

THE EPISTLE

MAY 2025



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
655 WAYNE AVENUE
DEFIANCE, OH 43512
www.stjohnndefiance.com
419.782.5766





From the Desk of Pastor Mews



RESPECT IS DESCRIBED AS CIVILITY!

Respect is described as “civility”! Scripture says this in regards to respect: *“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God and honor the emperor.”* 1 Peter 2:17
Aretha Franklin in her 1967 mega-hit sings of this topic. Read her lyrics: maybe you can sing them: *“R-E-S-P-E-C-T Find out what it means to me, R-E-S-P-E-C-T, Take care, TCB, Oh (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me), A little respect (sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me, sock it to me) Whoa, babe (just a little bit), A little respect (just a little bit)”*

Not only are her words a popular feel-good, go-to song, she is asking something very reasonable and appropriate: a little respect. Her lyrics also highlight a key aspect of the decline of our nation: the lack of respect or the lack of civility. We see disrespect in all avenues of our American experience. Sadly, even the Church and individual Christians can begin to lose respect, especially when things don’t go their way, or there is the perception of an injustice, or someone doesn’t live up to their expectations. Rudeness, ignoring others, gossip, and lack of empathy and care are behavioral hallmarks of disrespect. Respect is not necessarily given toward a building or institution, but to individuals. We respect, not because we like a person or what they do or don’t do for us, or their viewpoints, but we respect them as children of God. Too many people, even Christians, have swallowed the world’s lie: “I respect you if you earn it”, as if respect is earned. This is not a godly view. Respect is given due to position and a person being a child of God. Period.

God’s love is shown in our salvation through Jesus Christ. God’s love is given to us through His holy Law that is revealed to love and to protect. In His Fourth Commandment, we are called to honor our father and mother, and to love, serve, and respect them. God uses the authority of father and mother as the basis for all other earthly authority. Christians are called to respect people in spite of their flaws. To fail to respect them, as they are essentially God’s representatives, is to disrespect God. To disrespect a person is to disrespect the God who made them.

Here are some other points to ponder as God's people when it comes to respect, and the blessing it not only brings to our homes, churches, schools and communities, but also to our culture and our church culture.

- A nation reclaims respect one person at a time.
- Recapturing culture leads to recapturing respect.
- We are all infectious in one way or another.
- Methods are many; principles are few. Methods always change; principles never do.
- Culture is taught in the relational platform.
- Civility is contagious.
- Respect is more caught than taught.
- Can you disagree without being disagreeable?
- To think little of God is to disrespect your Creator.
- With God's help we can show love and respect.



May is a month of transformation: graduations, confirmations, the end of the school year, the beginning of summer, Memorial Day, etc. May is also a month for us to pray, consider and repent. Humility is to be respectful and to thank God for respectful behavior. Respect is humility and civility, and is the not only the bedrock of our relationships, but of our nation, church and civilization. God respected His creation enough to redeem us in Christ and give us His Kingdom. In Christ, Pastor Kurt F. Mews

Ministry Matters from Pastor Mews

OFFICIAL ACTS FROM PASTOR MEWS:

- Memorial Service for Steve Corwin at Schaffer on April 12; he died on April 3
- Funeral service for Linda D. DeTray at SJL on April 15; she died on April 4
- Memorial Service for Arlyn Mehring on March 28; she died on March 10
- Memorial service for James Mehring on March 11; he died on February 20

Upcoming Official Acts:

- Memorial service for Steven Watchman on May 3 at SJL at 11:30 a.m. He died on April 9th
- Marriage of Mike Saxton and Vicki Hestermann on May 17 at 3:00
- Marriage of Megan Engel and Austin Habegger on June 21 at 3:00

Pastor Mews Personal Notes:

- Pastor Mews was on vacation from April 21st - April 25th, 2025.
- Pastor returned to see his Father during his hospitalization from April 1 to 2nd, and April 4th to 5th.
- Thank you for your prayers during my father's recent medical concerns and hospitalizations.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN RECONCILIATION PROCESS:

- Church Doctor Congregational presentation, April 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.,
- Church Doctor Staff presentation, April 4, from 10:00-noon
- Resources regarding the SJL Church Doctor report are available; contact the church office.

OHIO DISTRICT / Northwest Ohio Professional Growth

- May 13, Northwest Ohio Circuit Pastors gather from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH.
- Mr. Rick Baldwin is our lay representative. for the Ohio District Convention June 22 - 24 at St. John Lutheran Church, Dublin, OH.



God's Blessings to Our 2025 Confirmands:

Ashlynn Bussing - Isaiah 41:10

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Addilea Osborn - Phillippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Bryanna Taylor - Psalm 46:1

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

May Services with Pastor Mews' Sermons



Pastor Mews Sermons May, 2025

**May 3-4, 3rd Sun. of Easter: "Live Life in a World Like That?" John 21:1-14
Resurrection / Hope**

**May 10-11, 4th Sun. of Easter: "Good Shepherds" Acts 20:17-35
Shepherds / Ministry**

**May 17-18, 5th Sun. of Easter: "A Better Place, A New World." Rev. 21:1-7
Heaven / Peace**

**May 24-25, 6th Sun. of Easter: "Our Song of Salvation" John 16:23-33
Heaven / Hope**



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 and Walt & Lorna Smith 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.

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.



SPRING / SUMMER LIFE WITH GOD

SPRING / SUMMER 2025, St. John Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH
LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG 1) Starting, Monday, May 12, 2025



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 "Life with God" (LWG 1). 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. For those who complete this course they can become communicant members if they desire. Life with God will be offered each winter, spring and fall.

St. John members are asked to attend a "Life with God," class once every five years to renew and refresh their faith! LWG 1 is offered three times a year: 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, and Christian Stewardship. Come to learn and grow together.

DATES: Monday, May 12, 2025 to Monday, August 4, 2025. 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.

TEACHERS: 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 11, 2025, or hand to Pastor Mews.

Spring / Summer 2025 St. John Lutheran Church "Life with God 1" (LWG 1) Registration 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:

Bible Study Opportunities – Led by Pastor Mews

“How Jesus Changed the World”

Based on the book by Christopher Hudson, this class takes an in-depth look at Jesus’ influence on every part of our world and life. All is provided and all are welcome! We gather each Wednesday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. April classes: Wednesday, April 2, 9, 16 and 23.

“Romans”

This Bible study is over the book of Romans and it meets from 10:00–11:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Room. The book and class theme is “The Righteousness of God Revealed in the Gospel, Through Faith, for Faith”. Feel free to join us. All is provided. Our outreach ministry is to the PATH Center of Defiance.

Spring / Summer “Life with God ”

This class will begin on May 12th 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. Please see the attached flyer for more details or share with Pastor Mews dates and times that are best for you.



Middle School Bible Study – Led by Mr. Gerken & Mr. Fritz

Youth in 4th–8th grades are welcome to meet in the youth room downstairs two Sundays a month for a Bible Study led alternately between Mr. Britt Gerken and Mr. Austin Fritz. The April Bible classes meet on May 11th and May 25th in the downstairs Youth room.



Bible Studies

SUNDAY-10:00 a.m.

Phil Rohlf — “The Promise and Power of Easter” follow-up study in the Fellowship Room on the right

Sandy Gyurnek — “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado in the Fellowship Room on the left

Jeff Rohlf — “Overcomer” study in the Adult Ed A Room

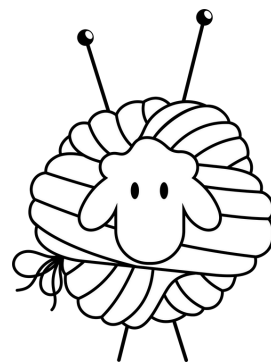
**TUESDAYS AT TEN BIBLE STUDY
meets every Tuesday
at 10:00 a.m.**



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 Women's Knit and Study group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.

From the Desk of Kristina Phipps

From the Principal's Desk



April and the Easter season bring to the forefront all the reasons why we are here at St. John; so we can tell and retell the story of Jesus' birth at Christmas time, His death on the cross on Good Friday, and then his triumph over the devil as He rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. He is now alive forever and ever. Because "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life." (John 3:16) all of our students and their families who hear and believe also get the promise of eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

On Monday, April 21, all of our staff, students, and families got the opportunity to go to the Phoenix movie theater to see "The King of Kings" by Angel Studios. In this movie as stated in Angel Studios official trailer, "A father (Charles Dickens) tells his son the greatest story ever told, and what begins as a bedtime tale becomes a life-changing journey. Through vivid detail, the boy walks alongside Jesus, witnessing His miracles, facing His trials, and understanding His ultimate sacrifice. The King of Kings invites us to rediscover the enduring power of hope, love, and redemption through the eyes of a child." Watching the facial expressions of our St John students as they began connecting together the short Bible stories we teachers have shared with them over the years brought a smile to our teachers' faces. Each time the dots were connected for a child and it showed on their face, that reinforced the importance of our place in these children's lives. There is no greater job than to be able to tell the story of God's love for us, especially to the young children He's placed into our care, and the rewards all of us receive because of His grace and mercy for all of us. As Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come unto me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

On Wednesday, April 23, we celebrated the year with grandparents and other important people in the lives of our students. We started the morning off in the chapel as the children helped Mrs. Phipps review the Easter story for our guests and the roller coaster of emotions that were felt from Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross for our sins to Sunday morning after He had risen so we can have eternal life with Him in heaven. We played carnival games, had a snack, created a picture frame, and enjoyed Christian fellowship with our families and friends.

Once again, thank you for all the support we've received this year so that we can tell Jesus' story to our students and their families!

Blessings, Kristina Phipps, Principal

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Quarter Financial Report

January - March, 2025

	TOTAL			
	JAN - MAR, 2025	JAN - MAR, 2024 (PY)	JUL 2024 - MAR 2025 (YTD)	JUL 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY YTD)
Revenue				
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Revenues	172,642.67	193,069.08	533,294.35	533,971.70
School Revenues	46,960.71	163,435.99	126,119.58	367,771.68
Tigers' Den Revenue	7,036.47	11,088.25	19,718.17	31,549.32
Total Revenue	226,639.85	367,593.32	679,132.10	933,292.70
Total Revenue	\$226,639.85	\$367,593.32	\$679,132.10	\$933,292.70
GROSS PROFIT	\$226,639.85	\$367,593.32	\$679,132.10	\$933,292.70
Expenditures				
Church Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Care of Church Property	55,002.68	47,956.55	145,944.89	147,433.43
Christian Day School	64,408.66	144,495.17	219,632.39	414,371.20
Other Expenses	2,161.18	13,938.06	5,619.00	17,242.16
Preaching the Gospel	111,208.00	71,358.00	319,170.33	239,101.26
Spreading The Gospel	5,555.49	7,663.49	14,846.78	16,168.60
Tiger's Den	5,705.90	10,071.90	15,603.84	28,837.20
Workers Benefits	213.08	363.02	1,151.32	1,567.08
Youth & Parish Education	1,503.28	1,081.01	7,321.20	1,926.63
Total Church Expenses	245,758.27	296,927.20	729,289.75	866,647.56
Total Expenditures	\$245,758.27	\$296,927.20	\$729,289.75	\$866,647.56
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ (19,118.42)	\$70,666.12	\$ (50,157.65)	\$66,645.14
NET REVENUE	\$ (19,118.42)	\$70,666.12	\$ (50,157.65)	\$66,645.14



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Revenue				
Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
401111 Current & Missions	159,165.73	178,585.68	468,820.87	481,852.81
401112 Christ Our Savior	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,166.67)
401113 Rental Property Income	1,800.00	1,800.00	5,400.00	5,400.00
403111 Basket Offering	3,721.80	2,963.66	11,717.34	11,212.54
404111 Thrivent Choice Fund	2,911.00	2,310.00	3,857.00	3,905.00
405111 Special Missions	55.00	60.00	542.27	1,156.19
405115 Clothes Closet Contrib	1,500.00	1,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
411111 Sunday Morning Broadcast	0.00	0.00	635.90	722.35
413111 Room Rental	285.00	0.00	545.00	335.00
419111 General Fund Memorials	1,413.59	2,678.59	19,606.71	5,141.48
423111 Christmas	0.00	0.00	9,591.00	11,142.42
425111 New Years Eve	420.00	200.00	570.00	725.00
427111 Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	1,170.00	1,492.00
429111 Easter	0.00	130.00	0.00	130.00
441111 Church Office Reimb/Supplies	15.00	44.70	135.00	717.54
479111 Cross Training Registration	10.00	26.85	400.00	780.40
485111 VBS	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	0.00
492111 Misc Income/Budget	400.00	650.00	1,324.00	4,505.00
497000 Food Pantry Contributions	600.00	600.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
497001 Food Pantry Reimbursement (PR)	345.55	1,519.60	1,279.26	2,620.64
Total Church Revenues	172,642.67	193,069.08	533,294.35	533,971.70
School Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
474002 K-8 Tuition	21,266.54	123,745.00	63,778.45	237,402.22
474003 Preschool Tuition	7,168.00	17,909.34	25,319.00	70,607.00
474111 School Fees/Tuition	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,832.91
474115 School Application Fee	225.00	6,150.00	(4,475.00)	8,900.00
474117 School Contribution to Budget	4,683.55	50.00	9,518.22	7,483.61
474119 School - Tech. Reimbursement	624.99	844.73	1,874.97	2,094.71
481111 ACR - Adm Reimb State of Ohio	11,467.52	9,140.09	22,951.23	18,280.17
487111 School Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00	805.00
490111 Lunch Program Reimbursement	1,525.11	5,596.83	7,152.71	15,366.06
Total School Revenues	46,960.71	163,435.99	126,119.58	367,771.68
Tigers' Den Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
480113 Tigers Den Utility Contribution	1,249.98	1,249.98	3,749.94	3,333.28
490101 Tigers' Den Reimbursement	5,786.49	9,838.27	15,968.23	28,216.04
Total Tigers' Den Revenue	7,036.47	11,088.25	19,718.17	31,549.32
Total Revenue	226,639.85	367,593.32	679,132.10	933,292.70
Total Revenue	\$226,639.85	\$367,593.32	\$679,132.10	\$933,292.70
GROSS PROFIT	\$226,639.85	\$367,593.32	\$679,132.10	\$933,292.70
Expenditures				

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Church Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Care of Church Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
811251 Custodian Salaries	15,279.24	14,784.97	41,414.49	45,073.19
811254 Custodian Weekend Event Pay	275.00	0.00	597.50	707.50
815252 FICA - Property Exp	1,163.83	1,051.59	3,047.55	3,251.63
829250 Repair/Replacement	15,202.52	9,785.51	33,062.44	29,355.07
831250 Custodian Supplies	384.20	178.35	534.46	1,095.80
833250 Insurance/Property	3,654.69	3,258.50	11,089.68	9,775.50
841254 Utilities - Gas	2,074.50	2,794.50	5,527.50	7,923.50
841255 Utilities - Electricity	4,054.33	6,837.76	16,629.60	20,370.79
841256 Utilities - Water/Sewer	1,117.01	1,405.24	3,824.81	5,745.22
841257 Utilities - Trash	989.26	408.15	1,805.56	1,224.45
841258 Utilities - Phones - Land/Cell	329.33	337.45	1,016.09	1,023.05
858250 Information/Computer Services	3,748.97	1,424.95	7,354.25	5,110.18
858251 Computer Maintenance	1,502.24	199.04	4,089.63	1,070.57
876250 Workers Benefits - Custodians	5,227.56	5,490.54	15,951.33	15,706.98
Total Care of Church Property	55,002.68	47,956.55	145,944.89	147,433.43
Christian Day School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
601151 Teachers Salaries	35,341.10	81,960.61	114,556.98	244,399.34
601152 Teacher Aides Salaries	6,184.82	4,535.94	15,742.23	12,992.18
601154 Teachers CRP Benefit	0.00	0.00	0.00	203.65
602154 Personnel/Medical Certification	47.25	44.95	788.95	44.95
603151 Substitute Teachers	211.28	472.56	211.28	1,222.56
604151 Athletic Director	0.00	333.34	0.00	1,000.01
606151 Secretary Salaries	7,229.56	7,553.22	21,288.93	26,124.63
608151 Lunch Program Salaries	1,416.73	6,193.30	6,733.69	15,569.32
608152 Workers Benefit-Lunch Program	0.00	439.02	439.02	1,240.92
608153 Lunchroom HSP Dues	0.00	0.00	760.00	760.00
613151 FICA - Teaching Exp	2,825.71	4,990.10	8,820.11	15,597.07
613153 FICA - Lunch Program Expense	108.38	473.78	515.14	1,191.05
619155 Teacher Professional Growth	252.80	0.00	400.70	0.00
620155 Teachers Conf/Inservice	305.05	276.00	1,331.36	276.00
620255 School Accred/Fees/Licenses	49.90	167.99	2,659.35	2,247.94
621155 School Staff Mileage	179.90	183.75	179.90	374.38
622155 School Books & Materials	0.00	0.00	1,570.12	2,100.15
625155 School Office Supplies/Postage	270.79	318.03	1,203.38	1,506.95
627155 School Technology	712.50	600.00	2,604.00	1,800.00
676250 Worker Benefits - School	9,272.89	35,952.58	39,827.25	85,720.10
Total Christian Day School	64,408.66	144,495.17	219,632.39	414,371.20
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
776200 Bank Insufficient Fd Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
776300 Bank Fees/Miscellaneous	225.00	111.00	750.39	365.07
776500 Payroll Service Charge	1,161.18	1,270.06	2,543.61	2,875.09
776600 Accountant/Audit Charges	775.00	700.00	2,325.00	2,100.00
776700 GIVE Scholarship	0.00	11,857.00	0.00	11,857.00

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Total Other Expenses	2,161.18	13,938.06	5,619.00	17,242.16
Preaching the Gospel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
741201 Pastors Salaries & Housing	22,990.86	15,873.29	72,804.39	67,093.08
741204 Investing Associate Pastor	25,289.76	0.00	50,579.52	0.00
742203 Pastors Auto Allowance	1,153.86	1,153.86	3,653.83	4,423.07
750201 Secretaries Salaries/Church	28,938.93	28,043.57	98,019.50	85,998.34
751201 Food Pantry Manager	321.00	449.35	1,188.35	1,247.25
752201 Musician/Worship Salaries	2,178.51	2,848.01	8,286.53	9,780.03
753201 Guest Speakers	185.00	487.45	1,985.91	3,117.82
760202 FICA - Preach Gos Exp	2,512.09	2,304.52	8,145.42	7,284.89
760203 FICA - Food Pantry Manager Exp	24.55	31.39	90.91	103.90
770200 Pastors - Conference/Training	277.00	154.50	377.00	798.97
771200 Pastors/Professional Growth	475.00	0.00	522.98	102.00
772200 Pastors Library	0.00	28.71	85.98	69.78
773200 Music	886.00	266.00	1,266.00	1,181.47
774200 Worship Service Supplies	1,036.85	1,473.46	4,656.48	4,222.31
775200 Church Office Supplies	1,663.91	1,369.29	5,926.01	6,355.98
776250 Workers Benefits - Church	20,955.81	14,774.73	54,782.35	40,973.09
777200 Sunday Morning Broadcast	1,040.00	1,040.00	3,440.00	3,120.00
778500 Pastor Phone Allowance	138.48	138.48	438.52	530.84
781200 Devotional Materials	947.63	720.80	2,727.89	2,290.15
787201 Stephen/Caring Ministry Expense	192.76	200.59	192.76	408.29
Total Preaching the Gospel	111,208.00	71,358.00	319,170.33	239,101.26
Spreading The Gospel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
501101 DYE Salary & Housing	596.25	1,380.00	3,258.75	3,727.50
503102 FICA - Spread Gosepl Expense	45.62	105.57	238.13	285.16
506100 Conventions	2,154.70	0.00	2,154.70	0.00
508100 Evangelism Board	0.00	0.00	9.63	298.00
510100 Stewardship Board	0.00	86.34	78.78	328.34
512100 Fellowship Board	516.78	0.00	558.65	0.00
513100 Public Relations Board	242.14	91.58	548.14	529.60
515100 LCMS Missions	2,000.00	6,000.00	8,000.00	11,000.00
Total Spreading The Gospel	5,555.49	7,663.49	14,846.78	16,168.60
Tiger's Den	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
605151 Tigers Den Salaries	4,697.95	8,778.13	13,124.02	25,283.83
605152 Tigers' Den Supplies/Postage	28.98	107.81	28.98	107.81
605156 Workers Benefits - Tigers' Den	829.08	613.77	2,056.62	1,874.30
613152 FICA - Tigers' Den	149.89	572.19	394.22	1,571.26
Total Tiger's Den	5,705.90	10,071.90	15,603.84	28,837.20
Workers Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
870251 Workers Comp	213.08	363.02	1,151.32	1,567.08
Total Workers Benefits	213.08	363.02	1,151.32	1,567.08
Youth & Parish Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

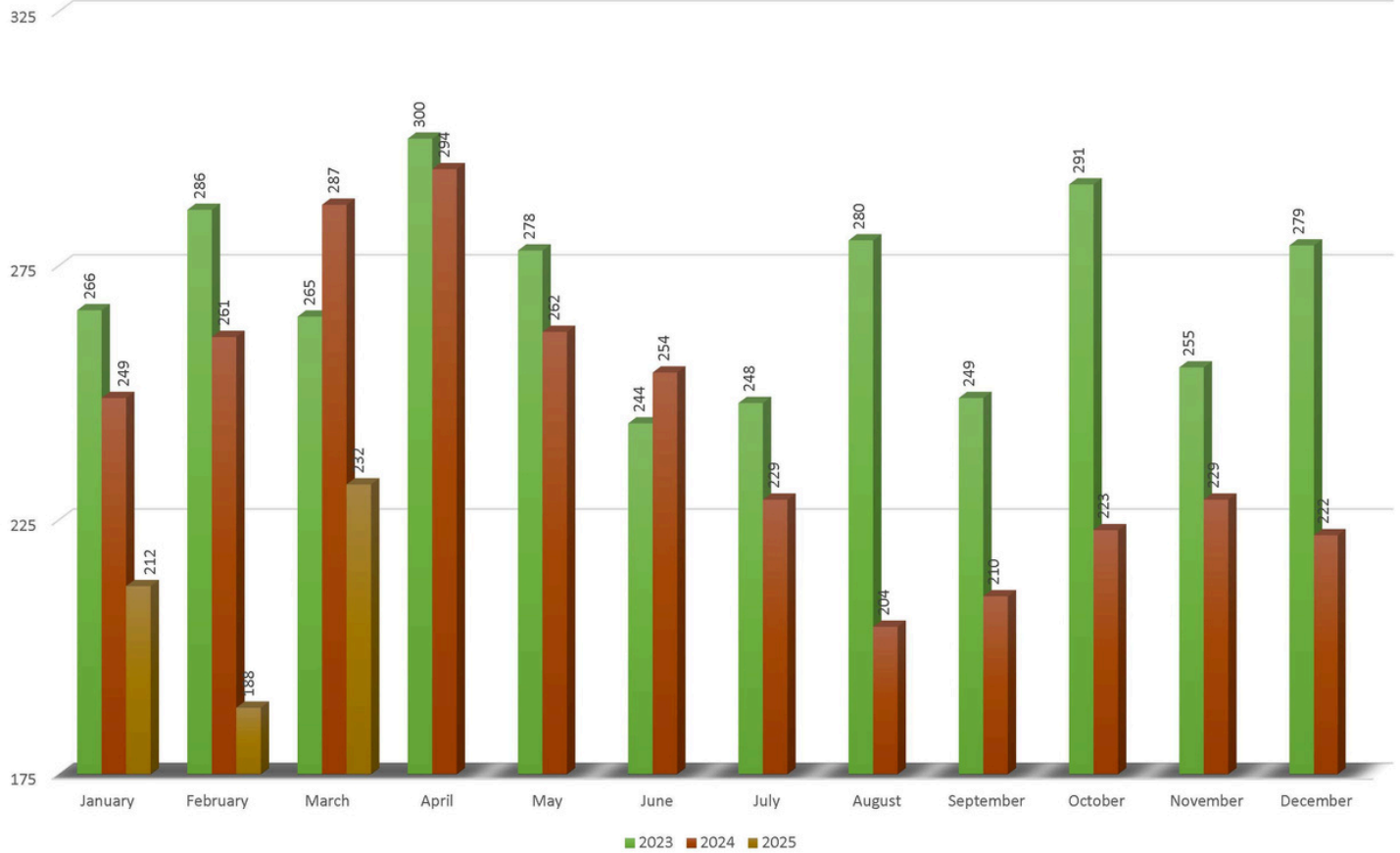
ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Quarter Financial Report

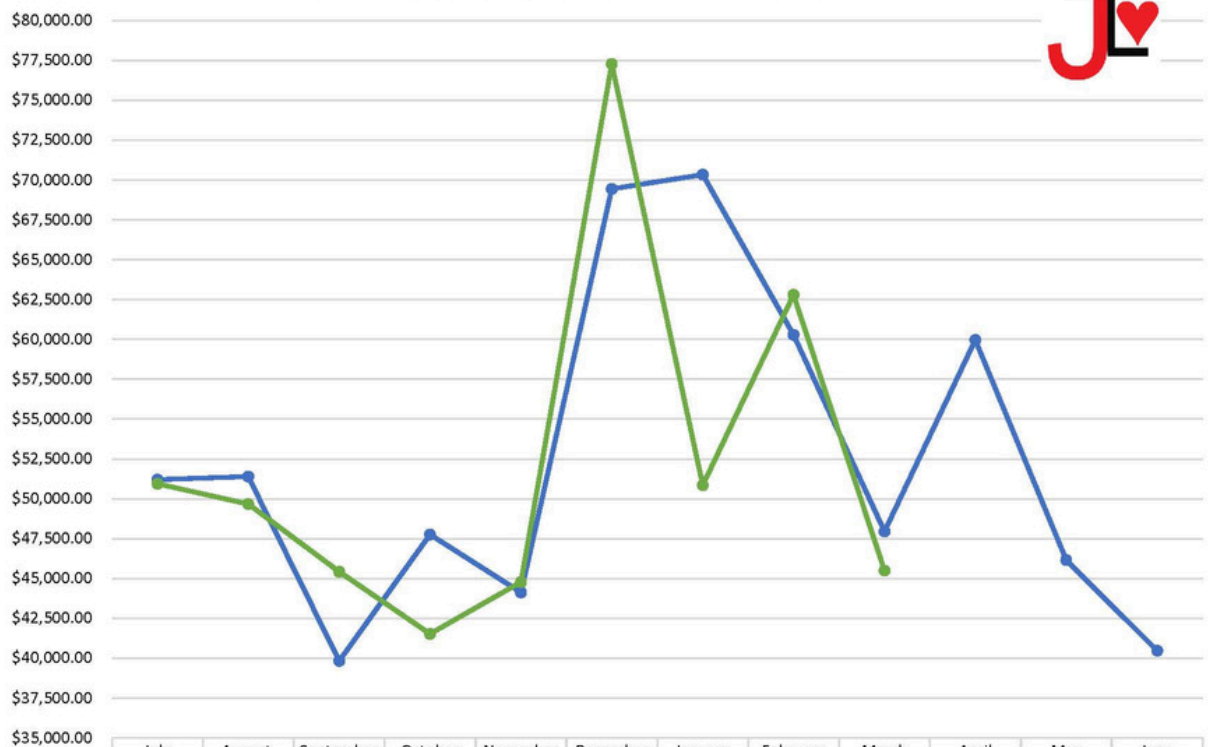
January - March, 2025

	TOTAL			
	JAN - MAR, 2025	JAN - MAR, 2024 (PY)	JUL 2024 - MAR 2025 (YTD)	JUL 2023 - MAR 2024 (PY YTD)
633154 Adult Religious Ed	1,044.91	244.02	2,632.63	244.02
637154 Sunday School	89.69	268.00	493.50	435.00
639154 Cross Training	161.84	221.99	916.47	900.61
641150 VBS	206.84	347.00	3,278.60	347.00
Total Youth & Parish Education	1,503.28	1,081.01	7,321.20	1,926.63
Total Church Expenses	245,758.27	296,927.20	729,289.75	866,647.56
Total Expenditures	\$245,758.27	\$296,927.20	\$729,289.75	\$866,647.56
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ (19,118.42)	\$70,666.12	\$ (50,157.65)	\$66,645.14
NET REVENUE	\$ (19,118.42)	\$70,666.12	\$ (50,157.65)	\$66,645.14

Average Monthly Attendance



Current & Missions Prior Year Actual compared to Current Year Actual



Actual 2023-2024 Actual 2024-2025



ACT - Adult Cross Training - has completed our 2024-25 season. This past year, we have studied the devotions of The Lutheran Hour writer Dr. Kari Voe. Dr. Voe's down-to-earth message style of speaking has sparked discussion that helped build, strengthen, and encourage our faith. Our 2025-26 season will begin with the Cross Training classes in the fall. We pray you will join us in our faith journey as we study God's Word for our daily life. See you in September!

MAILBOXES ON THE MOVE!

Please be aware that the downstairs hallway mailboxes are going to be removed to make way for a new area for fellowship! If you have something in your mailbox, please check your box and remove it. On May 3rd, the Men's Project Team will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. If someone would like a set of mailboxes, please contact Men's Project Team members Thom Kent or Bill Philipot before May 3rd.

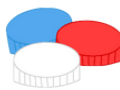


MEN'S PROJECT TEAM

The winter has been cold, snowy, just plain no fun. But things are about to change for some of us...blood...sweat...tears. The Men's Project Team will be gathering on Saturday, May 2, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Room. The team will meet to discuss the projects around the church, school and the Clothes Closet. We will also be discussing leadership, talent, and time schedules for projects. The Project Team is not all blood, sweat and tears, but a time of fellowship, to get to know your fellow Christian and sometimes solving the world's problems. In the past the Team has had coffee and sometimes donuts while breaking down the work list, dividing the work load according to talents. This format has worked pretty well. God has given every human being a gift or talent to use for His purposes. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

I look forward to enjoying everyone's company as we share fellowship.

-Thom Kent



SAVE YOUR PLASTIC CAPS!

We are again saving CLEAN plastic caps (any size, shape, or color) to possibly have a park bench on our church property. Please bring them to the church office. Examples of caps: water bottles, milk jugs, sprays (oil, etc.), cleaning products, food products. Thank you!

APRIL 2025 FOOD PANTRY REPORT

As of April 21, we served 69 households or 189 people. Six new households visited our pantry for the first time. Three hundred and twenty-seven bags were distributed at a value of \$4,905. We spent \$938.15 in Meijer Gift Cards and the Toledo Food Bank.

We are featured at Meijer for the *Simply Give* Program. The \$10.00 scan donation cards are available on the south receptionist's desk and in the store at the end of the checkout lanes. At the end of promotion on June 30th we will receive the amount donated in Meijer Gift Cards. Most important, on Saturday, June 14th, the amount donated will be DOUBLED.

MAY FOOD ITEMS APPRECIATED: cream of chicken soup, Rice-A-Roni, instant potatoes, egg noodles and beef or chicken broth.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS "STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE"

St. John will be participating in the "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive". We need some volunteers to help sort food at the Defiance Post Office, drive loads of food back to St. John, sort the food, and put food away.



The schedule is as follows: 10:30 to 2:00p.m. and 2:00 to 5:00p.m. at the Post Office to sort food. At 1:30 and 5:00 pm need a couple of pick-up trucks are needed to transport food back to St. John. I need 4 people at St. John to sort food from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please call Rita Bergman at 419.788.0951 if you can help. Thank you

MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM IS OUR PRIMARY WAY WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOOD TO THE DEFIANCE COMMUNITY!



Please support this program.

The campaign is running a total of 13 weeks
from Sunday, March 30, 2025, through
Saturday, June 28, 2025

During the upcoming campaign, the Double Match Day opportunity will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025. For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on this date, Meijer will provide an additional contribution of \$20, bringing the total to \$30 for a single customer purchase. Simply Give cards are available at the store at the end of the checkout lane or on the south receptionist desk.

At the end of the campaign, the final totals will be converted into Meijer food-only gift cards. These cards will allow our pantry staff to purchase food and eligible baby items, including food, formula, diapers, and wipes.

Thank you for helping keep food on the
St. John Lutheran Food Pantry shelves.

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. The Clothes Closet took in \$18,603.34 in 2024. We also helped 60 families with 110 bags of free clothing. The Clothes Closet donated \$1,000 to the Defiance Furniture Bank, \$1,000 to Operation K.A.V.I.C (Keller Assists Veterans In Crisis), and \$50 a month towards missions. We also funded the ramp out in front of the Clothes Closet. If anyone would be interested in volunteering at the Clothes Closet, please call Sharon Keller at 419.782.2639.



OUTREACH MINISTRY **Epistle – May 2025**

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

In addition, Outreach will have a table display at Friendship Sunday, scheduled for September 14th. The committee continues to explore new opportunities for outreach in 2025.

The Outreach Ministry Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month to plan additional opportunities to be more welcoming to worshippers and be more visible in the community. Anyone who is interested to learn more is 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

Please remember this verse from John 16:33 - "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Many thanks to all the people who supported our bake sale on Palm Sunday weekend. It was a GREAT success making \$400.

Our next meeting is on May 29, 2025 at 2 p.m. with chair hostess Lorna Smith. The food pantry item for the month is shampoo, laundry soap & toilet paper. We will be discussing our upcoming fall events. Remember, this will be our last meeting till August 28, 2025. Have a great summer!

Scouting News

May 2025



Thank you for helping make the Scout Lenten Supper a big success! We had 23 crock pots of soup and most were returned empty! We served 98 people plus the Scouting Crew! You all are the reason it is so successful, so thank you very much!

The new Scouting program encourages the Pack and the Troop relationship growing together. To grow relationships, the Cub Scout Pack and the Boy Scout Troop worked together for a successful Lenten Supper. They also had a chance for fun as well. The Boy Scout Troop stuffed plastic eggs and hid them for the Pack while the Troop leaders hid some for them. Then, they opened eggs and celebrated with snacks!

The Cub Scouts have been working hard to complete their adventures to earn their rank. They are also planning their Blue and Gold Banquet to celebrate their success!

The Boy Scout Troop is changing gears getting ready for Summer Camp and deciding on which merit badges they hope to complete. The Troop is also sending two Scouts to Leadership Camp just after school lets out for the summer. Our campout at Auglaize was rained out but we are looking forward to the Council Camporee and hope to get a chance to get out to Auglaize Village as well.

The Troop extends their thanks to all who have dropped off pop cans and newspapers in the garage in the south parking lot. It not only helps with their conservation project of recycling but it has also helped with the cost of their activities.

Youth and adults are always welcome to attend Pack and Troop activities to learn more about our program. Any questions can be directed to Stephanie Sindel at 419-438-8268.

CARE NOTES

There are Care Notes available in the Bergman Resource Room:

**Take One – Take Heart; Give One –
Give Hope Working Your Way Through Crisis**

Additional titles have been placed in the Caring Ministry Resource Room in the Work Room. Please take one for you or give to a friend.

Notes now available:

CARE Notes now available:

"Praying the Bible During Lent"

"A Lenten Journey Through Grief"

"Lent—A Time to Pray For Others"

"40 Ways to Enrich Your Lenten Prayer"

"Finding Grace in the Everyday"

"Giving Your Worries to God"

"After Suicide...Living With Loss, Healing With Hope"

" Responding to Life's Challenges with Resilience and Strength"





*Happy
Birthday*

May 80+

Vicki Vogel

Delores Notestine

Gloraine Stelzer

David Boehm

Karen Haaser

Bonnie Warncke

Marvin March

John Marcellus

May 5th (83)

May 16th (91)

May 23rd (100)

May 25th (84)

May 25th (82)

May 25th (83)

May 26th (90)

May 28th (82)

*Happy
Anniversary!*



Marc & Margaret Beach

Mark & Cricket Hageman

Jerry & Sharon Lynn

Keith & Shelly Decker

Dave & Kristine Graham

Thom & Karen Kent

Dave & Sandy Pergram

Ted & Phyllis Nicely

May 1st (42)

May 10th (45)

May 20th (53)

May 28th (49)

May 28th (48)

May 30th (54)

May 31st (50)

May 31st (67)

40th plus



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH WOULD LIKE
TO INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL**

VOLUNTEER DINNER

**GLENN PARK OF DEFIANCE
2429 WILLIAM A DIEHL COURT
DEFIANCE, OH 43512**

05.13.25 @ 5:30 PM

RSVP DEBBIE WAGNER AT 419.782.5766



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL 27 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	28 Finance 9:00 am Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	29 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am	30 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	1 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Elders Mtg. 6 pm	2 Clothes Closet 10 am Confirmation Service Rehearsal 7 pm	3 COMMUNION Steven Wachtman Memorial Ser. 11:30 am Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
4 COMMUNION CONFIRMATION SUNDAY Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Roehrig Party 12:30 pm	5 Finance 9:30 am Music Mtg. 11 am TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	6 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm Pulled Pork Dinner 3 pm School Board 5:30 pm	7 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	8 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am	9 Clothes Closet 10 am	10 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
11 NON-COMMUNION Worship: Youth Flower Sale 8 am 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	12 Finance 9:00 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	13 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm Volunteer Din. 5:30 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm	14 Endowment Mgt. 10 am Mews' Bible Study 2 pm	15 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Parish Planning 6 pm	16 Clothes Closet 10 am Hesterman / Saxton Wedding Rehearsal 4:30 pm	17 COMMUNION Hesterman / Saxton Wedding 3:00 pm Worship Ser. 5:30
18 Communion Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	19 Finance 9:30 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	20 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm Trustees 6:30 pm	21 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm	22 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am	23 Clothes Closet 10 am	24 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
25 Non-Communion Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	26 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 Finance 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm	28 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm	29 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid 2 pm Preschool Graduation 6:30 pm	30 Clothes Closet 10 am	31 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm

