The Epistle

May 2024

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 655 WAYNE AVENUE DEFIANCE, OH 43512 www.stjohndefiance.com





PASTOR MEWS' MAY EPISTLE ARTICLE

POVERTY:

Living in Defiance County and NW Ohio, we usually don't view ourselves as being in an area afflicted with poverty, but it's here. Nearly 10.7% of our county lives in poverty. Our food pantry and clothes closet ministers to some affected by it. At the April Pastor meeting, we discussed being aware and ministering to those in poverty in NW OH. Poverty can be defined as "A chronic and debilitating condition that results from multiple adverse synergistic risk factors and affects the mind body and soul." Poverty does not mean the same thing to the same people. Here's a check list to see if you could survive in poverty or middle class or in wealth.

Could you survive in poverty? Check out how you would do:

I know churches and sections of town that have the best rummage sales.

I know which rummage sales have 'bag sales' and when.

I know how to get someone out of jail

I know how to get a gun, even though I have a police record.

I know how to live without a checking account.

I know how to move in half a day.

I know how to keep my clothes from being stolen in the laundromat.

I know where to get and use food stamps and electronic cards for benefits.

I can get by without a car and I know where free clinics are.

I know how to live without electricity or the phone.

Could you survive in middle class?

I know how to get my kids into Little League, piano lessons, soccer, etc..

I know how to properly set a table.

My children know the best name brands in clothing.

I know how to order in a nice restaurant.

I know how to use a credit card and checking and savings accounts, and I understand an "annuity".

I talk to my children about going to college.

I know how to decorate my house for different holidays.

I know how to use the tools in my garage.

I understand life and disability insurance, 20/80 medical insurance policy.

I know how to get a library card and can repair items in my house or know repair services.

Could you survive in wealth?

I can read a menu in French, English and another language.

I have several favorite restaurants around the world.

I have at least two residences that are staffed and maintained.

I know how to host parties that key people attend.

I fly my own plane or my company plane.

I am on the board of two major charities.

I support or buy the work of a particular artist.

I know how to ensure loyalty and confidentiality from my domestic staff.

I know how to enroll my children in the preferred private schools.

How did you do? What did you learn? How did you feel? This gives us some insight on how those on the differing parts of the economic ladder survive and function. All of us can relate in some way to one, or maybe parts of two or three. We're led to thank God for all of His gifts, and are called to trust in God for all things. Through this we can become more sensitive to and caring of those in need and seek ways for justice for all. Finally, while we may be blessed materialistically, we who are in poverty in our sin and fallen nature have been redeemed. In heaven, we will be made wealthy in Christ with lavish homes and streets paved in gold.

God bless.

In Christ,

Pastor Kurt F. Mews

SUMMER 2024, St. John Lutheran, Defiance, OH LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG 1) <u>Starting, Monday, May 20, 2024</u>

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 1)</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. Those who complete this course can become communicant members if they desire. Life with God will be offered each winter, spring and fall. <u>St. John members are asked to attend a</u> "Life with God," class once every five years to renew and refresh their faith! LWG 1 is offered three times a year, in January, May and September!

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, The Reformation, Good Works, The Ten Commandments, Worship, & Christian Stewardship. Come to learn and grow together.

DATES: *Monday, May 20, 2024 thru Monday, August 19, 2024.* Classes are held on Monday evenings in the Adult Bible Study room A from 6:30-8:30 P.M.. Bring nothing. On the last class we will bring refreshments/snacks to share. After the 2nd class, no new class members are to join, and all will receive a class notebook to keep. A confirmation/new member date will be set in the future.

TEACHER: Pastor Mews, who has been teaching Life with God for over 22 years!

FOR: Adults or high school students desiring to be members of St. John Lutheran Church, or those who want to support those attending. This class is also for those who simply desire to renew their faith or explore the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism with NO pressure to join.

REGISTRATION: Return to the church office by **Sunday, May 12, 2024** or hand to Pastor KFM.

SUMMER 2024, St. John Lutheran Church "Life with God 1" (LWG 1) Regis	tration 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:

Confirmation Verses 2024 Confirmands

Karly Cheryl Carpenter

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." Proverbs 27:1

Mason Patrick Doda

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." Proverbs 27:1

Ashley McKayla Houshoulder

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

Davis Michael McGhee

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." Proverbs 30:5

Beckett John Meyers

"The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want." Psalm 23:1

Owen Michael Reynolds

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" Proverbs 27:1

Caden David Pollock

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" Proverbs 27:1

419-782-5766 655 Wayne Ave Defiance, OH

Sermons for May

Pastor Mews Sermons May, 2024					
Date	Church Year Sunday	Title	Scripture	Theme	
May 4-5, Promise	6th SUN of Easter "I For <u>i</u>	got What I Learned"	Acts 10:34-38	Word/Remember	
May 11-12 Strength	P, ASCENSION "Overly P	rotective"	John 17:11b-19	Prayer/Godly	
May 18-19 Spirit	9, PENTECOST"A Picture Eci	hoes a Thousand We	ords" Acts 2:1-21	Pentecost/Holy	



"Live Life in the Presence"

Mav 25-26. TRINITY

Pastor Mews' Official acts Funerals Loretta Koppenhofer - February 29th Baptism Brooks Wilson Wagner - April 21st

PASTOR'S SERMONS

Isaiah 6:1-8

Trinity/Awe of God

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.



St. John Lutheran Church & Christian Day School Ouarterly Financial Report

St. John Lutheran	Quarterly Financial Report						
	July - March 2024						
	Actual		Budget		Fav/(Unfav) to Budget		
Income							
Church Revenue	\$	533,972	\$	523,212	\$	10,759	
School Revenue	\$	367,772	\$	413,137	\$	(45,365)	
Tigers' Den Revenue	\$	31,490	\$	47,862	\$	(16,372)	
Total Income	\$	933,233	\$	984,211	\$	(50,978)	
Expenses							
Church Expenses	\$	276,221	\$	371,311	\$	95,090	
Care of Property	\$	147,433	\$	146,260	\$	(1,174)	
Christian Day School	\$	414,376	\$	396,341	\$	(18,035)	
Tigers' Den	\$	28,837	\$	44,112	\$	15,275	
Total Expenses	\$	866,868	\$	958,024	\$	91,156	
Net	\$	66,365	\$	26,187	\$	40,178	



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Average Monthly Attendance

Bible Study Opportunities Led by Pastor & Lisa 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 pursing 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.

"PEW SISTERS" BIBLE STUDY

Lisa Mews is leading "Pew Sisters", a women's small-group Bible study by Katie Schuermann. "Pew Sisters" is about real women, real lives, and real faith stories! Every woman in the pew has a sory of God's faithfulness, and women love nothing better than to revel in one another's experiences and celebrate the sisterhood of believers. Pew Sisters helps get that celebration started. Devotional in both tone and form, this twelve-session study tells what God is doing in the lives of real women today. From depression to grief to cancer, women from all over the Church share their stories here for the consolation and encouragement of their sisters in faith. We are all one in the Body of Christ, so these beautiful women are your pew sisters. Join them in the pages of this study and in your own small group. The class meets on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. If you're still interested in attending, please call the church office at 419-782-5766 for more information.





Bible Studies SUNDAY-9:30 a.m. Phil Rohlf — "Life Lessons From the Book of Esther" by Max Lucado Lunchroom

Sandy Gyurnek —"Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit" by Max Lucado Fellowship Room

Jeff Rohlf — "Goliath Must Fall," by Louie Giglio Adult Ed A

Faye Luhring - "The Beatitudes" Lunchroom



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.

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MAY 2024 80 + BIRTHDAYS

Victoria Vogel	May 5th (82)
Bonnie Gomez	May 15th (92)
Delores Notestine	•
Gloraine Stelzer	May 23rd (99)
Karen Haaser	May 25th (81)
David Boehm	May 25th (83)
Bonnie Warncke	May 25th (82)
Marvin March	May 26th (89)
John Marcellus	May 28th (81)
Marilyn Guilliam	May 29th (89)
Helen Miller	May 29th (89)



Marc & Margaret Beach	5/1	(41)
Mark & Cricket Hageman	5/10	(44)
Bill & Suzanne Hultz	5/16	(59)
Jerry & Sharon Lynn	5/20	(52)
Keith & Shelly Decker	5/28	(48)
David & Kristine Graham	5/28	(47)
Thom & Karen Kent	5/30	(53)
David & Sandy Pergram	5/31	(49)
Ted & Phyllis Nicely	5/31	(66)





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



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 May 6th and 20th from 9 - 10 am. For more information, please call Faye at 419-782-0153.



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: Anger 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



BOTTOMS-UP DIAPER DRIVE

We are partnering with area food pantries to collect diapers and wipes. All donations will be distributed to the Pregnancy Center, Children's Lantern, Path Center and area food pantries who participate in the diaper drive. The program is called Bottoms Up Diaper Bank. Diapers will be collected until May 12. We will collect diapers and wipes and set them aside in the food pantry. Please help us out by dropping off diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6 are in the highest demand) by May 12. Please visit https://bottomsup.life for more information about Bottoms Up and visit Facebook or YouTube (Bottoms Up Diaper Drive). Thank you for your donation.



We served 69 families in the month of March or 185 people which includes three new families. We distributed 295 bags of food equal to \$4,425. Meijer Simply Give program ended on March 30, 2024. We were featured from December 31 to March 30th, 2024. We are waiting communication from Meijer on how many Meijer Gift Cards we will be receiving. Thanks to everyone who supported this program. The March Scouting for Food brought in 1,662 food items for our food pantry. Thank you to Cub Scout and Troop 75. Also, the Ladies Aid continues to donate non-food items once a month. We continue to sustain the Food Pantry by donations from congregation members, food drives, and occasional donations from the community.

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 times we are open. Bring donations and come on in and do a little shopping.





HELP NEEDED ON SATURDAY, MAY 11 The annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 11. This is when the post office will be picking up food that you have placed by your mailbox. All the area food pantries are required to help, thereby receiving food for their pantries. We need people starting around 2:00 p.m. to help sort the food at St. John's Fellowship Room and then putting food away in the pantry. If you are able to help, please contact Rita Bergman at 419.782.4213. Thank you.

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Scouting News May 2024

The Pack will be having an overnight camp at Camp Lakota this month for Cubs and their families. In addition to hiking, fishing and a variety of other activities, the Pack will also be having an awards ceremony for those who have earned rank and various other requirements. Planned for the summer months are a Rain Gutter Regatta, an annual event, where Cubs will enjoy loads of fun that will find them moving sailboats made from a kit down a water-filled rain gutter by blowing on the sails. Water games and a visit to the Bronson Park Splash Pad are also a part of the Regatta. In addition to the Regatta, a potluck with a number of games will be held at a local park as well as a possible visit to Binder Zoo in Michigan. Opportunities are also available to attend Cub summer camps at Lakota.

After viewing the solar eclipse in April, Troop members will be attending the Chinquapin District Spring Camporee this month at Harrison Lake State Park. With the theme of "Walk on the Wild Side", Scouts will be exploring the natural world and increasing their knowledge of trees, plants, wildlife and insects. In addition, a flag retirement ceremony, done with utmost respect, will be conducted at Auglaize Village for veterans.

The Troop continues to plan for the annual week-long camping experience at Lakota. Available merit badges to be earned are being discussed as well as fun time activities such as swimming, kayaking and canoeing in 48-acre Lake Glengary, shooting sports that include archery, rifle and shotgun ranges, and climbing the tower, in addition to a number of other choices. All Scouts look forward to rousing evening campfires in the Council Ring as well.

Members of both the Pack and Troop will be flag bearers during the Memorial Day services at St. John and also have a presence at the Memorial Day ceremony at Riverside Cemetery.

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.

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 raising funds for Kaitlyn's Cottage. See the attached flyer in the Epistle.



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OUTREACH MINISTRY Epistle - May 2024



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 as well as for new members. 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 May 7 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.

Ladies Aid - May 2024



Please remember this verse from John 16:33 - In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. Our next meeting is on May 30, 2024, at 2 pm with chair hostess Lorna Smith. The food pantry items for the month are shampoo, laundry soap, and toilet paper. We will be talking about our events coming up in the fall. Remember, this will be our last meeting until August 29, 2024. Have a great summer!

Please join us for

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Monday. May 6 at 5:00 pm Glenn Park Clubhouse 2429 William A. Diehl Court. Defiance

Please RSVP to the church office at 419-782-5766 or email Debbie at church.office@stiohntigers.com This is being held in honor of all of our church and school volunteers. Whether you are a committee member. worship service leader. office helper or assisted in another way. please join us!

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.

KIDS MEAL: ADULT MEAL: Hot Dog Pulled Pork Chips **Baked Potato** Cookie Cole Slaw Drink Sauerkraut Kids' Meal: \$5 Roll Brownie Adult Meal: \$12 KAITLYN'S COTTAGE

<u> Tickets available April 1 - April 30</u>

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL







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 <u>Friday, July 19</u> 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



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH • 655 WAYNE AVENUE, DEFIANCE

Based on the book by E.B. White.

offesteb

Adapted by

Joseph Robinette

Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18, at 7:00p.m.

Student: \$5.00, Adult: \$7.50 Family (maximum 2 adults) \$20.00

St. John Lutheran School's Gymnasium 655 Wayne Ave., Defiance, Ohio To order tickets: 419.782.1751 secretary.sjl@stjohntigers.com























R /	014	2024	* Confirmati	on May 5th		
IV	ay	2024	Volunteer I * Glenn Park	May 6th		
29 MONDAY	30 TUESDAY	1 WEDNESDAY	2 THURSDAY	3 FRIDAY	4 SATURDAY	5 SUNDAY
Finance 5:30 pr Boy Scouts 6:30 p Life With God 6:30 p	n Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am	Reason God Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm	Clothes Closet9:00 amFood Pantry9:00 amIsaiah Bible St.10:00 amElders Meeting6:00 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am Confirmation Rehearsal w/ Reception 7:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services with Communion 8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studie @ 9:30am
6 Volunteer Dinner 5p	ⁿ 7	8	9	10	11	12 Worship Services
Moms In Touch9:00 atFinance9:30 atWorship Leaders11:00 atTeleCare Calling6:30 ptBoy Scouts6:30 ptLife With God6:30 ptPew Sisters Bible S6:30 pt	Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am Tuesday Book Club 2:00 pm Drive-Thru Dinner 3:30 pm Outreach Ministry 6:30 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm419 Meeting5:30 pmHand Bells5:45 pmSenior Choir6:30 pmVBS Meeting7:00 pm	Clothes Closet9:00 amFood Pantry9:00 amIsaiah Bible St.10:00 amSchool Board5:30 pmBoard of Christian7:00 pmDay School Mtg.	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service @ 5:30 pm	8:00 / 9:30 / & 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Studie: @ 9:30am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Finance 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p Life With God 6:30 p Pew Sisters Bible St. 6:30 p	n Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am n Knit & Study 1:00 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm	Clothes Closet9:00 amFood Pantry9:00 amIsaiah Bible Study10:00 amParish Planning6:00 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 Studie @ 9:30am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Worship Services
Moms In Touch9:00 atFinance9:30 aBoy Scouts6:30 pLife With God Class6:30 pPew Sisters Bible St. 6:30 p	n Tuesday Bible St. 10:00 am n Tuesday Book Club 2:00pm n Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm	Reason God Bible Study	Clothes Closet 9:00 am Food Pantry 9:00 am Isaiah Bible Study 10:00 am	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service @ 5:30 pm	8:00 / 9:30 / & 11 Sunday School & Adult Bible Studies @ 9:30am Budget Meeting 3:30 pm
27	28	29	30	31	1 JUNE	2
MEMORIAL DAY	Food Pantry 9:00 am Finance 5:30 pm	Reason God Bible Study 2pm	Clothes Closet9:00 amFood Pantry9:00 amIsaiah Bible St.10:00 amLadies Aid Mtg.2:00 pm	Clothes Closet 10:00 am	Worship Service w/ Communion @ 5:30 pm	Worship Services with Communion 9:00 / & 11:00 am Sunday School/Bible Studies @



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