we can bring in Scripture and talk about Jesus, we have the opportunity to be able to focus on the Spiritual development of our students. >>>

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Welcome To Our School

Staff Changes

Mrs. March will be teaching the 7/8 Homeroom class as well as the 5-8 Social Studies and English Language Arts. Mrs. March comes with a lot of Middle school experience and has spent most of her teaching experience teaching Middle School ELA.



Miss Tressler is our new 1st grade teacher. Miss Tressler is a local resident and graduate from Ayersville High School. She is a recent Bluffton University grad and holds a teaching certificate in the state of Ohio. Miss Tressler has also worked at the Defiance Dance Studio for a number of years. We are excited to have Miss Tressler on our staff.



We welcome Ms. Ordway to our faculty as the new 2nd grade teacher. Ms. Ordway is a Defiance High School grad as well as of the University of Findlay. She has 14 years of experience and is licensed to teach in the state of Ohio. We are excited to have Ms. Ordway on our staff.

We can use Scripture to teach character traits using Bible stories and characters to help model for and instruct the students. We are excited to implement St. John's House System this year. This provides an opportunity for students of all grades and ages to work together as a family, to encourage each other, and to encourage development of leadership skills and character trait development in our students.

At St. John we provide a safe physical, emotional and spiritual environment. Not only is the physical safety of our students important, but so are the social-emotional needs of our students. With specific curriculum focused on navigating this, as well as the ability to look at the spiritual side of things, we can effectively help our students grow in this area. Being able to demonstrate the love of God to our students and share His love for them is life-changing for students.

Finally, we share the moral values of believers in Jesus Christ. With the vigorous secularism that is being pushed upon society, we are a generation that is seeing more of the values and the "faith of our fathers", eroded away. From taking prayer out of our public schools, to the issue of same-sex marriage, these values are being trampled on. If you have ever watched the movie, "God's Not Dead 2", one of the most gut-wrenching parts is at the end when they are rolling the credits. It lists all the lawsuits that were currently going on against teachers standing up for their faith in the public system. Teachers being suspended for giving a student a Bible or talking about Jesus outside of the classroom, or football coaches placed on leave for saying a prayer on the field at the end of the game. We have even seen in the media, the fire chief who was fired for self-publishing a book defending Christian moral beliefs. Or what about the circumstance of the Marine court-martialed for posting a Scripture verse above their desk. And even in our local area, teachers being told not to wear cross jewelry so as not to offend students. We want to share the love of Jesus with all whom we meet, and we have the freedom at St. John to openly talk, pray and discuss this. We see the importance of having students in an environment that is founded on the truth of Scripture and the values that it possesses.

We have the most wonderful opportunity to impact this generation for Christ at our school. As part of the St. John family, let me encourage you to promote our school. Encourage our members to enroll their children, talk to others in our community about the benefits of sending their children to our school, and finally pray. Pray for protection over our school, the growth of the students academically and spiritually, and an increase of numbers within our school. In closing, to repeat what C.J. Studd said, "When all is said and done and we are at the end of our life, it is truly only what's done for Christ will last."

In Christ, John March, Principal

Financial Update



Income

Church Revenue 64,521.67

School Revenue 37,742.90

Total Income 102,264.57

Expense

Care of Church Property 14,168.90

Christian Day School 40,713.62

Other Expenses 185.11

Preaching the Gospel 18,506.75

Spreading the Gospel 2,502.16

Tigers' Den 4,003.15

Total Expense 80,079.69

Net Over 22,184.88

*These are approximate numbers.

The Food Pantry

Continues on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In August we served 22 clients with 51 bags of food with a value of \$1000.00.

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

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had." Romans 15:5.

Our next meeting is September 30, 2021 at 2 p.m. JoAnn McCray will be the hostess. The food pantry item for the month is detergent.

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

Don't forget to mark your calendars for sending boxes to the military at our meeting on October 28 and the Advent Tea on November 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.



Best Practices Conference

September 19-21
Frankenmuth, MI

Best Practices is a conference for LCMS church workers and members to grow, build and improve their ministries through hearing about other churches' best practices. Several of our members went to the Best Practices at Carmel Lutheran Church in Carmel, IN, in October, 2019. Blessings were brought back from this conference that have benefited our congregation. Due to Covid the 2020 conference was cancelled and rescheduled for September 19-21. This is a free conference. We would like to thank the Endowment Ministry, Clothes Closet and Thrivent grants for covering their meals and travel expenses. Please keep the following attendees in your thoughts an prayers.

Pastor Mews

Mike and Nancy Kemper

Jeff Rohlf

Victoria Rohlf

Lonnie and Connie Warncke

Pat Marshall

Cassidy Holeso

Rita Bergman

Angie Morris

Lorna Smith

SJL Elder, Shepherding Ministry

The elders of SJL church are in the process of contacting all members to assist with their spiritual needs. The elders desire to touch and bless each member with the love and care of God. Over the next number of months, serious attempts will be made to contact all members to minister to them more effectively. As always, if you need anything at all, contact Pastor Mews, 419-670-5014.



September Youth Scoop 2021

Youth Activities:

Weekly Youth Nights—Sundays from 6:30-8:00pm. Open to all 6th-12th graders. Join us for games, activities, Bible discussion, and fellowship with one another.

National Youth Gathering 2022

St. John youth plan to attend this amazing event on July 9-13 of 2022. Youth must be going into their Freshman year by the time of the Gathering in order to participate. We will hold a covenant signing meeting at the end of September (Date TBA) to get a final number of youth that will attend the Gathering.

DCE Intern Cassidy—Contact Information

Cell Phone: 517-769-5084

Email: holesosjl@defnet.com

Pie Pan @ the Fair!

SJL Youth had an awesome time serving at our Pie Pan booth at the Defiance Co. Fair. Thanks to all youth and church members who helped work shifts and to all who came to support us as well.



September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00a Strummers & Hummers 2:00p Parables Bible Study 3:15p Zoom Parables 5:30p Hand bell practice 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p ACT Bible Study AE	2 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 3:30p Volleyball Practice 7:00p Elder Meeting	3 10:00-2:00p Clothes Closet	4 10:00a Private Poindexter Baptism 12:30p Private Tietje Wedding 4:30p Private Dietz Baptism 5:30p Worship- Communion
5 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship/Communion	6 Labor Day CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO SCHOOL 5:30p Finance 2	7 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 2:00p Tuesdays @ 2 Book Club 3:30p VB Practice/Picture Day 6:00p EC Meeting	8 11:00a Strummers & Hummers 11:30a Endowment Mtg @ SS 2:00p Parables Bible Study 3:15p Zoom Parables 5:30p Hand bell practice 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p ACT Bible Study AE 6:30 Senior Choir LB	9 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 4:30p VB HOME w/St. Paul 7:00p BCDS Meeting	10 Patriot Day 10:00-2:00p Clothes Closet	11 2:30p Wisknewski Wedding 5:30p Worship
12 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship	13 9:15a EC Chapel 9:30a Finance 1 11:00a Worship Team Meeting 1:00p Administrative Meeting 3:30p Volleyball Practice 6:30 Telecare 6:30p Cub Scouts/ Boy Scouts	14 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 1:00p Knit & Study Bible Study 3:30p VB Practice 6:30p PTL Meeting	15 11:00a Strummers & Hummers 2:00p Parables Bible Study 3:15p Zoom Parables 5:30p Hand bell practice 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p Adult Bible Study FR 6:30 Senior Choir LB	16 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 4:30p VB Away @ Monclova 7:00p Parish Planning	17 10:00-2:00p Clothes Closet	18 5:30p Worship- Communion
19 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship/Communion	20 5:30p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts	21 Fall begins 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 2:00p Tuesdays @ 2 Book Club 6:30p Trustees Meeting	22 11:00a Strummers & Hummers 2:00p Parables Bible Study 3:15p Zoom Parables 5:30p Hand bell practice 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p Adult Bible Study FR 6:30 Senior Choir LB	23 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus	24 10:00-2:00p Clothes Closet	25 5:30p Worship
26 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	27 9:30a Finance 1 1:00p Administrative Meeting 3:30p Volleyball Practice 6:30p Cub Scout 6:30p Boy Scout	28 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 1:00p Knit & Study Bible Study 3:30p VB Practice	29 11:00a Strummers & Hummers 2:00p Parables Bible Study 3:15p Zoom Parables 5:00p VB Away at Trinity 5:30p Hand bell practice 6:30p Cross Training 6:30p Adult Bible Study FR 6:30 Senior Choir LB	30 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30a Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 2:00p Ladies Aid Meeting 3:30p VB Practice		



September 2021 Youth Calendar

			1 Cross Training BLAST Event: Movie Kickoff! 6:30-8pm	2	3	4
5 No youth – Labor Day Weekend	6 Labor Day!	7	8 Cross Training 6:30-8pm	9 <div>DCE Cassidy Gone 9/10-9/14</div>	10	11
12 Youth Night!	13 <div>DCE Cassidy Gone 9/10-9/14</div>	14	15 Cross Training 6:30-8pm	16	17	18
19 No Youth	20 <div>Best Practices Sept. 19-21</div>	21	22 Cross Training 6:30-8pm	23	24	25
26 Youth Night!	27	28	29 Cross Training 6:30-8pm	30		

FALL 2021 St. John Lutheran church, Defiance, Ohio

LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG) Starting, Monday, September 13, 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, September 13, 2021 to Monday, November 29, 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.

TEACHER: 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, September 12, 2021** or hand to a pastor.

Fall 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.