



# The Epistle

## From the Desk of Pastor Mews - “We Preach Christ Crucified “

### “WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED,”

From July 29-August 3, I served as Northwest Ohio Circuit 1 Pastoral Delegate to the 68th regular convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This is the 2nd time I served in that role, the first one was in 2013 in St. Louis, MO. Held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with wonderful summer weather, just two blocks from “The Bronze Fonz,” a statue tribute to the T.V. Show, “Happy Days,” in which Henry Winkler, played the cool Fonz, which supposedly took place in Milwaukee. The convention met to decide and discuss the ongoing ministry and mission of our beloved Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, The LCMS. There were over 1000 lay and pastoral delegates and nearly 500 advisory delegates, synodical officials, ministry leaders and Lutheran Church representatives from around the world attending each session. Following on the next page of my article are some highlights from the convention:

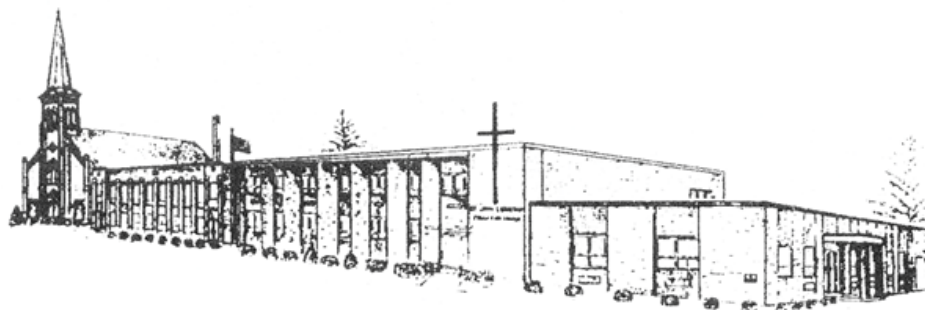


- The convention began with a delegate tutorial, delegate banquet and an opening divine worship service. There were worship services, theological essays and Catechetical instruction on every day.
- The Ohio District sponsored a breakfast for all delegates each morning of the convention.
- The Convention voted to welcome The Lutheran Church of Uganda, Ukraine, Ghana, Ceylon into “Altar and pulpit” fellowship with the LCMS. However, the convention voted to discontinue fellowship with the Japanese Lutheran Church due to theological differences.
- The convention voted to call the board of regents of Concordia University, Texas to repentance due to not following synodical guidelines, procedures and bylaws in their decision to break away from the Concordia University System of the LCMS. Reconciliation talks have begun.
- The convention voted on affirming Scriptural teaching opposing discrimination or favoritism based upon racism and opposed white nationalism and elements of any other political view point that favored or discriminated due to race. The convention affirmed the clear confession of Scripture that all are made in God’s image and Christ died for all.
- The convention gave thanks to God for the ministries of Concordia College Portland, Oregon and Concordia College Bronxville, New York, both which recently closed due to lack of enrollment and financial concerns.
- The convention encouraged the enrollment and support of all entering into church work and financial assistance for church workers in paying for their education and their school loan debts. The convention lamented the low numbers of individuals entering into church work and the shortage of all church workers in all areas of ministry.
- The convention held a memorial service for all church workers who were called to their heavenly home since the last LCMS convention in 2019. Pictures of those called to glory were shown on the main screens and this included a picture of our former shepherd, Rev. Donald Luhning in the Ohio District slide.
- The convention affirmed local, national and international outreach in following the Great Commission of Matthew 28. The convention encouraged church plants and Lutheran School ministry.
- The powerful theme of this convention was “We preach Christ Crucified,” based upon 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. May we continue to do the same faithfully until “All Adore His Sacred Name.” If you desire additional information go to [LCMS.org](http://LCMS.org) or contact Pastor Mews, Pastor KFM.

It was a joy and privilege to represent our circuit in the confessions and ministry of our beloved Synod and all of it’s churches, synodical members and baptized believers. In Christ, Pastor Kurt F. Mews, KFM.

#### **PERSONAL FROM PASTOR MEWS:**

Pastor will be on vacation from September 8-10, attending the Texas-Alabama Football game in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



## Pastor Mews' Official Acts and Congregation Events

### OFFICIAL ACTS:

- Baptism of Capri Shiloh Tietje on 8/13
  - Baptism of Kacey Jordan Hutcheson on 8/20
  - Baptism of Dason Mick on 8/27
- Memorial Service for Wilma Beaverson will be held on 9/23, at 11:00 a.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 shut-ins 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.



September 2023 Epistle Food Pantry Report  
Since March, the families who we serve has doubled. In July, we served 73 families or 242 people. In March, we served 37 families or 128 people.

How do we keep food on the shelves?

§ We have donations from our congregation and Christ Our Savior.

§ On occasion we receive monies from community organizations.

§ We are acquiring food from Seagate and the Toledo Food Bank with minimal cost.

§ When we are featured at Meijer with the Simply Give Program, the community supports our pantry by paying \$10.00, and if purchased on the Double Days their contribution is doubled. We receive food only Meijer gift cards which help us keep food on the shelves.

The Food Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Clients are served once a month with a three-day food supply. If you would like to help with the food pantry, please contact Rita Bergman at 419.788.0951.

**The Church Office will  
be Closed  
September 4, 2023**



### Ladies Aid

James 5:7–8 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Our next meeting is September 28 at 2pm. Jan McGee will be the hostess. The Food pantry item for the month is Dish Detergent. Please remember that the Food pantry can always use toilet paper. We will be discussing making Noodles and other fund raisers that we could do to make money. We will be distance socializing and hoping to see you at the meeting.

## THE CLOTHES CLOSET,

located across the street from the school, continues 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 September***

***September 2/3 "Syncretism" Pastor Mews***

***September 9 - Pastor Stottlemeyer***

***September 10 - Pastor Rellstab***

***September 16/17 Seminarian Gerken***

***September 23/24 "Generosity to the Least"***

***-Pastor Mews***

***September 30/ October 1 "Who's Problem?"***

***Who Has the Cure?" Pastor Mews***

## ***Prayer Requests***

Please let the church office know of any additional prayer requests. Call 419.782.5766 or email [church.office@stjohntigers.com](mailto: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](mailto:detterjudy@gmail.com)), text Judy: 419.783.7032. Penny Mueller ([pennym41@gmail.com](mailto: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 will be a practical and engaging look into Luther’s life with insight and relevance in 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. September schedule:  
Wednesday, September 6, Class  
Wednesday, September 13, NO Class.  
Wednesday, September 20 Class.  
Wednesday, September 27, Class.

## ISAIAH

1. The book and class theme is “To Keep the people in eager anticipation of Christ!” This Bible study will be over the book of Isaiah and it gathers 10:00-11:30 A.M. in the fellowship hall. 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. September Schedule:

Thursday, September 7, class  
Thursday, September 14, No Class  
Thursday, September 21, Class  
Thursday, September 28, Class.

ALL “Life with God 1,” (LWG 1) begin on Monday, September 11. Blue forms are available in this Epistle in the back of church or from Pastor Mews. It’s for 1. those desiring to become communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church, those desiring to renew their faith or just ‘check out’ 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. We will be meeting on September 11 / 18/ 25.

# 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
- Monday -6:30 p.m.  
\* Lisa Mews - “Slightly Bad Girls”

**SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY**  
**KNIT ‘N STUDY at 1 pm on**  
**September 12th & 26th**



## 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 summer, they meet September 11th & 25th from 9 - 10 am. For more information, please call Faye at 419-782-0153

**Dart Ball - Season starting in the next month or so. 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:**

**September 19 - Emmanuel Lutheran (across from Family video) 7pm**

**October 10 - St. Paul Napoleon Township**

**October 24 - Home against Wauseon**

**November 7 - Bethel Oakalona**

**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 Flordia**



**Gift annuities provide a secure income stream that will not change with the stock market or interest rate fluctuations. For your minimum gift of \$5,000 (cash or stock), you can benefit from a fixed income stream and an up front charitable income tax deduction if you qualify. Please compare these rates to the returns you are currently receiving from your investments. Note the payout rates depend on whether we are guaranteeing payments over one or two lives as many wish to continue to the income stream to protect their spouse. These annuities are offered and guaranteed by our LCMS Foundation in St. Louis, and I am assuming the same age for both spouses:**

<b>Two-Life Rate</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>One-Life Rate</b>
<b>4.7</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>5.8</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>7.6</b>

# **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

## **40+ years**

### **SEPTEMBER**

**Kevin/Sandy Fackler, 9/4 (41)**

**Larry/Susan Meyer 9/11/ (63)**

**Tom/Pam Kime 9/15/ (51)**

**Gerry/Jenny George 9/23/ (45)**

### **80 + BIRTHDAYS**

**Ramona Burkhart 9/14 (84)**

**Marilyn Burke 9/20 (90)**

**William Johnson 9/30 (86)**

**Marian March 9/25 (82)**

**Clarence Meyer 9/17 (93)**

**Helen Steingass 9/21 (87)**



### **PASTOR'S SERMONS**

*If you missed a sermon, you can find it on our YouTube channel, on our webpage ([www.stjohndefiance.com](http://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.*





# SCOUT NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2023



Cubs and their families had two fun events in August: movies at a drive-in theater and a hike at Camp Lakota. Fleo's Flicks in Edgerton showed both "How to Train Your Dragon" and "The Great Outdoors, enjoyed by all. Later in the month, Cubs invited a non-scout friend to the hike. This month weekly meetings will once again begin. In addition, an overnight camping experience at Camp Lakota is on the agenda as well.

Duty to God is a fundamental principle in Scouting and is reinforced through the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Thus, the Pack leadership encourages all Cubs to complete their age-appropriate religious award. As a result, the Pack recently was presented with the Lutheran Recognition of Excellence for 2023 by meeting a number of required criteria.

The Troop, as it does every year, attended Summer Camp at Lakota. A number of merit badges and advancements were completed while having a number of challenging and enjoyable experiences. The Troop was also awarded the Golden Spoon Award for its Banana Spice Dutch Oven dessert. To recognize individual accomplishments, a Court of Honor was held in August. Movies at a drive-in theater (Fleo's Flicks in Edgerton), bicycling in Oak Openings and a hike with the Cubs at Lakota were also on the agenda.

Members of both the Pack and Troop will begin selling popcorn during the annual sale 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.

Bags with school and church information were passed out to visitors at the Lilac Festival held in downtown Defiance in May.

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

The Outreach Ministry Committee will have a presence in Kingsbury Park at Defiance Days in July. In addition to church and school promotional literature, free snow cones will be passed out.

St. John will be providing two meals and Christ Our Savior two meals for the combined VBS, scheduled at Christ Our Savior from July 23-26.

A tri-fold flyer showcasing our church and school is being developed and will be passed out at community gatherings.

A block party with an outdoor worship service is being planned in 2024. Food and other activities will be a part of the event as well.

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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St John's Lutheran Church & R & R Tours presents:



**Ark Encounter DAYTRIP  
Williamstown, Kentucky  
September 19, 2023**



**Randy Nafziger, Tour Host & Bus Driver  
Janet Koch, Carolyn Richard, Diana Grim – St. John Lutheran Contacts**

**Tuesday, September 19**

**7:30 Leave St John's Lutheran Church, west parking lot**

**9:45 Rest Stop**

**12:00 \*Arrive at the Ark Encounter, eat at Ark restaurants:  
Noah's Grill, Noah's Café, or Palm Plaza Café (Mexican)  
or bring your own lunch and eat on the bus before we arrive**

**4:00 Leave for Defiance**

**\*Rest Stop and dinner at Culver's on 75**

**9:00 Arrive Defiance**

- **Cost: \$ 130 per person  
\$ 125 Seniors (ages 60+)  
\$ 109 Children (ages 11-17)**  
**\*\*\*40 NEEDED FOR TRIP TO GO AT  
THESE PRICES, ADDITIONAL COST IF  
LESS THAN 40.  
MAXIMUM PASSENGERS - 56**
- **Prices include: Deluxe Excursion motor coach & entrance to the Ark Encounter  
\* Does not include meals**
- **Registration due by: August 5, 2023**

**For Questions or Reservations contact or call:  
Janet Koch – 419.789.6675 Carolyn Richard – 419.766.0007  
Diana Grim – 419.783.9581**

- **Please make checks payable to: R & R Tours**
- **Turn-in registration form & payment to: Janet, Carolyn, Diana or church office  
For more information on the Ark go to [arkencounter.com](http://arkencounter.com)**

**Ark Encounter Daytrip  
September 19, 2023**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_**



# Welcome Back To School and Opening Chapel Service



Blessings,  
Mr. John March,  
principal





# September

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Clothes Closet 10 am	COMMUNION 2 Worship Service 5:30
COMMUNION 3 Worship 8 am & 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship 11:00 am	4 LABOR DAY – CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED	5 Food Panty 9:30 am Music Meeting 11 am Outreach Group 6:30 pm Youth Board 6:30 pm	6 True Faith Bible 2 pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Finance 6:30pm BLAST 6:30 pm Cross Training 6:30p	7 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9:30 am Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am Elder Meeting 7 pm	8 Clothes Closet 10 am	9 Worship Service 5:30
10 Worship 8 am & 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship 11:00 am	11 Moms In Touch 9 am Finance 9:30 am Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Telecare Calling 6:30 Life With God 6:30pm Women's B.Study 6:30	12 Food Panty 9:30 am Knit & Study 1 pm Bible Study @ 2 pm Outreach Group 6:30pm Knit & Study 1 pm	13 Endowment 11:30 am Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30p	14 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9:30 am BCDS Meeting 6 pm	15 Clothes Closet 10 am	COMMUNION 16 Worship Service 5:30
COMMUNION 17 Worship 8 am & 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 am	18 Finance 5:30 pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts 6:30 pm Life With God 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	19 ARK ENCOUNTER Food Panty 9:30 am Knit & Study 1 pm Bible Study @ 2 pm Trustees 6:30 pm	20 True Faith 2:00 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30p	21 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9:30 am Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am BCDS Meeting 6 pm	22 Clothes Closet 10 am	23 Beaverson Memorial Service 9:00 am Gerken/Goller Wedding 2:00 pm Worship Service 5:30
24 FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Worship 8 am & 9:30 Adult Bible Study 9:30 Worship 11:00 am FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY 9:00 am – 12:30 pm	25 Moms In Touch 9 am Finance 9:30 am Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30 p Telecare Calling 6:30 Life With God 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	26 Food Panty 9:30 am Bible Study @ 2 pm Knit & Study 1 pm	27 True Faith 2:00 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30p	28 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9:30 am Isaiah Bible Study 10:00am Ladies Aid Mtg 2:00 p Parish Planning 7:00pm	29 Clothes Closet 10 am	30 Worship Service 5:30