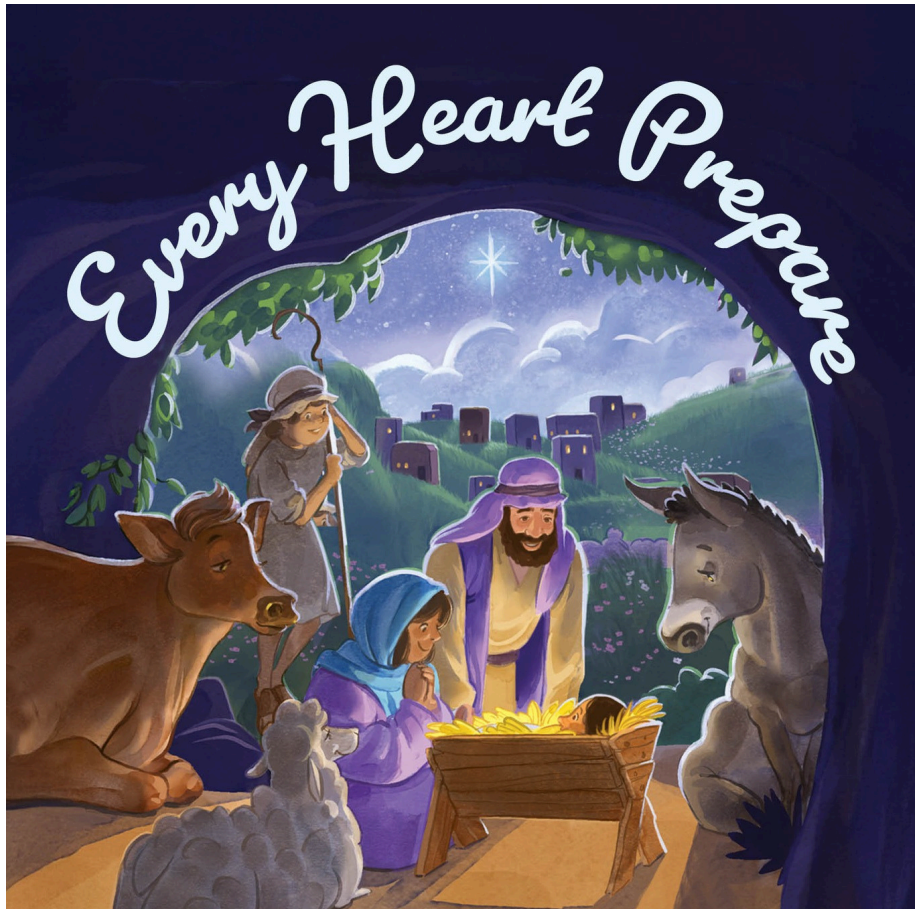


THE EPISTLE

St. John Lutheran Church

Phone: 419-782-5766

Website: www.stjohndefiance.com



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December 3
"Evergreens"
6:00PM

December 10
"Lights"
6:00PM

December 17
"Crèche"
6:00PM

December 16
Blue Christmas Service
6:00PM

December 20
Choir Lessons and Carols Service
5:30PM

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
3:30PM & 5:30PM

December 24
Christmas Eve Choir Lessons
& Carols Service
8:30PM

December 25
Christmas Day Service
10:00AM

Join us for worship!

From the Desk of Pastor Mews



“TWISTED CAROLS THE WORLD SINGS, BLESSED CAROLS THE CHURCH SINGS!”

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, the church celebrates Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Music fills the air. God's Word is of song and praise: “Glory to God in the highest and peace to men on whom His favor rests.” We hear from Luke that after the shepherds found Jesus, they left “glorifying God for the things they have heard and seen.” Before this, Luke shares Mary's song, the Magnificat, “My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, sang, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for He has come and redeemed His people.”

This time of year, music fills the air, mostly syrupy songs of Christmas cheer and exaggerated memories. The Christian Church during this time has been given a treasury of hymns and songs that celebrate the incarnation of God in the person and work of Jesus Christ. A believer told me that as we sing to others with these Christmas carols, we evangelize the Gospel to those who hear. Carols, and all Christian hymns, sing faith into hearts.

The world sings “twisted” carols to us:

“Joy to the Mall”

“Oh, Come and Be Faithless”

“Hark, the Herald Admen Sing”

“O Little Town of Worn-Out Men”

“Silent Mouths and Unholy Nights”

“I'm So Glad when Christmas Goes”

The list can go on. Though we find them somewhat humorous and thought-provoking, these bogus titles remind us of Satan and our fallen world that seek to deceive us and turn us to worship those things other than Christ.

May God lead us to cherish these hymns and treasure their lyrics, since they deepen our faith and lead us to greater appreciation of God's truth at the birth of Christ. Take, for example, the deep treasures of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”. Reflect on the first stanza: “Hark! The herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the new born King,’ Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled, Joyful all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host proclaim, ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem.’ Hark! the herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the new born King.’”

Notice we are invited to see the angels worship God, then we hear the reason for the new-born King, then you and I are reconciled, and finally, we, being all nations, are asked to join in triumph and sing “Glory to the new born King.”

May the Lord lead us to treasure and proclaim these holy, timely, Godly and evangelical carols. We as sinners have been reconciled to God, by Christ, through His death and resurrection, and we may join the angelic choir in eternal heavenly praise. The Lord bless your holy days. In Christ, Pastor KF Mews

PERSONAL: Attended Alabama Football game, 11/6-11/9/25. Will be with my family from Christmas Day (after worship), December 25 to Saturday, December 27 in Illinois. Will be on vacation 1/16/26-1/27/26. May return to NE OH to close my father's estate and property. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers during this time of grieving and hope.

OHIO DISTRICT / NW OHIO/PROFESSIONAL GROWTH: attended OH District Church Worker's Conf., 10/13-10/15 at St. James, Cleveland. Pastors meeting, 11/11, in Van Wert, December Pastors meeting, Christ Our Savior, Defiance. Attended Circuit Forum, 10/5 at Zion Schumm; I've been elected pastoral delegate alternate and Greg Johnston elected lay alternative delegate for the 2026 LCMS Convention., July 18-23, 2026 Phoenix, AZ.

OFFICIAL ACTS:

Marriage of Isaac Reynolds and Mandy Hartman, 10/4, 3:30



UPCOMING OFFICIAL ACTS:

Baptisms of Molly, Bella, and Ziva Harrington on 11/23 at 9:00

Marriage of Braydon Savage and Erica Stykemain on 12/6 in Ada, Ohio, rehearsal on 12/5 in Ada, Ohio

CHURCH DOCTOR MINISTRIES:- Our Staff Consultation was held on 10/27-10/28. Vision team has asked me to compile the church "Philosophy of Ministry" page. The Governance team is being completed. ECDC continues to meet. Church Doctors Staff Consultation Report to Elders & Parish Planning December 11th

Request that elders vote to and require all elders to complete spiritual gifts inventory.





PASTOR MEWS SERMONS NOVEMBER, 2025

NOV. 15-16, 23 RD SUN. AFTER PENT	"THE JOY OF SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS" LUKE 10:25-37	STEWARDSHIP/FAITH
NOV. 22-23, LAST SUN. CHURCH YEAR	"HEAVEN ON EARTH" COLOSSIANS 1:13-20	CHRIST'S REIGN/ETERNITY
NOV. 27, THANKSGIVING EVE	"THANKSGIVING EXTREMES" LUKE 17:11-19	THANKSGIVING/FAITH
NOV. 29-30, 1 ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	"A SLIVER OF LIGHT" MATTHEW 24:36-44	DARKNESS/HOPE IN CHRIST



PASTOR MEWS SERMONS DECEMBER, 2025

DEC. 3, 1 ST MIDWEEK ADVENT	"EVERY HEART PREPARE: EVERGREENS" HOSEA 14:4-8	ETERNAL LIFE/CHRIST
DEC. 6-7, 2 ND SUN IN ADVENT	"MINORING IN MAJORS" MATTHEW 3:1-12	REPENT/FAITH
DEC. 10, 2 ND MIDWEEK ADVENT	"EVERY HEART PREPARE: LIGHTS" JOHN 1:1-9	CHRIST/WORD/LIGHT
DEC. 13-14, 3 RD SUN IN ADVENT	"A ROAD LESS TRAVELED" ISAIAH 35:1-10	MESSIAH/HEART
DEC. 17, 3 RD MIDWEEK ADVENT	"EVERY HEART PREPARE: CRECHE" 1 JOHN 1:1-4	JESUS IS LORD/MANGER
DEC. 20-21, 4 TH SUN IN ADVENT SAT., 5:30	CHOIR SERVICE: LESSONS AND CAROLS	PICS OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS
DEC. 21, 4 TH SUN IN ADVENT, SUN.	"THE SAME WORD" ROMANS 1:1-7	GOSPEL/THE WORD
DEC. 24, 3:30 CHRISTMAS EVE	"EVERY HEART PREPARE, THE TREE" REVELATION 22:14	TREE OF LIFE/JESUS' BIRTH
DEC. 24, 5:30 CHRISTMAS EVE	"EVERY HEART PREPARE, THE TREE" REVELATION 22:14	TREE OF LIFE/JESUS BIRTH
DEC. 24, 8:30 CHRISTMAS EVE	"CHOIR SERVICE: LESSONS AND CAROLS"	PICS OF CHRISTMAS HYMNS
DEC. 25, 10:00 CHRIST. DAY	"EVERY HEART PREPARE: WRAPPED PRESENTS" TITUS 3:4-7	SAVIOR IS BORN/LIFE
DEC. 27-28, 1 ST SUN AFTER CHRISTMAS	"UNSTOPPABLE" MATTHEW 2:13-23	SIN/SALVATION



SJL RECONCILIATION PROCESS: "Church Doctor Ministries--Healthy Churches Thrive"

- A three-year commitment with Diagnostics & *Healthy Churches Thrive*
- *Church Doctor Staff consultation was held on October 27 & 28*
- Vision Team Meeting TBA
- ECDC Meeting: November 18, @ 11:30 a.m.
- Pastor Mews will arrange "Governance Team" shortly
- Church Doctors Staff Consultation Report to Elders & Parish Planning December 11th @ 6:30 p.m.
- Church Governance Consultation January 14 & 15, 2026
- Discover Your Windows Special Presentation "Resurrecting a Biblical Worldview of the Local Church" Open to all, February 10, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30p.m.



The Congregational Christmas Party & Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 7th at 12:30 p.m. Please RSVP on the form in the cafeteria.

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, George Kaiser 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.

BIBLE STUDIES FROM PASTOR MEWS:

DURING ADVENT, SJL CHURCH WILL BE DOING A FOUR-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY CALLED, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT" BY CHRISTINE CAINE AND LISA HARPER. THROUGH THEIR CAPTIVATING VIDEO, BIBLE STUDY, AND GROUP DISCUSSION, PARTICIPANTS WILL DISCOVER "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT". THIS STUDY EXPLORES ADVENT AS A SEASON NOT ONLY OF WAITING AND PREPARATION, BUT OF ACTION IN LOVE AND SHARING THE HOPE OF JESUS WITH EVERYONE. VIEW BELOW TO SEE WHEN PASTOR MEWS WILL BE LEADING THIS FOUR-WEEK SMALL STUDY AT SOME OF HIS REGULAR HIS REGULAR BIBLE STUDY CLASSES.

WEDNESDAY, IN DEPTH BIBLE STUDY, "HOW JESUS CHANGED THE WORLD" BY CHRISTOPHER HUDSON. THIS CLASS TAKES AN IN-DEPTH LOOK ON JESUS' INFLUENCE ON EVERY PART OF OUR WORLD. WE ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES. ALL IS PROVIDED. ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

CLASSES MEET 2:00-3:00 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM.

CLASS TITLES AND DATES:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, "HOW JESUS CHANGED THE WORLD"

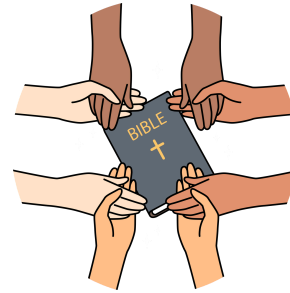
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND 31, NO CLASS DUE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE



I. "YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, 'DISCOVERING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE'" BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR MEWS HAS BEGUN. CLASSES ARE HELD EACH MONDAY FROM 6:30-8:00 P.M.. DURING THIS GROUP TIME, WE HAVE AN IN-DEPTH BIBLE DISCUSSION ON THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, FROM CHURCH DOCTOR'S BOOK: "YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS". THIS IS AN ON-GOING DISCUSSION THAT WILL MEET UNTIL ALL GIFTS AND THEIR BIBLICAL AND CHURCH APPLICATIONS ARE COVERED.

CLASS TITLES AND DATES:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, SPIRITUAL GIFTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, NO CLASS, CHRISTMAS BREAK



Bible Studies

SUNDAY @ 10:00 a.m.

**Phil Rohlf — "Mews Sermon Review"
in the Cafeteria**

**Sandy Gyurnek —
"God Never Gives Up On You"
Fellowship Room on the left**

**Jeff Rohlf — Max Lucado: "The
Promise of Psalm 23, Traveling Light"
Adult Ed A Room**

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

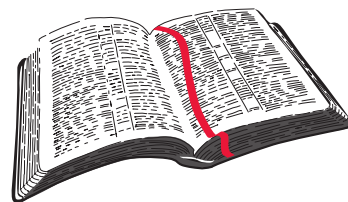
***Judy: 419.783.7032. Penny Mueller
(pennym41@gmail.com) text Penny:***

419.304.5768

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: "ROMANS" WE ARE IN CHAPTERS 14-15 OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOK, ROMANS. THE CLASS MEETS 10:00-11:30 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM. FEEL FREE TO JOIN US. OUR OUTREACH MINISTRY IS TO THE PATH CENTER OF DEFIANCE THE FIRST CLASS OF EACH MONTH. WE WILL BEGIN A CLASS ON "THE NICENE CREED" AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THESE CLASSES.

CLASS TITLE AND DATES:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, "THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, THE MARVEL AND MIRACLE OF ADVENT"
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, NO CLASS, CHRISTMAS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, NO CLASS, NEW YEARS' DAY



1. FALL 2025 LIFE WITH GOD (LWG) THIS CLASS IS FOR THOSE DESIRING TO BE NEW MEMBERS OR TO RENEW THEIR FAITH CONTINUES TO MEET. TIMES VARY DUE TO THE SCHEDULES OF OUR PARTICIPANTS. CLASSES TYPICALLY MEET FROM 2:00-3:30 P.M. MONDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE ADULT A ROOM. A NEW "LIFE WITH GOD" CLASS WILL BEGIN IN EARLY JANUARY. WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.

CLASS DATES AND TIMES:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, CLASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, CLASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, CLASS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, FINAL CLASS, BRING YOUR FAVORITE DESSERT/BEVERAGE TO SHARE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, CLASS IF NEEDED



2025 SJL SHUT-IN MINISTRY:

SHUT IN TEAM: PASTOR MEWS, KRISTLE ADAMS, GEORGE KAISER AND WALT SMITH. OUR MISSION IS TO BRING GOD'S WORD OF HOPE AND THE SACRAMENT TO THE SHUT-IN MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND OTHERS IN ANY SORT OF NEED. OUR SHUT-INS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO THREE TEAMS AND OUR GOAL IS FOR EACH PERSON TO BE VISITED MONTHLY.

****IF YOU ARE IN ANY SORT OF SPIRITUAL OR PHYSICAL NEED OR DESIRE A CALL FROM PASTOR: CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PASTOR MEWS, 419-670-5014, SO THAT WE MAY BLESS YOU WITH A VISIT AND THE WORD AND HOPE OF GOD.**



OUR CHURCH STAFF IS IN TEAM MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY MORNING FROM 8:00-9:00 A.M. WHEN CALLING AT THAT TIME, PLEASE LEAVE A VOICEMAIL AND SOMEONE FROM THE TEAM WILL RETURN YOUR CALL. THE CHURCH OFFICE HOURS WILL NOW BE 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. INSTEAD OF 8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. THE BUILDING DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AT 3:00 P.M. DAILY AND ALL PHONE CALLS WILL BE RETURNED IF YOU CALL OUTSIDE OF BUSINESS HOURS. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO ENTER THE BUILDING AROUND OFFICE HOURS, IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL FOR ASSISTANCE AND SOMEONE WILL ANSWER IF AVAILABLE.

NOVEMBER CARE NOTES:

There are new Care Notes available in the Bergman Resource Room:

Take One – Take Heart; Give One – Give Hope

Working Your Way Through Stressful Circumstances

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

Care Notes now available:

"Finding Your Will to Live– Suicide Prevention for Veterans"

"Finding Support as a Military Family"

" Moving Forward When a Loved One Suffers From PTSD"

"Coping with a Loved One's Traumatic Brain Injury"

"Coping With Post – Traumatic Stress Disorder"

"Praying When You Feel Spiritually Empty"

"'God, Help Me' – A Simple, but Powerful Prayer"

"Comforting Prayer for Times of Pain or Suffering"

"Learning to Trust Again"



DECEMBER CARE NOTES:

There are new Care Notes available in the Bergman Resource Room:

Take One – Take Heart; Give One – Give Hope

Working Your Way Through Stressful Circumstances

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

Care Notes now available:

"Ten Ways to Honor a Deceased Loved One at Christmas"

"Overcoming the 'Blues' at Christmastime"

"Going on an Advent Prayer Journey"

"Praying the Bible Through Advent"

"Coping with Holiday Stress"

"How Christmas Memories Can Bring Healing to Your Grief"

"Getting Through the Holidays When You've Lost a Loved One"

"Rediscovering the Many Gifts of Christmas"

"Praying Our Way to Christmas—and Beyond"

MEN'S PROJECT TEAM

The Men's Project Team meets on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. The team discusses projects around the church. We also discuss 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 Christians, and sometimes to solve 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



LADIES AID: Because we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us remember to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34). We need to be thankful for our many blessings and give thanks to God daily.

Our next meeting is Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, at 2 p.m. Barb Dales' team will be the hostesses. The food pantry items are body wash & bars of soap. The food pantry can always use toilet paper and laundry soap. We will be electing the officers of President and Treasurer. Please plan on attending the meeting so you can vote for your leaders of Ladies Aid.

The December meeting will be on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 2 p.m. due to Christmas. Your officers will be your hostesses. The food pantry item for December is disposable razors. Also, there will be a cookie exchange. Bring some cookies to exchange.

Make plans to come to the Congregational Christmas Dinner on December 7 at 12:30 p.m. Get your reservations in by November 30. You do NOT have to do anything the day of the party but show up for the meal, fellowship, and entertainment .

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC CAPS!

We are 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!





The St. John Lutheran Food Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. If you meet the Federal Income Guidelines, then you can visit once a month to our food pantry. With each visit you need to bring ID with current address. If you do not have an updated ID, then bring in a current bill with your address.

Since January 1, 2025 we have served 909 families or 2,676 people with a distribution of 4,134 bags of food.

As of November 4, 2025 we have served 84 families and distributed 268 bags of food and had sixteen families visit our pantry for the first time. We are having an increase in clients because of no SNAP benefits. Needless to say, the volunteers are busy filling the orders. The Thanksgiving food item distribution is going well; however, I anticipate running short on items. If you would like to donate, we could use the following: corn muffin mix, cranberry sauce, evaporated milk, turkey gravy, canned pumpkin and stuffing. Others are purchasing as well, so if we all contribute a little, we should be good. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously already.

Fred and I are going to Lima on Tuesday, November 18, to pick up more 28-ounce canned turkey from Keystone Meats.

On Wednesday, November 19, we will have our monthly food run to Toledo to get more food. Mark Roehrig, Walt Smith and Mike Shawley leave at 6:30 a.m. and return around 10:30 with a load. Thank you to Phil Rohlf for letting us use his trailer every month!!

THANK YOU to Jim and Janet Seymour for their commitment to the food pantry for 13 years filling orders. They have been a true blessing and we will miss them.

I also want to thank the Endowment Committee for the recent purchase of an 8.8 cubic foot chest freezer for the food pantry. This will replace a freezer that needs to retire!!

The food pantry relies on volunteers to help check people in and to fill the orders. During January through April, I have several people who will be going south for the winter. I NEED HELP! Please call me if you are interested in helping. TRAINING IS AVAILABLE!! Call me, Rita Bergman, 419.788.0951. I want to thank St. John members for their continued support to help people in need. God Bless You!





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 Nancy Eickenberg at 419.785.4269 or Linda Hageman at 419.439.3284.

OUTREACH TEAM MINISTRY **Nov. & Dec. 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 had a presence at the at the Defiance Halloween Parade and thus, was able to interact with a large number of individuals. New Testament Bibles, St. John magnets with contact information and worship times, Christian wrist bands, small crosses, Christian coloring books with crayons, small molded figures of Jesus, Scripture cards and Thrivent T-shirts were available for those who were interested.

Outreach Ministry will feature a Nativity scene along with a large St. John Lutheran Church banner at the Christmas Cruise-Thru at the Defiance County Fairgrounds in Hicksville from November 24 – December 28. In 2024, this display was viewed by approximately 50,000 visitors and thus, the St. John Nativity scene was viewed by many.

The Outreach Ministry Team 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.



Scouting News

Nov. Dec. 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported both the Pack and the Troop during popcorn season! It's a long season for some scouts and they are happy to see it come to a close.

The Cub Scout Pack had a great month! They are reviewing "Safeguarding Youth" training, which helps them identify sexual abusers. They also had a Halloween party and marched in the Halloween Parade, a first for many of them!

For the Boy Scout Troop, October was a busy month. There were two different apple butter festivals, the Halloween Parade, and a few who were wrapping up their popcorn sales. In November, the Troop will be giving the "Scout Garage" a face lift by scraping, painting (fingers crossed), straightening it up and prepping it for a new roof! They will also be making wreaths to sell. Look for them the weekend of November 22-23. We are also planning a lock-in where they will bake Christmas cookies to sell. Look for them the weekend of December 13-14! Finally, they are starting to polish up on Scout skills in preparation for the Klondike Derby in January.

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.



ACT (ADULT CROSS TRAINING STUDY) ADVENT STUDY

"Have you ever received everything you wanted for Christmas?" This is the question Lisa Harper asks us in the introduction to our 2025 Advent Series "The Marvel and Miracle of Advent". Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Adult Ed A classroom as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus as our Savior. Our discussions will continue December 3 and 17. All are welcome to join us for this exciting preparation for Jesus' birth.

Advent





November

Allen Wichman	Nov. 24 th	(87)
Diana Grim	Nov. 25 th	(84)
Sue Bidlack	Nov. 27 th	(81)
Marilyn Shook	Nov. 27 th	(82)
Ken Harris	Nov. 29 th	(89)
Roger Benien	Nov. 30 th	(84)

December

James Miller	Dec. 7 th	(87)
Helen Delventhal	Dec. 10 th	(97)
Anna Sines	Dec. 14 th	(91)
Larry Meyer	Dec. 15 th	(87)
Janet Koch	Dec. 17 th	(88)
Hank Gerken	Dec. 21 st	(94)
Sue Imthurn	Dec. 23 rd	(81)
Edith Chandler	Dec. 28 th	(94)
Susan Meyer	Dec. 31 st	(85)
Judie Zachrich	Dec. 31 st	(82)



NOVEMBER

Mike & Jan McGhee	Nov. 20 th	(43)
Fred & Rita Bergman	Nov. 21 st	(55)
Walt & Lorna Smith	Nov. 22 nd	(22)
Bill & Roberta Phlipot	Nov. 22 nd	(50)
Ric & Jill Tuckerman	Nov. 23 rd	(34)
Mike & Terry Koenig	Nov. 26 th	(48)
Rod & Tonya Wichman	Nov. 27 th	(33)
Jim & Sandy Morris	Nov. 29 th	(50)

DECEMBER

Steve & Brenda Buchs	Dec. 6 th	(45)
Tom & Samira Stelzer	Dec. 8 th	(46)
Neal & Judy Detter	Dec. 9 th	(53)
Jim & Nancy Schatz	Dec. 10 th	(59)
Ron & June Crosser	Dec. 22 nd	(47)
Allan & Val Van Vlerah	Dec. 28 th	(57)
Alan & Darlene Steingass	Dec. 30 th	(58)



**80 plus Birthdays and Anniversaries listed for this special edition of the Epistle are from November 15th thru December 30th. Birthdays & Anniversaries for the first half of November were published in the October - November (early-fall Epistle edition)*

Trunk or Treat Thank You

Thankyou to everyone who served our Community Trunk or Treat by donating candy, decorating one of the 27 trunks, helping setting up and tearing down, or working at the welcome and food tables. The Lord blessed us with a beautiful sunset. Our final count for the evening was 336 adults and children. Chick-fil-A was sold out in 45 minutes!

Drawing Winners

Kroger's
Susan Price



Eric's Ice Cream

Dani Figley
Matt Munn
Marissa Wagner
Alana Stork
Denton Mick
Lisa Crossland
Travis Weible
Hailey Buchhop
Chad Smith
Trinity Belding

Safety First

For the safety of your children, we are asking that you come into the gym at 7:25 PM to pick up your child. If you have any questions or concerns please see Pastor Mews or Mrs. Clark.

November BLAST Event

For our November BLAST event, Tami Rohlf will be coming in to speak about our Parish Fellowship Angel Tree project. We will be assembling non-perishable food baskets to be passed out in December.

Cross⁺training Happenings

Upcoming Events

November 2025

Youth Choir Sings: Nov 16 9 AM

BLAST Event: Parish Fellowship
Angel Tree - Nov. 19

Thanksgiving Break: No Class
Nov 26

Classroom Monitors

Thank you to Alana & Jeremy Stork, Tamela Noe, Stephanie Sindel & Chad Clark for serving as our classroom monitors in October.

Youth Choir

Our Youth Choir will be singing at the beginning of the 9 AM service on November 16. To ensure the children are ready to go, please have the children in the choir room at 8:45 AM.

Leading Us This Year

Youth Choir - Connie Warncke
1st - 5th - Kristina Phipps
6th - Rick Baldwin
7th - 8th - Pastor Mews
Director - Krystle Clark



THANKSGIVING EVE

Service

Let us gather as a church community, united
in thankfulness, as we give praise to the Lord
for the blessings bestowed upon us.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
AT 6:00 PM

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

655 Wayne Avenue

Defiance, OH 43512

418.782.5766

www.stjohndefiance.com



*IN ALL
Things
GIVE
Thanks*

Blue Christmas Worship Service of Remembrance and Hope

This holiday season
is hard for those
whose hearts are
hurting. You are
not alone.

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 16
6:00 PM**



St. John Lutheran Church
655 Wayne Avenue
Defiance, Ohio



YOU ARE INVITED TO

The Congregational Christmas Party

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 7, 2025

12:30 PM

**Wishing you a season filled with joy, love,
and festive cheer. Merry Christmas!**

Please RSVP on the form in cafeteria!

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
655 WAYNE AVENUE
DEFIANCE, OHIO**

WWW.STJOHNDEFIANCE.COM

419.782.5766



November

November 25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2 COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am	3 Finance 9:30 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	4 Music Meeting 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Book Club 2 pm Pulled Pork Dinner 4:30 – 6 pm	5 Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	6 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Elders Meeting 6 pm	7 Clothes Closet 10 am	1 COMMUNION Worship 5:30 ***** NON-COMMUNION 8 Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
9 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	10 Finance 9:15 am Life With God 2:00 pm TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	11 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm Outreach Mtg. 6:30 pm	12 Endowment Mtg. 10 am Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	13 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Boy Scouts 5:30 pm Pickleball 6 pm Parish Planning 6 pm	14 Clothes Closet 10 am	15 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
16 COMMUNION Worship 9:00 / 11:00am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	17 Finance 9:30 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	18 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am ECDC Meeting 11:30 am Book Club 2 pm Trustees 6:30 pm	19 Mews' Bible Study 2pm Handbells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm	20 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid Mtg. 2 pm Parish Planning 6 pm Pickleball 6 pm	21 Clothes Closet 10 am	22 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
23 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	24 Finance 9:15 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm TM&M of Advent 11 am	25 Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm	26 Mews' Bible Study 2pm Handbells 5:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir No prac. Thanksgiving Ser. 6 pm	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Day	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED CLOTHES CLOSET CLOSED	29 COMMUNION (CONTINUOUS) Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
30 COMMUNION (CONTINUOUS) Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am	1 Finance 9:30 am Life With God TBD Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	2 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm	3 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm	4 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid Mtg. 2 pm Pickleball 6 pm Elders Mtg. 6 pm	5 Clothes Closet 10 am	6 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm



December

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 30 COMMUNION Worship 9:00/11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	1 Finance 9:30 am Church Staff Mtg. 8 am TM&M of Advent 11 am Life W/God 2:00 pm TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	2 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm	3 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm	4 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Elders Meeting 6 pm Boy Scout Mtg. 6 pm Pickleball 6 pm	5 Clothes Closet 10 am	6 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
7 COMMUNION Worship 9:00/11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Cong. Christmas Party 12:30 pm	8 Finance 9:15 am TM&M of Advent 11 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	9 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm	10 Endowment Mtg. 10 am Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Handbells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm	11 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Boy Scouts Mtg. 6 pm Pickleball 6 pm Church Doctors 6:30 pm	12 Clothes Closet 10 am	13 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
14 NON-COMMUNION Worship 9:00/11:00 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	15 Finance 9:30 am TM&M of Advent 11 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	16 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Book Club 2 pm Blue Christmas Service 6pm Trustees 6:30 pm	17 Mews' Bible Study 2pm Handbells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACTS 6:00 pm	18 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Mews Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid Mtg. 2 pm Parish Planning 6 pm Pickleball 6 pm	19 Clothes Closet 10 am	20 COMMUNION The Choir Service of Lessons & Carols 5:30 pm
21 Communion Worship 9:00/11:00 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	22 Finance 9:15 am Life W/God 2:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	23 Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Services 3:30 & 5:30 pm The Choir Service of Lessons & Carols 8:30 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Day Service 10:00 am	26 CLOTHES CLOSET CLOSED	27 NON-COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm
28 Non-Communion Worship 9:00/11:00 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	29 Finance 9:30 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Spiritual Gifts 6:30 pm	30 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ Ten 10 am	31 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	1 NEW YEARS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 CLOTHES CLOSET CLOSED	3 COMMUNION Worship Ser. 5:30 pm

