

The Epistle

OCTOBER, 2023

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARTICLE FROM PASTOR MEWS:

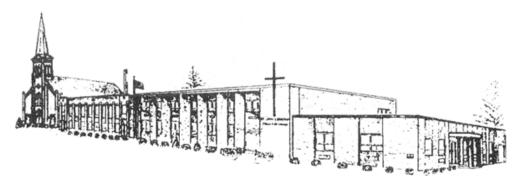
500th Anniversary of the Reformation

In 1523, Dr. Martin Luther says that "a Christian Congregation has the Right and Power to judge all Teaching and call, appoint and dismiss Christian Pastors and Teachers, and Proven by Scriptures." While many associate October with leaves, cooler temps, Halloween and football, October is the month in which the Christian Church associates itself with the Reformation, where the Word of God, namely the Gospel, is placed in its proper standing as the center of the Church and the individual believer's life. Since 2017, I have been focusing on celebrating key events of Luther's Reformation based upon the 500th celebration of those writings, events and movements. For example, on Reformation Sunday in 2017, I focused on the "Nailing of the 95 Theses" on 10/31/1517. On 10/31, in 2022, I focused on Luther's "September Bible," written in 9/1522, in which the Word of God was translated into German. This year, I will focus on the 500th anniversary of Luther's writing on the authority and power of the Church to judge all teaching and to call and dismiss "called" workers. Follow along and you will find his treatise fascinating, informative and relevant.





- 1. A Christian congregation is marked by the pure Gospel being preached. Isaiah 55:10 promises that where God's Word is proclaimed purely, there will be a church and Christians.
- 2. One rules and judges not by human ordinances and traditions, but by the Word of God, as human teachings and God's Word will oppose each other.
- 3. Christ institutes that all Christians equally have the power and right to judge, as God's sheep know His voice, much more than bishops, scholars and councils. Sheep don't listen to thieves.
- 4. All can teach, but sheep have the power to judge so to determine if they are the Shepherd's words or the voice of strangers. One must be aware of those who shamelessly take the judgment from the sheep and annex it to themselves apart from God's Word.
- 5. Sheep are told in Matthew 7:15 to be aware of false prophets dressed like sheep who are really wolves. Christ does not give power to prophets or teachers, but to sheep and pupils.
- 6. Only teachers, not listeners, can be false, hence teachers and their teachings are subject to the judgment of listeners.
- 7. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 admonishes to test all, so it is the listeners who examine. The world rules and commands as it pleases. Christ says this must not be so. Each Christian is to examine other Christians and also be subject to one another.
- 8. Matthew 24:4-5 warns Christians to take heed so no one leads them astray. St. Paul repeatedly in Romans 16:17-18, 1 Cor. 10:14, and Galatians 3 and 4, urges us to avoid human teachings and place Godly judgment on hearers, not teachers, for the eternal sake of their souls.
- 9. In conclusion, a Christian congregation is in possession of the Gospel for the sake of souls. Hence a Christian congregation may avoid, flee, and withdraw authority from any teacher/called servant who teaches and rules contrary to the Word of God.



Pastor Mews'
Official Acts and
Congregation Events

OFFICIAL ACTS:

-Baptism of Magnolia Jernandez on Sunday, 9/03, at SJL Church

Memorial Service for Wilma Beaverson held on 9/23, at 11:00 a.m. at SJL Church.

-Wedding of Michael Gerken & Mikayla Goller on Saturday, 9/23, at 2:00 p.m. at SJL Church





PRIVATE COMMUNION

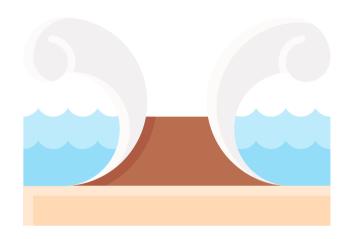
The Pastor continues to offer private Communion for anyone who wishes to have Communion. Please call the church office for an appointment.

SHUT-IN CALLS

We have around 30 people who are designated as shutins in our congregation. The Pastor, Walt & Lorna 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.

ACTS - ADULT CROSS TRAINING STUDIES

We are traveling in the Wilderness for 40 years with the Children of Israel. They are heading for the Promised Land after escaping from Egypt. They have crossed the parted waters of the Red Sea. There will be many examples of people grumbling along the way. Join us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm in Adult Education Room A, with Judy Detter and Penny Mueller.



Ladies Aid

Psalm 107:37 "They sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield".

We hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. Our next meeting is Oct., 26, 2023 at 2pm. Janet Koch will be the hostess.

We are planning on making noodles in October. Please watch the bulletin for the dates.

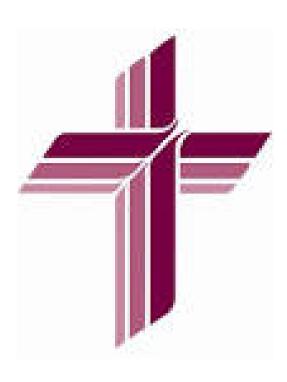
Remember that many hands make light work. Also It is the time of the year to be thinking about electing officers for the positions of President & Treasurer. They will serve for 2 years. We will be having the election at our November meeting.

We will be social distancing and hoping to see you at the meeting.

THE CLOTHES CLOSET

WE ARE LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SCHOOL AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GENTLY USED CLOTHING AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE TO OUR COMMUNITY. THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN ON THURSDAY FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AND ON FRIDAY FROM 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 2:00 P.M. IF YOU HAVE A DONATION, YOU MAY DROP IT OFF ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY FROM 8:00 TO 10:00 A.M. OR DURING DAYS WE ARE OPEN. BRING DONATIONS AND COME ON IN AND DO A LITTLE SHOPPING.





Sermons for October

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1, PENT 18, "WHOSE PROBLEM? WHO HAS THE CURE?" EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32 LAW/GRACE

OCT. 7-8, SJL PENT.19, "THE ART OF GOOD A DEAL!"
PHILIPIANS 3:4B-14 VICTORIOUS LIFE W/JESUS

OCT. 14-15, PENT 20, "LARGE AND IN CHARGE"

JUDGMENT/GRACE/ELECTION

OCT. 21-22, SJL PENT 21, ISAIAH 45:1-7

"HIS STORY IS HISTORY!"
GOD'S PLAN/GOD'S
POWER

OCT. 28-29, PENT 22, "500TH REFORMATION, NOT BY WORKS!" ROMANS 3:19-28 GRACE/CATECHISM

Prayer Requests

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

Bible Study Opportunities

Led by Pastor Mews

FAITH IN THE TRUE GOD! 1. Written by Dr. Schwarz, Luther Scholar and former professor at the University of Regensburg in Germany, this in-depth class is a practical and engaging look into Luther's life with insight and relevance to our 21st Century lives. Thoughtful topics include faith, life, marriage, parenting, the nature of God and the relationship of faith and reason. Classes gather each Wednesday, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. in the fellowship room. October schedule: Wednesday, October 4, Class Wednesday, October 11, Class Wednesday, October 18, Class Wednesday, October 25, Class

ISAIAH

The book and class theme is "To keep the people in eager anticipation of Christ!" This Bible study is over the book of Isaiah and it gathers 10:00-11:30 A.M. in the fellowship room. Feel free to join us as all is provided and over 25 people are enrolled. Our outreach ministry is to the Path Center of Defiance. October Schedule: Thursday, October 5, Class Thursday, October 12, Class Thursday, October 19, Class Thursday, October 26, Class Thursday, October 26, Class

ALL "Life with God 1" (LWG 1) began on Monday, September 11. Blue forms are available in this Epistle in the back of church or from Pastor Mews. It's for those desiring to become communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church, those desiring to renew their faith, or to review the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism. We encourage every member to attend once every five years. The class gathers from 6:30-8:30 in Adult Room A on Mondays in October.

Bible Studies

SUNDAY-9:30 a.m.

- Phil Rohlf "Conversations with Jesus" Lunchroom A
- Faye Luhring—"Making it Through a Life Shift" Lunchroom B
- Jeff Rohlf "The Foundations" By Ken Ham, Adult Room A
- Sandy Gyurnek —"Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit" by Max Lucado, in the Fellowship Room Sundays at 9:30
 - * Lisa Mews "Slightly Bad Girls" Mondays at 6:30 pm

SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY KNIT 'N STUDY at 1 pm on October 10th & 24th



Moms in TOUCH

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 fall, they meet October 9th & 23rd from 9 - 10 am. For more information, please call Faye at 419-782-0153

In August, we served 102 families or 301 people. We distributed 417 bags of food. The number of people continues to increase every month. If you would like to support this ministry ministry, we accept food items and money donations. We are going to start collecting food items for the Thanksgiving bags.

Distribution of the bags will start on November 7 and will be included with the client's monthly food order. On **Monday, October 30** we will be assembling the Thanksgiving bags at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. We will be assembling **84 bags.** If you would like to help, please let me know. We will start collecting food items in October. Please mark bags for Thanksgiving when donating.

- -Canned Corn or Green Beans
- -Turkey Stuffing
- -Instant Potatoes
- -Turkey Gravy
- -Cranberry Sauce
- -Egg Noodles
- -Chicken Broth
- -Corn Bread Mix
- -Small Cans of Sweet Potatoes
- -Canned Pumpkin
- -Carnation Milk
- -Vegetable Oil
- -Cake Mix with Frosting or Brownie Mix
- -Salt and Pepper Sets
- * Canned turkey will be purchased for the bags.

Thank you for your continued support. Rita Bergman, Food Pantry Manager 419.788.0951





Dart Ball has started. Anyone interested in joining our team please contact Jeff Buchhop, 419-439-2120. We have recently joined a league with 9 other churches and can't wait for you to join us!

Dates:

October 10 - St. Paul Napoleon Township

October 24 - Home against Wauseon

November 7 - Bethel Oaklona

November 21 - Home against St. John Lutheran Deshler

December 12 - Home against Westly Methodist Bryan

January 16 - Home against First Lutheran Bryan

February 13 - Trinity Lutheran Bryan

March 5 - Home against St. Peter Florida





Baringer / Wachtman Scholarship

...is available for YOU! If you are currently seeking to further your education on a Christ-Centered campus, please consider attending a Lutheran Church Missouri

Synod university. Our church has scholarships available to assist you in your commitment to a degree in the many programs offered at Concordia Universities

throughout our United States. You must be a communicant member of St. John Lutheran or Christ Our Savior, Defiance, OH, in order to apply. For more information, contact Rick or Nancy Baldwin, Jan or Mike McGhee, Angie Morris, or Lonnie Warncke.



40. Years

Stephen/Linda Hageman October 3 (53)
James/Peg Miller October 10 (59)
Roel/Janet Valle October 11 (42)
Murlan/Helen Miller October 12 (65)
Tom/Jean Koppenhofer October 12 (60)
Gerald/Sharon Scheuerman October 13 (51)

Marilynn/Steve Buchholz October 17 (48)
Dave/Bonnie Etchison, October 18 (48)
Bob/Cathy Heyman October 28 (45)
Dave/Julie Sanders October 29 (40)



OCTOBER 80 + BIRTHDAYS

Murlan Miller October 4th (89)
Roger Joseph Lee October 14th
(82)
Lorretta Koppenhoffer

October 17th (96)
Lorna Goldenetz
October 22nd (103)
Bernard Sines October 31st (93)

PASTOR'S SERMONS

If you missed a sermon, you can find 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/ser mons-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.







SCOUT News OCTOBER 2023



Cubs and their families were busy in September with Putt-Putt Golf and an overnight camping experience at Camp Lakota. Non-scout friends were invited by Cubs to play Putt-Putt to introduce them to the Scouting program. At Camp Lakota, a variety of activities including a nature hike, gaga ball, craft projects, an evening campfire with skits and songs as well as fishing in Lake Glengary were enjoyed by all. A religious service was held Sunday morning as well.

This month will feature, in addition to weekly Den meetings, an opportunity to participate in Family Fun Day at Camp Lakota. Archery, BB guns, climbing on the tower and fishing are among the activities that will be available. The Halloween Parade will find Cubs on a float in downtown Defiance.

After camping at the Ohio Caverns and touring the cave in September, the Troop will be very active this month. Camping at the Johnny Appleseed Festival at Auglaize Village as well as attending the Fall Camporee at Camp Lakota are on the agenda. The Camporee will be based on the Heritage Merit Badge. Scouts will learn about the life and times of Lord Baden-Powell (the founder of the Scouting movement), discover how Scouting grew in the United States, and understand how Scouting's programs have developed and adapted over time. The Troop will also be in the Halloween Parade, walking beside the Cub Scout float.

Members of both the Pack and Troop will continue to sell popcorn this month. Your support is truly appreciated as profits earned help support the units in providing character building programs.

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.

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.

September's Friendship Sunday was well received and an excellent way to showcase our numerous church and school ministries. In addition to the informational booths, a breakfast and ice cream further enhanced the event.

An updated SJL sign on Route 15 at the western edge of Defiance is coming to fruition. Those traveling that route will see the sign entering and leaving the city as it will be put on both sides of the posts.

The Pictorial Directory will not be available until November or December due to changes and corrections.

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.

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We had over 400 people attend last year! We have a goal to reach out with the love of Christ to the community and bring others into our congregation's doors with fellowship!

Sponsor a table or car!

Bring at least 200 pieces of candy and bowl to pass out. More candy will be provided. Set up your car/table with simple Fall/Christian/Halloween decor.

- -We need at least 15 table sponsors/servants
- -We need at least 10 car sponsors/servants
- -Vehicles will be parked outside the south entrance
- -More info will be shared

REFORMATION PARTY & TRUNK-OR-TREAT St. John Lutheran

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 SET UP: 6:00 PM TRUNK-OR-TREAT: 6:30-7:45

In reaching out with The Gospel of Christ, we continue to sponsor SJL Tunk or Treat for our congregation and community. We will also have a Reformation Party as part of our Cross Training Ministry. We can present the Gospel message of Jesus in a loving, enjoyable, and engaging way. It is you who helps make that possible, please consider helping.

SJL Trunk or Treat Sign Up Form - Retu	urn to church office by Oct. 15
Name:F	Phone:
Email:	
I will sponsor and decorate a tab	e for Trunk-Or-Treat
I will sponsor my vehicle to deco	rate for Trunk-Or-Treat
I will help with food or serve at a	Reformation Activity Center.
I can NOT participate, but will do	nate bags of candy.
Candy will be brought into the church	office no later than Oct. 15











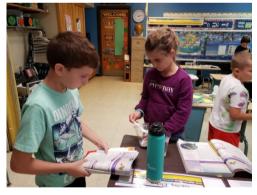
St. John Lutheran School

Students working hard and enjoying school!

Blessings,

Mr. J. March, principal







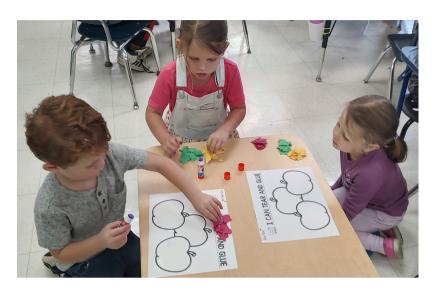








KINDERGARTENERS & PRESCHOOLERS WORKING TOGETHER











SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES







October

		:	:			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
COMMUNION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 8 am & 9:30	Moms In Touch 9 am	Food Panty 9:30 am	True Faith Bible 2 pm	Clothes Closet 9 am		
Adult Bible Study 9:30	Finance 9:30 am	Tuesdays @ 10 BS	Hand Bells 5:45 pm	Food Pantry 9:30 am	Clothes Closet 10 am	Worship Service 5:30
Worship 11:00 am	Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p	Music Meeting 11am	Cross Training 6:30p	Isaiah Bible Study		
	Life With God 6:30pm	Book Club 2 pm	Senior Choir 6:30 pm	10:00am		
	Women's B.Study 6:30	Youth Board 6:30 pm		Elder Meeting 7 pm		
		Outreach Grp 6:30p				
	_	419 Ministry 7:00 pm				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 8 am & 9:30	Moms In Touch 9 am	Food Panty 9:30 am	True Faith Bible 2 pm	Clothes Closet 9 am		
Adult Bible Study 9:30	Finance 9:30 am	Tuesdays @ 10 BS	Hand Bells 5:45 pm	Food Pantry 9:30 am	Clothes Closet 10 am	Worship Service 5:30
Worship 11:00 am	Telecare Calling 6:30	Knit & Study 1:00 pm	Finance 6:30pm	Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am		
	Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p		Cross Training 6:30p	BCDS Meeting 7 pm		
	Life With God 6:30pm Women's B.S. 6:30pm			DODD MCCMig 1 pin		
COMMUNION 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					20	21
Worship 8 am & 9:30	Moms In Touch 9 am	Food Panty 9:30 am	True Faith Bible 2 pm	Clothes Closet 9 am		
Adult Bible Study 9:30	Finance 9:30 am	Tuesdays @ 10 BS	Hand Bells 5:45 pm	Food Pantry 9:30 am	Clothes Closet 10 am	Worship Service 5:30
Worship 11:00 am	Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Life With God 6:30pm	Book Club 2:00 pm Trustees 6:30 pm	Finance 6:30pm Cross Training 6:30p	Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am		
	Women's B.Study 6:30	419 Ministry 7:00pm	Cross framing 6.50p	Parish Planning 7 pm		
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22	23	24	25	26	27	COMMUNION 28
Worship 8 am & 9:30	Moms In Touch 9 am	L. Aid Noodles 8am	L. Aid Noodles 11am	Clothes Closet 9 am		
Adult Bible Study 9:30	Finance 9:30 am	Food Panty 9:30 am	True Faith Bible 2 pm	Food Pantry 9:30 am	Clothes Closet 10 am	Worship Service 5:30
Worship 11:00 am	Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p	Tuesdays @ 10 B.S.	Hand Bells 5:45 pm	Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am		
	Life With God 6:30pm Women's B.Study 6:30	Knit & Study 1:00 pm Book Club 2 pm	Finance 6:30pm Cross Training 6:30p	10.004111		
	•	-	Cross framing 6.50p			
COMMUNION 29	30	31				
Worship 8 am & 9:30	Moms In Touch 9:00 am	Food Panty 9:30 am				
Adult Bible Study 9:30	Finance 5:30pm	Tuesdays @ 10 B.S.				
Worship 11:00 am	Life With God 6:30pm	Book Club 2 pm				
	Boy/Cub Scouts6:30pm					
	Women's BS 6:30pm					