

Epiphany: Christmas for Others!

"Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight over all the earth, Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth. Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ the newborn King."



The hymn, "Angels from the Realms of Glory," LSB Hymn #367, is one of my favorite hymns. What is yours? This hymn

captures the Christmas message spoken to various individuals: shepherds, sages/the wise men, saints, you and me, then all creation. We are called to "Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ the newborn King."

Over the years, this hymn could be a blessed and treasured Christmas hymn. It has the themes of angels, worship and the birth of the newborn king. Also it could be an Epiphany hymn. It has the themes of sages and others hearing of the newborn King. Simply said, Christmas is the celebration of the coming of Christ, and Epiphany is the celebration that this Christ came to all. Another way to say it is that the traditional Christmas night is for Jews and the coming of the wise men signals Christmas for Gentiles.

My preference is that we say and note that the traditional Christmas is for us and Epiphany is the Christmas for others. In Jesus' day, the birth of Christ was for Jews, those who knew the prophesies of the Messiah. Epiphany was for the Gentiles, those to whom the birth of Christ was revealed in special ways. One way to view this is that Christmas was for the least of these, Jews in Palestine, who know of Messianic words, as in "Shepherds in the field abiding, watching over the flocks by night, God is now with us residing, yonder shines the infant light." And Epiphany was for the least of these, Gentiles living in foreign lands, 'aliens' to whom special revelation was given through the prophets as in "Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar, seek the great desire of nations, you have seen His natal star."

In plain language:

CHRISTMAS IS FOR BELIEVERS.

EPIPHANY IS FOR THE WORLD.

<Continued on page 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

- 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 JANUARY

January 2: "*Christian Maturity*" by Pastor Mews Text: Luke 2:40-52

January 9: "*Light the Way"* by Pastor Mews Text: Isaiah 60:1-6

January 16: "U.N.I." by Pastor Mews Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

January 23: "*Truth or Dare*" by Pastor Mews Text: Luke 4:16-30

January 30: "Next Man Up!" by Pastor Mews Text: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19



National Lutheran Schools Week January 23-29, 2022

We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:2

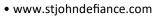
PRIVATE COMMUNION

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.

655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, OH 43512





PASTOR'S OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

Harris Diane Buchhop on December 11. Parents are Jeffery & Katie Buchhop.

Oakley Harrison Roark Suman on December 24. Parents are Dylan Roark & Autumn Suman.

Funerals

Ron Burke passed away on November 27, and received a Christian funeral on December 3.

Allyson Lorenz passed away on September 29, and received a Christian memorial on December 4.

Larry Plummer passed away on December 18, and received a Christian funeral on December 23.

Marriage

Nichole & Lincoln Cereghin were married on December 11.

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The Epistle, January 2022

Either way. If you prefer it for a Christmas hymn, there is much to hold on to and cherish. We proclaim "*the Messiah's birth"* and "*yonder shines the Infant light."* If you prefer it as an Epiphany hymn, there is much to hold on to and cherish, "*Ye have seen His natal star,"* and "*In His temple He shall appear."*

Either way, this Jesus was born as prophesied and proclaimed to be the Savior of the world. "He died once and for all," and "He is the propitiation of sins for the whole world!" This Epiphany may we celebrate that Christ is the Messiah for the entire world.

Together, let us mediate, contemplate and praise God singing, "*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.*" Let us in faith, word and deed note the Christmas and Epiphany gift of Christ as the Lord and Savior of all, "*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King!*" <u>And all God's people say,</u> <u>Amen!</u>



LIFE WITH GOD

The spring class starts Monday, January 10, and runs through April 11. 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 January 10. Blue forms are attached or see Pastor Mews or the Church office.



Cross Training

Our program is excited to enter the New Year as we continue to learn about our faith and how Christ works in our lives. A guick reminder that we have two big events coming up later in the month. The first is our 4th BLAST Event on Wednesday, January 19, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. John. This fun event will feature Christian rapper "True Muzik" who will be sharing some of his songs with us as well as a message on being "Walk Worthy." All are invited to attend and participate in this faith-building experience. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and the concert starts right at 6:30 p.m. Our next event will be a 6th-8th grade parent & student meeting on Wednesday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. We will begin with discussing the Jr. High Gathering, and then 6th-7th grade students and parents will be dismissed to go home. 8th grade students and their parents will stay to discuss Confirmation day and important assignments leading up to this event. A letter with more information about this meeting was sent in the mail back in December to all 6th-8th grade families. Please contact DCE Cassidy if you did not receive a letter.

See below for January Schedule:

Jan. 5 – CT Classes

Jan. 12 – CT Classes

Jan. 19 – BLAST Event #4: True Muzik Concert @6:30 p.m.!

Jan. 26 – CT Classes/6th-8th Parent/Student Meeting (Early dismissal: 1st-7th grades)



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NEW CHURCH SIGN

Blessed with a large gift and a generous grant from the Endowment Ministry, SJL Church will be installing a state-of-theart Church sign in the near



future. Enabled with many technical and visual functions, its purpose is to share with our Defiance community our Church and School ministry, worship times, announcements, Bible verses and inspirational messages. The sign will replace the older church sign located by of our sanctuary front doors.

SJL OPEN ENROLLMENT

St. John Christian Day School begins January 14, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year. Reach out to your friends and family with school age children and invite them to consider our school. A parent's greatest gift to their child is to introduce them to the Word of God through a Christian Education. Please see the bulletin insert with our invitation which highlights 5 Benefits of Going to A Christian School. There are also many financial assistance programs available including paid tuition through the state for many families. As an added incentive we are offering a \$250 1st year credit to all new students to assist with school fees. Write your envelope number at the bottom of the invitation. When the family visits and attends the first day of school, we will also send you a \$250 check in thanks for helping us reinforce Godly values to the next generation of Christians. Together we can grow our school and forge Christian morals and values to our young people that will shape the rest of their lives.

80+ Birthdays

Martha Vaughn (86) Jan 6 Shirley Homan (80) Jan 19 Marv Steingass (90) Jan 22 Penny Mueller (81) Jan 28 Dorothy Bockelman (83) Jan 30



40+ Anniversaries Dennis & Kathy Ripke (45) Jan 7 Bob & Deb Hastedt (50) Jan 15

Scouting News

The Pack will be holding a Cubanapolis this month. Each Cub will make a car out of a cardboard box and decorate it anyway he wants. His family will serve as his pit crew. The Cub will

run around the course for six laps with pit stops to change his tires, fuel up and clean his windshield. Pit stops will involve: 1) cleaning the windshield - spray goggles two times and wipe with rag, 2) changing tires - remove shoes, turn socks inside out, put shoes on again, 3) a photo op - remove helmet, comb hair ten times and smile, and 4) re-fuel - fill glass to water line and drink all water thru straw. The laps will be timed and winners determined by race time.

With one of the points of the Scout Law being that a Scout is reverent, a number of Cubs are working on their religious awards, which will be presented on Scout Sunday in February.

The Troop has been working on various skills in preparation for the annual Klondike Derby to be held at Camp Lakota on January 15. The Klondike Derby challenges patrols of 6 to 8 Scouts to use Scout skills to solve problems as their sleds race from one location to another. Approximately 70 sleds from the 13-county Black Swamp Area Council will be competing that day.

Caleb Zachrich recently passed his District Board of Review and has become the Troop's 98th Eagle Scout. A Court of Honor for Caleb and Layne Neff, who previously became an Eagle, will be forthcoming.

Youth and adults are always welcome to attend Pack and Troop events to learn more about the program. Questions at any time can be addressed to Mike Saxton, Chartered Organization Representative, at 419.439.2079.



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Financial Update Look for a revised Quarterly Financial Review in the upcoming months.



St. John Lutheran is beginning a new outreach and parish education project titled "419 Ministry" which focuses on serving the people in our area code. Originally named Board of Parish Education, 419 Ministry aims to build relationships with youth, families, and individuals in Defiance and nearby towns through evangelism and community outreach events. Our goal is to promote this new ministry program in the New Year of 2022 and continue focusing on growing the Body of Christ. If you would be interested in joining our team, please talk to Pastor Mews or DCE Cassidy.

Ladies Aid

With the new year beginning, let us remember "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done." 1 Chronicles 16:8.

A BIG thank you to all who purchased noodles and gift baskets. We still have a few noodles and baskets left.

Our Officers for the New Year are President – Roberta Phlipot, Vice President – Lorna Smith, Secretary – Donna Van Vlerah, Treasurer - Nancy Kemper.

Our next meeting will be January 29, 2022. Janet Seymour will be the hostess. The food pantry item is hand & body lotion. We will be social distancing. Here's to a blessed New Year and we hope to see you at the meeting.

The Food Pantry

Continues on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. As of December 16 we served 434 families or 1,171 people with 2,215 bags of food with a value of \$25,181.00 in 2021.



Thank you to everyone who continues to support this ministry.

These are two nativity sets that the Spanish students (in grades 3-8) completed in class. In class, the students learned the names of the nativity set members in Spanish and then colored each one of them.



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FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JOHN MARCH:

As we began this new year I have been reflecting on a quote that said, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). So what is meant by this quote? Basically, that we really don't start over, but we can change things right now in our lives so that we make things better. The most important thing we can do to change our lives is to draw closer to Jesus. The closer we are to Jesus, the more we are like Him!

This is one of the many opportunities that St. John Lutheran School has to share with its family and communities. We share each and every day this message of forgiveness, salvation, and the fact that we can change our endings. Over this past year we have seen hearts changed....families changed...Baptisms and people brought into the kingdom, all because of the seeds planted by our school! Thank you for supporting the school with your time, talents, and finances! We are making a difference in this world and helping to create new endings in the lives of families of our school.

A devotional my wife has at home is called "Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence" by Sarah Young. She shared with me January 1st's devotion, and I thought it was appropriate to share with all of you.

"Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting Love. I also know the plans I have you: plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence."

It is my prayer for each of us is that we don't look to the past, but instead look forward and seek Jesus. We need to ask the Lord to help us each day, to fall deeper in love with Him. Ultimately, by doing this our lives will be changed for the better.

This year I am determined to make the Lord my all and all....I hope you will too!

- John March, Principal





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The Epistle, January 2022

Nursing Homes & Care Facilities

<u>Brookview Healthcare Center</u>: Sue Bidlack <u>Glenn Park:</u> Helen Parrish (Pam Morisy's mother), Helen & Marvin Steingass, Bonnie Gomez

<u>Kingsbury Place Assisted Living:</u> Johanna Keesbury, Minnie Wagner, Martha Vaughn

Laurels of Defiance: Lorna Goldenetz, Becky Lindeman, Linda DeTray

<u>SKLD Nursing Home (Twin Rivers)</u>: Robin Casper, Virginia Mast

<u>Hillsdale Cty Medical Care:</u> **Imogene Grimes** <u>Pine Hill Retirement Community:</u> **Wilma Beaverson**

Ashleigh Aanerud	Tim Aanerud	Annette Bergman
Nicholas Hedlund	Kendra Oehlerich	Zachary Harrow
Jacob Hutcheson	Jacob Hinkle	Jordan Hutcheson
Nathaniel Mueller	Aaron Jagow	Hans Jagow
James Fisher	Alexis Poindexter	Andrew Nicely
Tracey Fraedrich		Corey Renn



Baringer Wachtman Scholarship Information

The Baringer-Wachtman Scholarship Committee and St. John Lutheran Church would like to express our appreciation to applicants such as Carli Rossow. We continue to encourage our young people to train for full time service to our Lord and Savior in His Church. The scholarship consists of a grant, the amount of which is determined annually by the committee. The student must be enrolled at one of our Synodical schools or in the LCMS Colloquy Program. For further information, view the bulletin board located in the hallway on the first floor wing of the school.

Colloquy Program

The Baringer-Wachtman Scholarship Committee has granted Carli Rossow a tuition paid Colloquy program through Concordia. Carli is the fourth grade teacher at St. John. This coursework will impact her ministry as she examines the Old Testament, New Testament and Lutheran doctrine. It is designed for Lutheran teachers serving in Lutheran schools. Congratulations, Carli.

Keith Ashbacher (friend of Rick & Nancy Baldwin), Marian & Wayne Belknap (mother and step-father of Debbie Wagner), Amanda Bok (niece of Marilynn Buchholz), Charlie Beard (requested by Charlie & Carol Edwards), Barb Cavin (mother-in-law of Sarah Cavin), Brandon Chuckavne (nephew of Pastor Mews), Amanda & Scott Egly (family of Nancy Eickenberg), John Glick (brother of Linda Brandt), Kirk Green (brother-in-law of Jeremy Stork), Ivey Hall (friend of Jim & Nancy Schatz), Atlas Jagow (grandson of Don & Marye Jagow), Gary LaFontain (family of Linda DeTray), Sally Lee (sister of Ted and Otto Nicely), Zach Lee (nephew of Ted and Otto Nicely), Nick (Grandson of Sharon Meyer), Gwenn Maas (niece of Wendy Nashu), Steve Mack (son of Maggie Mack), Barbara & Werner Mews (parents of Pastor Mews), Sue Meyer (sister-in-law of June Martin), Wilma Mullins (friend of Linda DeTray), Donna Nicely (sister of Phyllis Nicely), Cindy Oberhaus, Lincoln Douglas Ordway (grandson of Susie Curl's nephew), Mike Reichard (son-in-law of Gladys Spreeman), Matthew Roehrig (brother of Mark Roehrig), Isiah Schultz (friend of Linda DeTray), Pam Shelton (sister of Diane Hefflinger), Tony & Jim Smith (friends of Linda DeTray), Tamie Stefin (family of Wes Cereghin), Mike Stork, Melinda Sturtevant (Diane Hefflinger's son's fiancé), Gary Voltz (father of Dan Voltz), Penny Whitfield (sister of Elaine Carpenter, June Crosser, and Sandy Joost), Eric Wolford (requested by Karen Frederick)

*January Youth Scoop 2022 *

Youth Activities:

Jan. 2—No Youth; New Year's Weekend Jan. 9—Youth Night 6:30-8pm @ St. John Jan. 16.—Youth Night 6:30-8pm @ St. John Jan. 23.—Youth Night 6:30-8pm @ St. John Jan. 30.—Youth Night 6:30-8pm @ St. John



Christian Rapper Concert, "True Muzik": Wednesday Jan. 19th @ St. John

Join us at St. John to see Christian rapper "True Muzik" (Drew Brennan) perform some of his songs and share a message with us on being "Walk Worthy". Doors will open at 6:00pm, concert starts at 6:30pm. All are invited to this fun worship experience. Bring a friend or the whole family for this event—we hope to see you there! *Any questions can be directed to DCE Cassidy.*

Youth Room Cleanout Day: TBA in 2022

New Years' Resolution #1—Stay Organized! This cleanout day will involve the help of our youth and parents in rearranging the youth room to fit our youths' style and needs. We will also be cleaning out closets and giving some extra TLC to our space. Date TBA



DCE Intern Cassidy—Contact Information

Cell Phone: 517-769-5084

Email: Cassidy.holeso@stjohntigers.com

		January	y 2022 Youth	Calendar		1
	Pp	Y 🖈 🛛	NEW &	YEA		New Year's Day!
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No youth			Cross Training 6:30-8pm			
9	10	11	12 Cross Training 6:30-8pm	13	14	15
Youth Night 6:30-8pm				sidy @ NADCE	Conference Ja	in. 12-15
16 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	17	18	19 Cross Training BLAST Event #4 Christian Rapper 'True Muzik' Concert 6:30-8pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Youth Night 6:30-8pm			Cross Training 6:30-8pm + Parent/Student Meeting @ 7:30pm			
30 Youth Night 6:30-8pm	31					**

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
] 5:30p Worship- Communion
2 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	3 9:30a Finance 1 1:00p Administrative Meeting 5:30p Telecare 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts	4 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 2:00p Tuesday @ 2 Book Club 6:00p Basketball Game Home	5 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	6 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 3:30p Basketball Practice 7:00p Elder Meeting	7 10:00- 2:00p Clothes Closet	8 5:30p Worship
9 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	10 9:15a EC Chapel 1:00p Administrative Meeting 5:30p Finance 2 5:00p Basketball @ St. Pats 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God	1 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 1:00p Knit & Study 3:30p Basketball Practice 6:30p PTL Meeting 6:30p 419 Ministry	12 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	13 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 5:30p Basketball @ Solomon 7:00p BCDS Meeting FR 7:00p Roundtable LR	14 10:00- 2:00p Clothes Closet	15 5:30p Worship- Communion
16 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	17 No school 9:30a Finance 1 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God	18 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 2:00p Tuesdays @ 2 Book Club 3:30p Basketball Practice 6:00p Long Range Planning Committee 6:30p Trustees Meeting	19 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	20 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 5:30p Basketball Game Home 7:00p Parish Planning	21 10:00- 2:00p Clothes Closet	22 10:00a Basketball @ Freedom 5:30p Worship

23 8:00a Worship 9:30a Worship 11:00a Worship 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	24 1:00p Administrative Meeting 5:30p Finance 2 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God	25 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Tuesday @ 10 Bible Study 1:00p Knit & Study 3:30p Basketball Practice	26 DELAY START 8:00a Faculty Meeting 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	27 8:55a Chapel 9:00-4:00p Clothes Closet 9:30-11:30p Food Pantry 10:00a Exodus 2:00p Laides Aid 3:30p Basketball Practice	28 10:00- 2:00p Clothes Closet	29 10:00a Cub Scouts 5:30p Worship- Communion
30 8:00a Worship/Communion 9:30a Worship/Communion 9:30a Bible Studies 11:00a Worship/Communion 6:30- 8:30p Jr/Sr. Hi Youth YR	31 9:30a Finance 1 1:00p Administrative Meeting 6:30p Cub Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Life with God					

WINTER 2022 St. John Lutheran church, Defiance, Ohio LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG 1) *Starting, Monday, January, 10, 2022*

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 <u>"Life with God." (LWG)</u> 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, " 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: <u>Monday, January 10, 2022 to Monday, April 11, 2022</u>. Classes are held on Monday Evenings in the Adult Bible Study room from 6:30-8:30 P.M.. 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 extensive experience teaching these classes.

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, January 9, 2022 or hand to a pastor.

WINTER 2022 St. John Lutheran Church "Life with God 1" (LWG 1) 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;