

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MEWS



"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel." Philippians 1:3-4

The book <u>Little House on the Freeway</u> reminds us all of the hectic, minute to minute overbooked life we live in. In our rush-around world, we fail to take the time to reflect and notice the blessings God has given to us in our community, family, church, school and world. Let's take a moment to give thanks to God for blessings He has given recently to our church and school.

- 1. 2023 National Lutheran Schools Week: Even though there were some weather delays due to snow, it was a terrific week as those children blessed our 11:00 a.m. worship service on 1/22.
- 2. "Women of Easter," Bible Study on Monday evenings during Lent has 20+ women attending.
- 3. Increased Preschool enrollment in all classes.
- 4. Increased attendance at Revelation and Prodigal God Bible classes.
- 5. Monthly church-school prayer nights held on the third Tuesday of each month.
- 6. Cross Training "Letters of Joy and Encouragement," family meal, in which we made over 50 cards for homebound members and \$110+ dollars for our April Easter Egg Hunt.
- 7. The school Trivia Night to be held on March 25.
- 8. The Preschool Staff and Pastor Mews attending the Ohio District Early Childhood Conference, held on Friday, March 3 at St. John Lutheran in Marysville, Ohio.
- 9. The combined effort for a Christ Our Savior and St. John Vacation Bible School from July 23 to 26 at Christ Our Savior.
- 10. A terrific Father-Daughter dance held on February 11, sponsored by SJL School PTL.
- 11. The "Promised Treasure" 2023, Lent and Easter worship services and Devotional books for families.
- 12. Revelation Dancers and their ministry at the February 19,11:00 worship service.
- 13. The dedication of a plaque for our outreach banner in dedication of Pastor Luhring's ministry and outreach from 1983-2022 took place during the worship services on 2/25 and 2/26.
- 14. Pastor Mews attending the Doxology II Conference, "Sex and Soul, Pastoral Care in Chaotic Times," held in Plymouth, IN, earlier in February.
- 15. Dedicated church and school staff and servants who lead children's messages at our 11:00 a.m. worship services.

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CONTACT INFORMATION: CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

Monday-Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Church Office: 419.782.5766

Pastor Mews: ext 103

pastor.mews@stjohntigers.com

419.670.5014

(after hours contact number)

Church Secretaries:

church.secretary@stjohntigers.com or church.secretary2@stjohntigers.com

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 & Lorna Smith, and George & Phyllis 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.

MARCH WEEKEND SERMONS

March 4 &5
"Over All and For All" Romans 4:1-8

March 11 & 12 "Are You Afraid?" Exodus 17:1-7

March 18 & 19
"Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?" John 9:1-14

March 25 & 26 "No Condemnation for Believers" Romans 8:1-11

PROMISED TREASURES

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LENTEN SERVICE SERMONS

March 1
"Salt: The Gift That Sweetens and Preserves"

March 8 "Water Gives You Life"

March 15 "Light Shining in the Darkness"

March 22 "Bread of Life"

March 29 "Palms and Victory"

Join us for worship at 1 PM or 7:30 PM weekly on Wednesdays as we continue with Lenten services.





16. Prayers and plans to call a faithful associate pastor and shepherd to serve ministry needs both at SJL and at Christ Our Savior.

- 17. The plans for a new church directory that connects faces and names during March.
- 18. The plans for a new platform 'Lift System' that will improve the quality and safety of our current lift/elevator and enable all to worship in our sanctuary.
- 19. What are you thankful for in regards to our church and school?

We can be thankful for the many crosses throughout our SJL Church and School that share the comforting message of Christ crucified for all. Share with others/staff those things that you thank God for. May the Lord bless you! In Christ, Pastor KFM

Pastor's Events

- Otto Nicely died on February 1; Funeral and Christian burial on February 15.
- Martha Vaughn died on February 15; Funeral on February 22 at Shaffer Funeral Home.
- Jarod Kammeyer died on February 15; Funeral and Burial on February 24 at 1:00 p.m..
- John Schatz died on February 16; Funeral and Burial on February 25.
- Transfer Outs: Sharon Dietz to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hamilton Ohio, Deb Hastedt to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hamler, Ohio.
- Baptism of Josephine Flory on Sunday, March 26 after the 11:00 a.m. service.
- Baptism of Koby Bumb, to be announced.
- Pastor Mews attended the Doxology II Conference in Plymouth, IN, "Sex and The Soul, Pastoral Care in Chaotic Times." The retreat was held from February 6-8.
- Pastor Mews will be attending the Ohio District Early Childhood Conference on Friday, March 3, with SJL Preschool staff at St. John Lutheran Church in Marysville, Ohio. Lunch is being provided by the Clothes Closet.
- Pastor Mews leads worship at Laurels the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m.. A blessing is that a number of SJL members attend. This service was discontinued during COVID and began again in 12/2022.
- Pastor Mews will visit his father and family in NE Ohio sometime in March, and will inform all of those dates.

• OHIO DISTRICT:

Pastor Mews led the Exegetical study at the NW Ohio Circuit 1 February Pastor Meeting on Tuesday, February 14 at St. John Lutheran Church in Sherwood.

- St. John Lutheran Church will host the March 14, meeting from 9:00-1:00. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the Ladies Aid.
- Pastor Mews will be the NW OH Circuit 1 Pastoral Representative at the 2023 LCMS National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, from July 29 to August 3, 2023

USE YOUR ACTION TEAM MONIES TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY!

If you have a Thrivent Policy, you would be able to apply for an **Action Team Event**. We are always looking for ways to serve our community, state, nation, and world and share God's Word and love. If you have any questions about Action Team Events, please contact the church office at 419.782.5766.

FINANCIAL®

FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL JOHN MARCH:





Thank you for celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week with us!

Blessings, John March (principal)













Cross raining

We are having a community outreach **glow bowling event** on Sunday, March 12th at C&H Lanes (on East Second Street) from 1:30-3:30pm. We look forward to seeing many of you there for this awesome and fun event! All individuals, youth, children, and families are invited to this fun event! Wear your bright clothing. *Children 5th grade and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Our **next BLAST Event** is scheduled for March 15th from 6:30-7:30pm (before the Lenten church service). It is a True Muzik Concert that we pray will be an inspiration for all to walk in Christ's example.

The 419 Ministry Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, April 2nd from 2:00-3:30pm, with a setup time being 1-3pm on Saturday, April 1st. We are asking for bite-sized candy, as well as plastic eggs to put candy in (preferably connected pieces if purchasing). Please drop off donations in the church office by Sunday, March 26th, 2023. We also will need Christmas trees to hide eggs in, so please let a board member or Carla know if you have one to lend. Thank you!

April's BLAST event on Wednesday, April 26th from 6:30-8pm is planned to be an ice cream party with games, so mark your calendars!

Cross Training leaders include Pastor Mews (8th), Mike and Nancy Kemper (7th), Dick Bonin (6th), and Kristina Phipps (1st-5th).

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up for Cross Training, please call 419.782.5766.

Carla J. Goff, 419 Ministry Director 419.439.4656 (text) 419.393.2615 (home) 419.director@stjohntigers.com









Sunday School is for children ages 3 (and potty trained) and older. Sunday School is from 9:30-10:30 downstairs in the nursery room. Text or call Megan Fritz for any questions at 419-438-4905.





Calling all youth. A Bible Study just for you. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Fellowship Room. Contact Roger Schafer at 763.242.5643 for more information.

SJL Youth Scoop March 2023.

youth.sjl@stjohntigers.com

Are you interested in serving on the Youth Board? We're looking for new members. Let us know if you're interested. Contact the email above. You could also speak to Pastor or one of the current board members: Tami Rohlf, Nancy Rensi, Laura Shiniger, or Carli Rossow.

Fun as the Youth and their families made pizzas for Super Bowl Sunday!

Thanks for your help!!!











*Youth Movie Night

- Youth in 6th grade and up, join us for a movie night on Friday, March 3rd, 6:30 PM 9:30 PM at St. John Lutheran Church.
- We're planning to watch Family Camp (2022).
- We'll munch on pizza and enjoy a sundae bar. Bring an ice-cream topping to share.
- Please RSVP at the following link: https://www.signupgenius.com/ go/10C094EAFA923A2F4C25-sjlyouth

*Youth Scavenger Hunt

• Youth in 6th Grade and Up: Join us for a night of adventure as we drive around Defiance on a Scavenger Hunt on **Sunday**, **April 16th**.

- Drop off at 6:30 PM and Pick Up at 8:30 PM at the church.
- Youth Board leaders will drive the youth around town as we participate in a scavenger hunt of our own creation.
- We will finish up at Eric's by the mall. Youth may use the money in their ledger accounts to cover the cost of their snack or bring their own funds.
- Please RSVP at the following link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EAFA923A2F4C25-silyouth1



LENTEN MEALS

This year, we are bringing back Lenten meals. These meals take place in the cafeteria from 5-7pm. A free will offering is taken for the host's chosen ministry.

March 8

Revelation Bible Study
Bratwurst, sauerkraut, applesauce, chips

March 22

Endowment

Pork loin, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, roll

March 15

Scouts
Soup and Sandwiches

March 29

TBD

If you would like to host this meal, contact the church office



Bible Study Opportunities

Led by Pastor Mews

In Depth Bible Study

This class is currently working through <u>The</u>

<u>Prodigal God, Recovering</u>

<u>the Heart of the Christian</u>



<u>Faith</u> by Timothy Keller. This book is an overview of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and a continuation of the "Parables Through Peasant Eyes" class. This 2:00-3:00 p.m. class is held in the Fellowship Room on Wednesdays. Anyone is welcome to join!

Revelation Thursday A.M. Bible Study

Have you ever had questions over the Book of Revelation? This class discusses your questions about Revelation and gives hope in our victory in Christ. The class gathers from 10:00-11:30 a.m. every Thursday in the Fellowship Room. All is provided.

Life with God

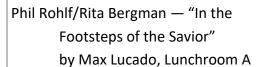
Life with God began January 9th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Fellowship Room. If you would like to be a part of this class next time it runs, please contact the church office. Members are encouraged to attend every five years.



Faye Luhring invites to you join a group of ladies who pray for not only our congregation and its members, but also our community and world affairs. They meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. at 274 Wilson St. This month, they meet March 13th and 27th.

Bible Studies

SUNDAY-9:30 a.m.



Faye Luhring—"Making it Through a Life Shift"

Lunchroom B

Jeff Rohlf — "The Foundations"

By Ken Ham, Adult Room A

Sandy Gyurnek —"You Were Made for this Moment" by Max Lucado, In the Fellowship Room

Roger Schafer—Youth Bible Study
In the Fellowship Room

Sunday School: The Nursery Room

SECOND TUESDAY AND FOURTH TUESDAY



KNIT 'N STUDY—This group will meet on the 14th and 28th of March. The Book of Esther is being studied. This group makes crocheted or knitted baby/children's items for the Women's Health Center in Defiance.

ACT: Adult Cross Training

"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life." Prov. 22:6 GN

Cross Training isn't just for children! We are all children of God!

A group of adults is studying the Bible each week on Wednesday night from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. During Lent, they will be following the *Promised Treasures* (copyright Concordia Publishing 2022) Lenten series to go along with Pastor's sermons. Please join them during this season!

Birth to Death, St. John Church has something for you!

GREETINGS FROM SCIENCE CLASS!

The 7/8th graders explored landforms and how different processes, from weathering and erosion to plate tectonics, shaped them. With stools, weights, and sharpies, they built seismometers to get an idea how one would measure an earthquake's horizontal movement.











4/5th graders built straw bridges out of limited materials to see if they could bridge the gap between tables.









St. John Lutheran Clothes Closet Highlights for 2022

The Clothes Closet continues to be a valuable outreach ministry for the Defiance Community. During the past year. Approximately 65 families got clothing and household items because of financial need or circumstances. Many church members help with sorting, pricing, organizing, and selling of clothes, household items, and toys.

About \$17,500 was generated from the selling of good-quality, reasonably-priced items. Money raised from the Clothes Closet helps to fund numerous projects for St. John Lutheran Church and School and community needs. Here is a list of some of those projects.

\$6,000 for Missions

\$300 for Staff Retreat

\$125 for Early Childhood Conference

\$500 for operation K.A.V.I.C.

\$346 for Preschool Bibles



In addition, the Clothes Closet pays the church around \$2,500 for all the utilities for the year for the property where the Clothes Closet is located.

The Clothes Closet is always accepting donations. We especially need men's and children's clothing and household items.

The Clothes Closet is located across the street from St. John Lutheran Church. You can bring donations to the back door form 8-10am on Monday and Tuesday, or during business hours: Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 10am-2pm.

MARCH SPECIAL MUSIC



Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

March 8, 1pm
"Here We Go A-Caroling"
K-2nd Grade Students

March 11 & 12

"My Shepherd Became a Lamb" Senior Choir

March 15, 1pm

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" 5th-8th Grade Students



March 25 & 26

"God So Loved the World"

Senior Choir

March 29, 1pm

"Nothing But the Blood"

3rd-4th Grade Students



As of Tuesday, February 21 we served 49 families or 144 people. We distributed 211 bags of food for a value of \$2110. Thank you for your continued support.

If you would like to help in the Food Pantry, contact the church office. If you would like to donate items to the pantry, we are always in need of non-food items like toilet paper, laundry detergent, shampoo and body wash.



Spring Break is March 20-24. As there is no school during this week, there will also be no Cross Training. Enjoy your time off!

FEBRUARY BLAST EVENT— LETTERS OF JOY!











March 40+ Anniversaries



Dave & Dorothy Goldenetz, Mar 5 (46)

Charlie & Janet Koch, Mar 6 (64)

John & Mary Goldenetz, Mar 14 (58)

Lynn & Sherrie Gietgey, Mar 17 (50)

Joseph & Pamela Morisy, Mar 28 (42)

March 80+ Birthdays

Marie Clark, Mar 14 (82)

Jim Anderson, Mar 17 (82)

Robert Warncke, Mar 18 (81)

Marlene Eberle, Mar 23 (82)

Paula Johnson, Mar 25 (84)

Phil Rohlf, Mar 25 (81)



PASTOR'S SERMONS

If you missed a sermon, you can find the it on our YouTube channel, on our webpage (www.stjohndefiance.com) and on our Podcast site.

Google search: st john lutheran church defiance ohio youtube. Then subscribe to St. John channel to get notified when we are broadcasting "live".

LINK TO OUR WEBPAGE

https://www.stjohndefiance.com/sermons-2/

LINK TO OUR PODCAST

https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964

Put your favorite podcast app on your phone and listen to the sermons any time of day.

RADIO

WONW 1280 AM Defiance

WZOM 105.7 FM Defiance

Our service is broadcast a week later on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on WONO 1280 AM and on WZOM 105.7 FM at 8:00 a.m.

DCTV

The 11:00 a.m. service is videotaped every week and edited and sent to DCTV-DIGITAL CHANNEL 1021. It is broadcast a week later.

Prayer Requests

Please let the church office know of any additional prayer requests. Call 419.782.5766 or email church.secretary@stjohntigers.com.

For the **Prayer Chain**, please contact Judy or Penny via phone, text, or email if you have a prayer request, an addition, a correction, or any feedback for the **Prayer Chain Warriors** to include in their prayers. Judy Detter (detterjudy@gmail.com), text Judy: 419.783.7032. Penny Mueller (pennym41@gmail.com) text Penny: 419.304.5768





Scout News March 2023



March is an exciting month for the Cub Scout Pack in that this is when the annual Pinewood Derby is held. Given a block of wood to shape and paint/decorate as they desire, along with wheels and axles, Cubs are very creative in what they build. The cars are then raced down a track with winners in each division qualifying for a district event (5 counties in Northwest Ohio). Siblings as well as parents/guardians are welcome to participate as well in their own race division. Most importantly, the event is fun for all!

The Troop has grown by 9 as Arrow of Light Cubs have crossed over due to age. This will add numbers as the Troop begins planning for a summer camp experience at Camp Lakota.

Service to others is a very important part of Scouting. Thus, both the Pack and Troop will be participating in the annual Scouting for Food campaign, a national program of the Boy Scouts of America. On March 4, Scouts from St. John will be passing out door hangars in a number of Defiance neighborhoods. Other Defiance Packs and Troops will be doing the same in other areas so that the entire city will be solicited for non-perishable food items. Scouts will then return to the neighborhoods on March 11 to pick up the items and transport them back to local food pantries. All items collected by Pack 75 and Troop 75 will be brought to the St. John Food Pantry.

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.

Kantorei Lenten Tour

The Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) Kantorei will lead music for the season of Lent in a special service at Kramer Chapel, CTSFW on March 19 at 4 pm. The Kan-

torei is a men's choir of students studying for the Pastoral ministry at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand. For more information, visit www.ctsfw.edu.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach Ministry seeks to share the Gospel of Christ within and outside of our walls to proclaim Jesus and the ministry of our church and school locally, nationally and globally.



Lenten Devotional Booklets were handed out the weekend of February 18-19.

A memorial plaque honoring Pastor Luhring was dedicated at all services the weekend of February 25-26. It is installed on the back of the new banner sign on the corner of Wayne and Arabella.

The St. John welcome sign at the junction on Routes 15/18 will be replaced this spring as the old sign is in a deteriorating condition.

The Outreach Ministry team is seeking additional greeters, ushers and lay readers. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

A Community Block Party is being planned. Included will be an outside worship service, a lunch and a variety of fun activities.

The Outreach Ministry Committee meets monthly to plan additional opportunities to be more welcoming to worshippers and be more visible in the community. Additional information regarding this ministry is available by contacting Mike Saxton at 419-393-2513 or Pastor Mews at 419-782-5766.



This is your church! Stay connected with all the events of St. John Lutheran Church. We use the program Realm to easily let our congregation know what is going on. This program is only for St. John members. Please email church.secretary2@stjohntigers.com if you would like to be invited in. You will create your own password.



CHURCH COLOR PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Between church services from February-March 12th, sign up for a time to get your picture taken on March 14th-18th. To schedule your time online during the week, go to www.ucdir.com Church Code: OH2616 Password: Photos

Please contact Terry Koenig with any questions or concerns at 419-399-7556.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Lenten Service 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand bells 5:30p Cross Training 6:30 p Adult Cross Training 6:30p Senior Choir 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p	Clothes Closet 9a Chapel 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Admin Mtg. 1p Elders 7p	3 Clothes Closet 10a Preschool Conference in Marysville, OH	4 COMMUNION Worship 5:30p
5 COMMUNION Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Youth Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Dartball 6p	6 Early Childhood Chapel 9:15a Worship Leader Mtg 11a Finance 5:30p Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Telecare Calling 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p	7 Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Book Club 2p Youth Board Mtg 6:30p	8 Endowment 11:30a Lenten Service 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Cross Training 6:30p Adult Cross Training 6:30p Senior Choir 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p	Clothes Closet 9a Chapel 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Admin Mtg. 1p Servant Day Team Mtg 6:30p BDCS Mtg 7p	10 Clothes Closet 10a	DCE Meeting 9:30a Worship 5:30p
Worship 8:00a & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Youth Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Congregational Meeting Scouts Pinewood Derby 1p 419 Bowling Event 1:30p Dartball 6p	Moms in Touch 9a Finance 9:30a Budget Committee Mtg 5:30p Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p	Circuit Meeting at SJL 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Knit 'N Study 1p	15 EPISTLE ARTICLES DUE Lenten Service 1p Admin Mtg. 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p BLAST EVENT 6:30p Senior Choir 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p	16 Chapel 9a Clothes Closet 9a Food Panty 9:30a Revelation 10a Admin Mtg. 1p Parish Planning 7p	17 Clothes Closet 10a	18 COMMUNION Worship 5:30p
19 COMMUNION Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Youth Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Laurel's Worship Service 3p Dartball 6p	20 SPRING BREAK Finance 5:30p Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p	21 SPRING BREAK Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Book Club 2p Youth Bd Mtg 6:30p Trustees 6:30 p	22 SPRING BREAK Lenten Service 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Adult Cross Training 6:30p Senior Choir 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p	23 SPRING BREAK Chapel 9a Clothes Closet 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Admin Mtg. 1p	24 SPRING BREAK Clothes Closet 10a	25 Worship 5:30p School Trivia Night 6p
26 Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday Schoo I9:30a Youth Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Dartball 6p	Moms in Touch 9a Finance 9:30a Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p	Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Knit 'N Study 1p	Lenten Service 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Cross Training 6:30p Adult Cross Training 6:30p Senior Choir 6:30p Lenten Service 7:30p	Chapel 9a Clothes Closet 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Admin Mtg. 1p Ladies Aid Mtg 2p	31 Clothes Closet 10a	*LENTEN MEALS Wednesdays 5-7pm