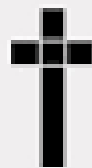


THE EPISTLE

APRIL 2024



E A S T E R

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

655 WAYNE AVENUE

DEFIANCE, OH 43512

www.stjohndefiance.com



PASTOR MEWS' APRIL EPISTLE ARTICLE

All Are Welcome Here!

Frequently I drive by a church that heralds those words: "All are welcome here." Another way of saying that all are welcome here is in the word that is being used much more often: "inclusion". Whether it be in politics, the classroom, our work place, office, or any other arena in life, that word is "inclusion". Inclusion is currently defined as "the practice or policy of providing equal access to opportunities and resources for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized, such as those who have physical or intellectual disabilities and members of other minority groups." Who can disagree with that? It comes right out of Matthew 22:39.

For us Christians, we do hold to and strive for inclusion. We cherish the fact that God made everyone in His image. We champion that Jesus died for all and our mission and ministry is to love all. We do that to the best of our abilities and means. Jesus gives us a clear, living and applicable example to follow for Godly inclusion: "While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples". Matthew 9:10

A few thoughts on inclusion:

Inclusion without negotiating truth: In our modern day and age, many find religious exclusive claims to be harmful and divisive. It may seem awkward or painful to hold to exclusive claims about Jesus with family, friends and loved ones who don't believe in Jesus. As Rev. Timothy Keller stated, "What changed the world was that Christians who held to exclusive claims about Jesus being the only way, loved others like and unlike them sincerely, radically and genuinely." It showed that we can love like Jesus even though we might disagree. Jesus never denied the truth of who He is so that others may not be offended, but loved all dearly whether sinners at the table or foreigners in His land, like the Romans or even current enemies like the Samaritans.

Inclusion means warmth: Inclusion involves taking the time and effort to shake hands, give a warm smile and greet others genuinely, especially those who don't look or maybe act like us. No gimmicky slogans on a church marquee can ever overcome cold receptions, unwelcoming eyes and uncaring words.

Inclusion for those with limitations: Inclusion also means an effort to make sure that we do all we can to welcome others with physical or mental limitations. Our goal is to purchase and install a safer, better and more accommodating elevator. How can we minister to those with mental limitations? Our hope is to offer ministries and support for all our members from cradle to grave, over life changes, "and rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep."

God included us as He called us in Baptismal waters. He sustains us in His house with His divine meal of His body and blood and nourishes our soul with His Word and the joy of fellowship with other believers.

All are welcome here and ABSOLUTELY included, by God's grace. Not only do we cherish inclusion, but let us also share that in thoughts, words and deeds. "We love, because Christ first loved us." God bless. Pastor KF Mews.

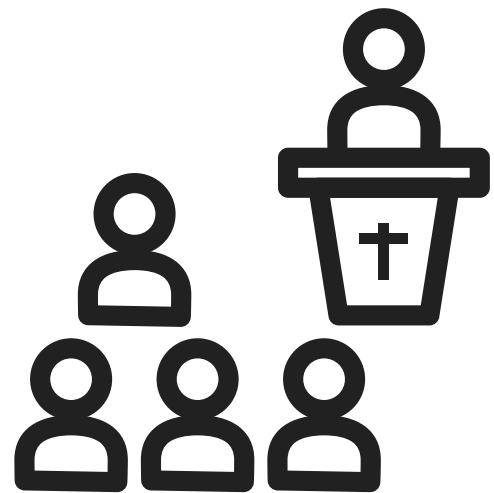
Sermons for April

April 6-7, 2nd SUN of Easter "The Day After"
1 John 1:1-2:2 Resurrection/Godly Life

April 13-14, 3rd SUN of Easter "Life of Christian is Repentance"
Acts 3:1-11, Repentance/Grace

April 20-21, 4th SUN of Easter Guest Pastor

April 27-28, 5th SUN of Easter Guest Pastor



PASTOR MEWS' OFFICIAL ACTS

FUNERALS

MAGGIE MACK - FEBRUARY 29TH

DAVID ADAMS - MARCH 2ND

MARGARET RAMEY - MARCH 5TH

EMMA MADDOCK - MARCH 8TH

COMMITTAL OF DAVE MARTIN,

MARCH 19TH

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

Bible Study Opportunities

Led by Pastor Mews

The Reason For God

Based upon the NY Times best-selling book from Rev. Keller, the gifted and seasoned Christian pastor. This practical author addresses doubts from both skeptics and believers about Christianity. Using literature, real-life conversations and potent reason, this class engagingly shows how belief in God is a sound and rational one. Taught by Pastor Mews, participants will be able to give very credible arguments for pursuing the “Reason for God” with those they know and encounter who are skeptics, doubters and even atheists. The class gathers Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all to join our class!

All is provided.

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 from 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.

Winter “Life with God 1” (LWG 1)

This class is for those desiring to become communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church, those desiring to renew their faith, or those who wish to “check out” the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism. We encourage every member to attend once every five years. The class meets on Monday evenings from

6:30-8:00 p.m.

PRIVATE COMMUNION

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. 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.



Bible Studies

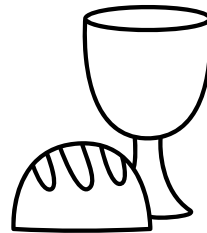
SUNDAY-9:30 a.m.

Phil Rohlf – Lunchroom

Sandy Gyurnek – “Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit” by Max Lucado, in the Fellowship Room

Faye Luhring—“Overcoming Strife / Enduring Faith” In the Lunchroom

Jeff Rohlf – “Goliath Must Fall,” by Louie Giglio in Adult Ed A



ACTS (Adult CrossTraining Studies)

***ACTS - Adult CrossTraining Studies - meets
Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in
Adult Ed Room A. We have new thought-
provoking and uplifting topics each week.
Please join us!***



CARE NOTES

Take One - Take Heart

Give One - Give Hope

Working Your Way Through Crisis

New Care Notes have been placed in the rack in the Caring Ministry Resource Room in the Work Room. Please take one for you or give to a friend.

Notes now available:

5 Stages of Grief Series: Denial

5 Stages of Grief Series: Depression

5 Stages of Grief Series: Anger

5 Stages of Grief Series: Bargaining

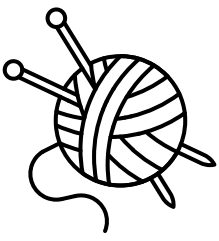
5 Stages of Grief Series: Acceptance

Feeling Overwhelmed When One Loss Follows Another

What Is Palliative Care - And When Is It Called For?

Understanding Thoughts of Suicide and Self-Harm

Angry? Lonely? Anxious? Dealing With Difficult Emotions

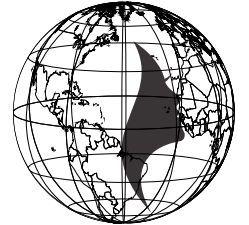


KNIT 'N STUDY at 1 pm SECOND AND FOURTH TUESDAY

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 month they meet

April 8th and 22nd from 9 - 10 am. For more information, please call Faye at 419-782-0153.



BARINGER/WACHTMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

The St. John Lutheran Baringer / Wachtman scholarship is available to students who are considering attending a synodical school (i.e. Concordia, Ann Arbor). The church office has an application/information folder for those pursuing a degree at a Christ-centered campus. Anyone is welcomed to stop in the office for this opportunity to learn more about the programs offered at these colleges.



DEBORAH S. MAXEY SCHOLARSHIP

The Maxey family has created a memorial scholarship to support a high school senior preferably entering the field of education. It is NOT a requirement that the applicant is entering the field of education. The applicant must be accepted into college this fall. To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must have attended St. John Lutheran School at least 3 years from kindergarten through eighth grade. Please stop by the church or school office to pick up an application for the scholarship. The application is also available for download on the church website or your high school website. The application deadline for the scholarship is April 6th. College Bound Students Announcement!



Happy Anniversary

APRIL 2024

80 + BIRTHDAYS

Mike McGhee	April 1st	(81)
Jack Clark	April 2nd	(83)
Phyllis Nicely	April 10th	(84)
Joyce Stoller	April 15th	(84)
Donnabell Sargeant	April 16th	(93)
DiAnn Wichman	April 16th	(85)
Joyce Stork	April 24th	(91)

Randy & Sally Gerken April 8th (41)

Jim & Janet Seymour April 17th (47)

Mark & Nancy Roehrig April 17 (42)

Philip & Rosa Shasteen April 28 (45)

Don & Angie Parrish April 29th (45)



Prayer Requests

Please let the church office know of any 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



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 Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. and on Fridays 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 the days we are open. Bring donations and
come on in and do a little shopping.

For the month of February, we served 85
families or 257 people. We had one food run to
Toledo. The total amount spent in February
was \$1,003.32 for food. Thank you to the
congregation for supporting the food pantry
with food items, money and participating in
the Meijer Simply Give Program.

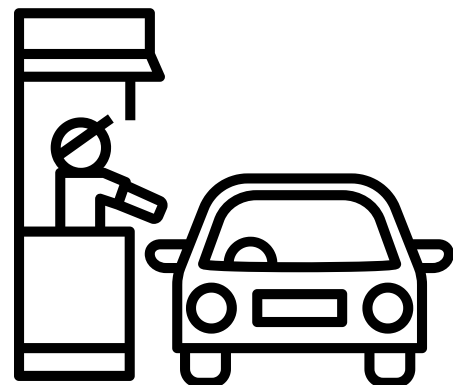
We distributed 333 bags of food for a cost of
\$4,995. According to the stats, we had 11 new
families visit the pantry.

Information will be published in the church
bulletin and in the Epistle for the Letter
Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive,
Saturday, May 11, 2024.



SAVE THE DATE

May 7, 4:30-6:00p.m. for our Pulled-Pork Drive-
Thru sponsored by Tuesdays at 10 Bible Study. We
will be fundraising for Kaitlyn's Cottage. See the
attached flyer in the Epistle.





Scouting News April 2024

After an exciting Pinewood Derby as well as an Easter Egg Hunt in March, the Pack will focus on Den meetings in April so Cubs can complete various requirements to advance in rank.

The Pack extends a thank you to all who have dropped off pop can tabs in the barrel located in the St. John School cafeteria. The tabs are recycled to support the Ronald McDonald House, which enriches the lives of children by providing comfort, care and support to families. Additionally, there is a box located in the south lobby outside the church office where old and worn-out flags can be deposited. Flags will be disposed of in an honorable and dignified ceremony.

The Troop had a great time at Kalihari Water Park in March. This month will find the Scouts camping near Celina and viewing the solar eclipse the next day. In addition, scouts will be manning the concession stand at Augliaze Village while also being able to observe a World War 2 re-enactment.

Service to others is a very important part of Scouting. Thus, in March, both the Pack and Troop participated in the annual Scouting for Food campaign, a national program of the Boy Scouts of America. A total of 1622 items was added to the St. John Food Pantry as a result of this campaign. In addition, the Pack and Troop served a Lenten meal with its traditional Soup and Sandwich Supper.

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. A second St. John Lutheran Church and School sign is to be installed on State Route 66 South. The first sign (4 ft. by 8 ft.) is located at the junction at Routes 15 and 18. Plans are being pursued to have reusable bags with the SJL logo and several gifts inside for guests.

Outreach Ministry is seeking a presence at Family Fun Day in downtown Defiance this summer. This would mark the third consecutive year to participate in this event.

VBS will be July 15-18 with a Jennie Williamson (AriSon Records) concert on July 19.

The Outreach Ministry Committee meets monthly to plan additional opportunities to be more welcoming to worshippers and be more visible in the community. The next meeting will be in the Fellowship Room on April 2 at 6:30. All are welcome to attend.

Additional information regarding this ministry is available by contacting Mike Saxton at 419-393-2513 or Pastor Mews at 419-782-5766.



Our good and gracious God has blessed us with good weather, a life, and purpose.

I have returned from a workshop on "Sharing Jesus". We were assisted by fifteen college students and we had attendees who collectively came from over 2,000 miles. We used our experiences and visited 125 homes. The thoughts are that we are bypassing opportunities right here at our home congregations. Those with schools already have an audience. The next time you travel the halls of St. John Lutheran Church & School, do a prayer walk: pray for the students, teachers, support staff and Pastor. Missions start at home. With Easter just over, share Jesus' story with those you meet and know.

- Mr. Roger Schafer

Ladies Aid - April 2024



Zephaniah 3:17 "The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior, who will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love."

Hope everyone enjoyed the Lenten meals. Thank you to everyone who purchased noodles. We hope you are enjoying them.

Our April meeting is on April 25, 2024 with chair hostess Sharon Keller. The items for the food pantry are detergent and toilet paper.

We hope to see you at the meeting.



DARTBALL SEASON TOURNAMENT

St Paul Lutheran Napoleon Twp. hosted the 2024 Northwest Ohio Lutheran Dartball League Tournament. 10 area churches all completed for the chance to be crowned this year's champion. St John's team had a great showing with a major upset in the second round over the last two years' defending champion! Our season came to an end by coming up short against the eventual regular- season and tournament champion Emanuel Lutheran-Napoleon. What a fun season we all had and we already have a lot of great ideas for next season! If any St. John member wants to join us next season, please let Jeff Buchhop know if you're interested! We definitely could have more than one team that can compete in this league. Great times with fellowship and competition with our Lutheran neighbors-- and some excellent meals following our games!



Pulled Pork Dinner

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Drive thru from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Fundraiser for Kaitlyn's Cottage



1260 Ralston Ave., Defiance

Kaitlyn's Cottage is a safe and nurturing country cottage getaway where professional staff provides compassionate care for individuals with special needs.

ADULT MEAL:

Pulled Pork
Baked Potato
Cole Slaw
Sauerkraut
Roll
Brownie

Adult Meal: \$12

Menu



KIDS MEAL:

Hot Dog
Chips
Cookie
Drink

Kids' Meal: \$5



Tickets available April 1 - April 30

Tickets can be purchased from: Marlene Eberle, Sharon Flint, Linda Hageman, Jean Hoag, Carolyn Hoyle, George Kaiser, Janet Koch, Jan McGhee, Anne Miller, Beth Miller, Norma Miller, Carolyn Richard, Samira Stelzer, Angie Soukup, Karen Tobias, Diana Grim **OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.** *Thank you for your support!*



St. John Lutheran Church

655 Wayne Ave. Defiance

419.782.5766



**RESCHEDULED FROM
JANUARY'S
SNOW DAY!**

TOLEDO ZOO
AT
ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
5:00 PM

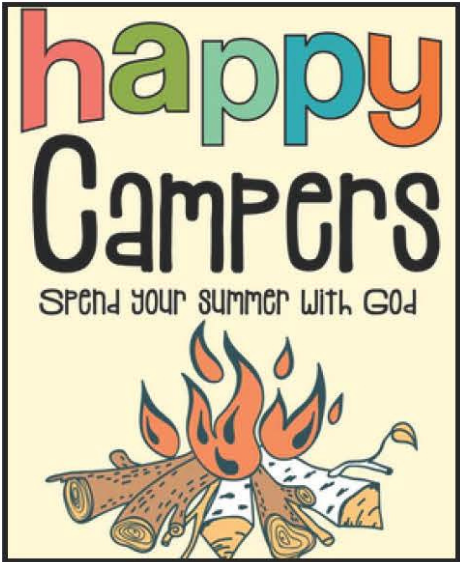


**JOIN US FOR A STORY TIME,
CRAFTS, SNACKS, AND A
PRESENTATION FROM TOLEDO
ZOO'S EDUCATION PROGRAM**

655 WAYNE AVENUE, DEFIANCE

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JULY
15-19
5:30-7:30 PM**

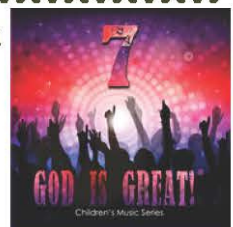


GETTING TO KNOW S'MORE ABOUT JESUS!

- ALL YOUTH AGES 3 - HIGH SCHOOL ARE WELCOME •
- EVERY EVENING ENJOY A COMMUNITY MEAL, MUSIC, CRAFTS, SCIENCE, BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND FUN!



Join us on Friday, July 19 for a special family concert with AriSon records and Jennie Williamson singing her "God Is Great" hits! Our youth will also be singing the songs they've learned during the week!



REGISTER TODAY!
[VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/EVENTS/SJLHAPPYCAMPERS](https://vbspro.events/p/events/sjlhappycampers)



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH • 655 WAYNE AVENUE, DEFIANCE



Thank you for the support of St. John Lutheran School!

- *Our Platinum \$1,000+, Silver \$500+, Gold \$750+ and Bronze \$250+ Sponsors*

Sam Hornish Jr

Camp Lutherhaven

Annette Bergman (St. John alumni)

Marvin & Marian March

Eagles of Defiance

Pack Rats Pawn Shop

Defiance Moose Lodge

Buckeye Roofing and Exteriors

Wells Fargo

REMAX (Angie Morris, St. John alumni)

All Occasions LLC

RG Zachrich

City Beverage

Gerken Companies

La Jaliscience

Roehrs-McMillen

Stykemain Trucks, INC

Pack & Post

VFW

Donations from the community supporting St. John Lutheran School!

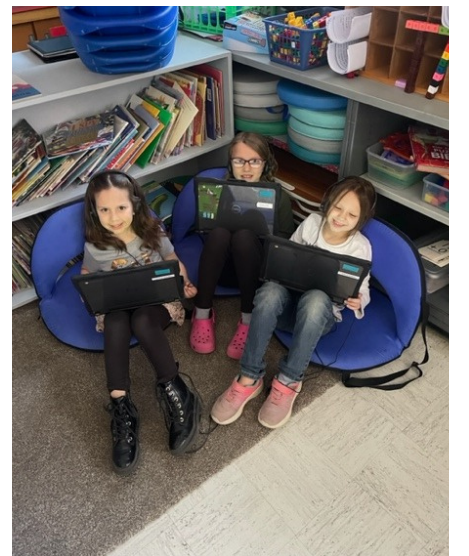


Over 90 businesses and individuals have donated to support St. John Lutheran School. Your support is a witness to the value and the importance of this school that has been vital to the Defiance Community for many years. Over 135 people attended the annual fundraiser on March 16!

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR MAKING
THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS!**



FIRST GRADE ACTIVITIES MRS. MONIN



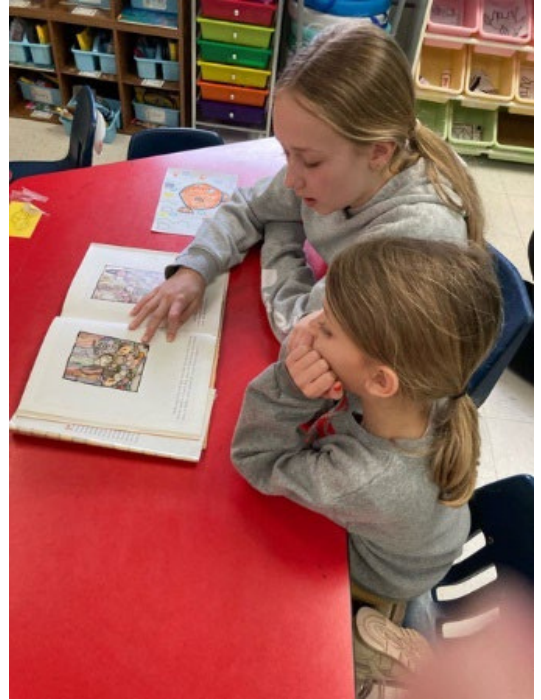


Right to Read Week: March 4-8

The Rainbow Fish

Mr. John March, principal

Local author and artist Kirstene Adkins, (Buddy Reading) shared her book Oodles with the students. Classes paired up to read to each other.



Stop, Drop and Read

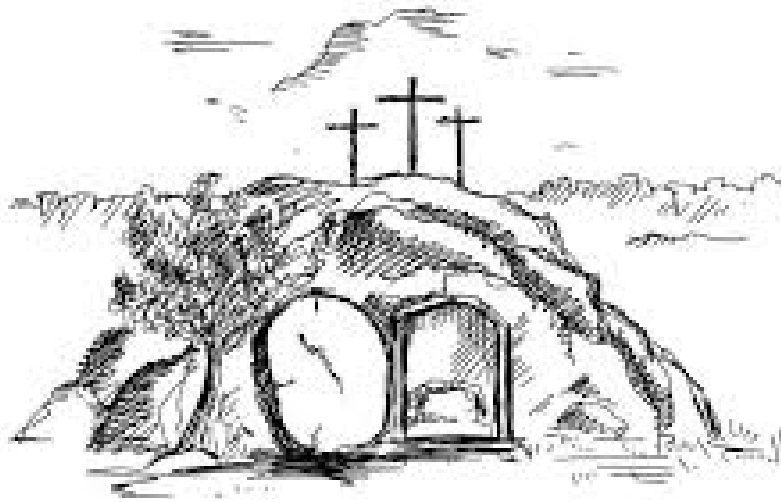


Painting Fish



Purple Day





April 2024

* 419 BLAST EVENT April 3rd With the Toledo Zoo @ 5:00 pm
 * Congregational Meeting @ 12:15 pm April 14th Budget Approval 2024-2025

1 MONDAY	2 TUESDAY	3 WEDNESDAY	4 THURSDAY	5 FRIDAY	6 SATURDAY	7 SUNDAY
Worship Leaders 11:00 am Finance 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Life With God 6:30 pm TeleCare Calling 6:30 pm	Food Pantry 9:00 am Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am Tuesday Book Club 2:00 pm Budget Meeting 3:30 pm Outreach Ministry 6:30 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30 pm BLAST EVENT/ZANEY ZOO Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Isaiah Bible St. 10:00 am Elders Meeting 6:00 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service w/ Communion @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services with Communion 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies @ 9:30am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No School / Solar Eclipse Moms In Touch 9:00 am Finance 9:30 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Life With God 6:30 pm Pew Sisters Bible S. 6:30 pm	Food Pantry 9:00 am Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am Knit & Study 1:00 pm Youth Board Mt 6:30 pm 419 Ministry Mtg. 7:00 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Isaiah Bible St. 10:00 am School Board 5:30 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies @ 9:30am Congregational Meeting 12:15 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Finance 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Life With God 6:30 pm Pew Sisters Bible S. 6:30 pm	Food Pantry 9:00 am Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am Tuesday Book Club 2:00pm Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am No Isaiah Bible Study Ladies Aid 2:00 pm PASTOR MEWS: VACATION April 18th- 29th	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service w/ Communion @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services with Communion 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies @ 9:30am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Moms In Touch 9:00 am Finance 9:30 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm No Life With God Class No Pew Sisters Bible Study	Food Pantry 9:00 am Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am Knit & Study 1:00 pm Parish Planning 7:00 pm	No Reason God Bible Study Hand Bells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am No Isaiah Bible Study Ladies Aid 2:00 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies @ 9:30am Budget Meeting 3:30 pm
29	30	1 May	2	3	4	5
Finance 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm No Life With God Class No Pew Sisters Bible Study	Food Pantry 9:00 am Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am	Reason God Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Cross Training 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Isaiah Bible St. 10:00 am Elders Meeting 6:00 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Easter Vigil Service w/ Communion @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services with Communion 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School/Bible Studies @ 9:30