



***2025 Holy Week Services:***

***April 17th, Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.***

***April 18th, Good Friday 1:00 p.m.***

***Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:30 p.m.***

***April 19th, Easter Vigil 5:30 p.m.***

***April 20th, Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.***

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
655 WAYNE AVENUE  
DEFIANCE, OH 43512  
[www.stjohndefiance.com](http://www.stjohndefiance.com)  
419.782.5766**





## ***From the Desk of Pastor Mews***



### ***“The Whole World Moves on Hope!”***

Many years ago, my family and I vacationed in Ohio during my pastorate in Illinois. A few days were taken to visit Ohio State’s football stadium and hike Hocking Hills, and the first stop was at the Columbus Zoo. Outside the primate house filled with all sorts of gorillas, apes, monkeys, chimps and the like was small pavilion. Inside the pavilion was a large bronze gorilla statue in memory of a gorilla whose life blessed zoo guests and staff for decades. On the back wall of that pavilion was a quote. The Columbus Zoo, to educate, include and demonstrate diversity to their guests wrote a number of moving, intelligent and inspiring quotes from people across the diversity spectrum. I read many of them that day. The quote on the wall behind the bronze gorilla was from Dr. Martin Luther. No, not the civil rights hero, but the reformer from whose name comes our church body. There in bold letters were Luther’s words. It read, “The whole world moves on hope.” Encouraged and inspired, my wife had my picture taken with the solid bronze primate and it has been posted on Facebook ever since. (No comments necessary, thank you!)

“The whole world moves on hope.” (Dr. Martin Luther) How true! We all live our lives with the hope, promise and expectation that tomorrow will be brighter and better. As believers, we know that it’s true. We were baptized, born into, and given a new and living hope in Christ, the hope of life eternal. There are two things on hope for us to note this month:

1) “CHURCH DOCTORS” SJL CONGREGATION REPORT: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Built upon numerous surveys and personal interviews over the past few months, researching data from our congregation and our Defiance area, the “Church Doctors” will give an extensive report on a Godly way forward both for our reconciliation and our ministry future.

As a member of St. John Lutheran, this is something you don’t want to miss. This report can be a compass and set the course of ministry for St. John for years and decades to come. God has a plan for us to reconcile, minister and reach out. This gives us hope, and our ministry is built on hope.

**2) THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST: Easter Communion celebration on Sunday, April 20, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. For us believers this is the basis of our hope. Since Christ was risen from the dead, we have been born into the living hope of the resurrection of the dead. Christ is risen! This forms the basis of our hope in daily living, in dealing with illness and death, and in all of our fears and difficulties. Be sure to build your hope in the many services offered this month. May the crucified and Risen Lord bless and build your hope in life on earth and life eternal with Christ. In His service, Pastor Kurt F. Mews**



### **2025 St. John Lutheran Lenten and Easter Themes and Worship Services**

**Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.**

**Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?**

**Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!**

**That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home. This Lent, Isaiah 40–55 will shape us as we . . . "Sing with the Exiles!" Plan now to sing with the exiles as we learn from Isaiah to walk the Lenten way to the cross and to the empty tomb. God promises to turn our weeping into joy and our present pain into an endless Alleluia!**

# April Services with Pastor Mews' Sermons



April 2, Midweek, Lent 4 "Get Out" Isaiah 48:17-22

April 4-5, 5th Sunday in Lent Guest pastors

April 9, Midweek Lent 5 "One Little Word Can Fell Him" Isaiah 49:1-6

April 12-13, Palm Sunday "God is Judge, Jury & Victim" Deuteronomy 32:36-39  
(Judgement / Grace)

April 16-17, Maundy Thursday "He Prepares a Table" Isaiah 49:7-13 (Lord's Supper)

April 18, Good Friday 1:00 p.m. "All" Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (Christ's Death)

April 18, Good Friday 7:30 p.m. "Tenebrae Service" (Christ's Crucifixion)

April 19, Easter Saturday 5:30 p.m. "Easter Vigil" (Resurrection)

April 20, Easter Sunday: "We Are Going Home"

Isaiah 55:6-13 (Resurrection / Heaven)

April 26-27, 2nd Sunday of Easter "The Resurrection Offends"

Acts 5:12-32 (Witness / Resurrection)



## 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](http://www.stjohndefiance.com)) and on our Podcast site.

Google search: st john lutheran church defiance ohio youtube. Then subscribe to St. John channel to get notified when we are broadcasting "live".

## LINK TO OUR WEBPAGE

<https://www.stjohndefiance.com/sermons-2/>

## LINK TO OUR PODCAST

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964>

Put your favorite podcast app on your phone and listen to the sermons any time of day.

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.

## **MINISTRY MATTERS FROM PASTOR MEWS:**

### **OFFICIAL ACTS FROM PASTOR MEWS:**

- Memorial Service for Arlyn Mehring, 3/28; she died on 3/10
- Memorial service for James Mehring, 3/11 at 3:30; he died on 2/20
- Funeral of Virginia Hefflinger, 3/5 at 10:30; she died on 3/1
- Funeral of Joyce Heilshorn, 2/27; she died on 2/20
- Baptism of Auianna Anne Gerken on 3/16 at 11:00
- Marriage of Mike Saxton and Vickie Hestermann, on 5/17 at 2:30
- Marriage of Megan Engel and Austin Habegger, 6/21 at 3:00

### **PERSONAL:**

- Pastor visited his Father from 2/19-2/21
- Pastor attended a “family event” on 3/15
- Pastor returned to see his father 3/22-3/24 or 3/28-3/29
- Pastor Mews will be on vacation, from 4/21 to 4/25



### **SJL RECONCILIATION PROCESS:**

- Interviews with “Church Doctor Ministries” led by Tracee Swank during the week of March 3-7
- Congregation Survey, 2/1 to 2/2, Personal interviews, March 4 to 7
- Congregational presentation, 4/3 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Staff presentation, 4/4 from 10:00-noon
- Short congregation video all Sundays through March about Church Doctor Ministries presentation

### **OHIO –DISTRICT/NW OHIO/PROFESSIONAL GROWTH:**

- March Pastor Circuit meeting on 3/11 here. Thanks to Ladies Aid members Roberta Phlipot, Jean Hoag and Rita Bergman, who served the meals. Thanks to Lorna Smith and Bill Phlipot, who assisted with worship.
- April is NW Ohio Circuit 1 Pastor and spouse fellowship.
- Pastor Mews will be attending the Confirmation Retreat, 4/5-4/6 at the Ark / Creation Museum
- Mr. Rick Baldwin is our lay rep. for the OH District Convention, 6/22-6/24 at St. John Lutheran, Dublin, OH.

## **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.

### **Winter “Life with God ”**

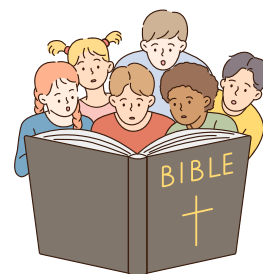
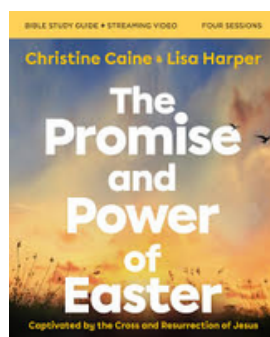
This class continues for those desiring to become communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church, those desiring to renew their faith, or those who wish to “check out” the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism. We encourage every member to attend once every five years. Watch for more details 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 April 13th and April 27th in the downstairs Youth room.

### **FOUR-WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: *The Promise and Power of Easter***

We are hosting a four-week Lenten Bible Study, “The Promise and Power of Easter”, which continues this month. We are offering different options. *Phil Rohlf is hosting the class on Sundays at 10 am in the Fellowship Room. Krystle Clark and Megan Fritz are hosting the class on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Mary Ann Hurst’s class meets on Saturdays at 4 pm and Pastor Mews is hosting the class on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm. If you would like to join one of these Bible studies, please sign up in the lower hallway, as we need to order books for the class. Thank you.*





### **Bible Studies**

**SUNDAY-10:00 a.m.**

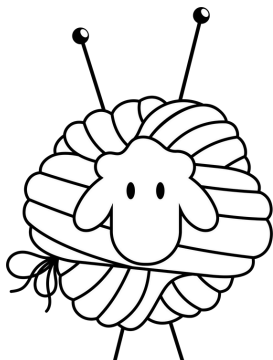
**Phil Rohlf – “The Promise and Power of Easter” A four-week Lenten Bible Study in the Fellowship Room on the right**

**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.**



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



### **Prayer Requests**

**Please let the church office know of any prayer requests. Call 419.782.5766 or email [church.office@stjohntigers.com](mailto:church.office@stjohntigers.com).**

**For the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy or Penny via phone, text, or email if you have a prayer request, an addition, a correction, or any feedback**

**for the Prayer Chain Warriors to include in their prayers. Judy Detter ([detterjudy@gmail.com](mailto:detterjudy@gmail.com)), text Judy:**

**419.783.7032. Penny Mueller ([pennym41@gmail.com](mailto:pennym41@gmail.com)) text Penny:**

**419.304.5768**



**Hand Bells meet on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. The Senior Choir practices every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.**



# ***From the Desk of Kristina Phipps***



## **From the Principal's Desk**

**On Saturday, March 15, we finally got to have our Round-Up Rodeo Open House that's been on my calendar since late fall. It was LOTS of fun, so I'm sorry if you missed it. We had a western theme with games such as Lasso a Prize, Pony Races, Cow Pie Toss, Western Style Potato Sack Races, Pin-the-Tail on the Horse, a Photo Booth, and even Hair Tinseling. If you saw someone with sparkly things hanging in their hair, give the credit to the Hair Tinseling Booth!**

**I had several goals as I planned and organized this Open House. The first was to pull in families from the community and hope they registered their children in school. A second goal was to invite community organizations in to share information about their programs with our school and church families. We met this goal as mentioned in the next paragraph. Another goal was to get church members, school staff, and school families to have fellowship with one another. This happened big time! I could hear the laughs and giggles from one end of the building to the other! Last, I wanted everyone to have something fun to do on a Saturday, especially after a long, never-ending winter. Mission accomplished!**

**Twelve agencies participated in the info fair portion of our Open House as they shared information about their programs in the Fellowship Room. This group included United Way with its Dolly Parton Reading Program, Defiance Public Library, Cub Scouts, Defiance Co. Health Department, NOCAC, Camp Lutherhaven, LCEF, Defiance Co. Extension Services, SNAP-Ed, Jobs and Family Services with their new foster program, Defiance Co. Bd of DD, and Defiance Co. Help Me Grow. While interacting with this group at the start, one individual told me it would be worth it if they got to help one family. As they were getting ready to pack up, this same person told me it was a success because one family filled out an application for their program's services while visiting their table and was going to qualify for their assistance. This part of our Open House helped us meet the Parent Education requirement that is part of our Accreditation.**

**Everyone's favorite, including mine, was the John Deere lookalike Big Green Tractor. It was cool looking when I stared at its picture on the internet, but it was AWESOME when up close and personal in our gymnasium! All kids, both big and small, had a blast jumping around inside and then climbing up and sliding down the slide outside the tractor. Of course, they all had to run back around to the beginning and start the fun all over again. We adults really appreciated the pure joy on their faces as they enjoyed their Big Green Tractor experience.**

**We could not have pulled this event off without the help of school staff, church members, school families, and friends. It made me smile to see all of these different groups of people chatting with each other everywhere I went as they laughed over the antics of the kids. Remember, none of the funds for this came out of the church or school budget. The Endowment Committee gave us funds to pay for the fun and games, LCEF paid for our mailing list and a private donation was used to pay for the invitations and postage. A Thrivent Action Team card was used to pay for the food and paper supplies. And we remained under budget in all areas. Many families said they can't wait until we have another fun event like this one!**





St. John Lutheran Church &  
**Christian Day School**

**Financial Report**

July 2024 - February 2025

	Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav) to Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Church Revenue	\$ 482,446	\$ 441,519	\$ 40,927
School Revenue	\$ 117,060	\$ 127,688	\$ (10,628)
Tigers' Den Revenue	\$ 16,773	\$ 26,705	\$ (9,932)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 616,279</b>	<b>\$ 595,912</b>	<b>\$ 20,367</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Church Expenses	\$ 320,224	\$ 337,965	\$ 17,741
Care of Property	\$ 121,747	\$ 124,817	\$ 3,070
Christian Day School	\$ 195,598	\$ 148,268	\$ (47,330)
Tigers' Den	\$ 13,458	\$ 23,425	\$ 9,967
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 651,027</b>	<b>\$ 634,475</b>	<b>\$ (16,552)</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ (34,748)</b>	<b>\$ (38,563)</b>	<b>\$ 3,815</b>



***Baringer / Wachtman Scholarship***

***The Baringer / Wachtman Scholarship Committee is presently accepting applications for the 2025-2026 academic year. Interested candidates in preparation for professional church vocations may apply to the committee through the church office by May 1, 2025. Eligible recipients must be communicant members of St. John Lutheran Church and be enrolled full-time at the university or seminary level at one of our synodical schools.***



**Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. All members are highly encouraged to attend this important meeting, as the *Church Doctor Ministries* group will be sharing their report with all of our members! They will be presenting their findings and making their professional recommendations for short- and long-term strategic planning regarding the future of our congregation.**

DEBORAH S. MAXEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
(High School Senior)  
St. John Lutheran Church & School  
Defiance, OH

St. John Lutheran Church and School of Defiance is establishing this Scholarship Program to support and encourage a high school senior preferably entering the field of education. It is NOT a requirement that the applicant is entering the field of education.

This Scholarship shall consist of a grant, the amount of which shall be determined annually by the Deborah S. Maxey Scholarship Committee under the following terms of agreement:

1. The student must have attended St. John Lutheran School for at least 3 years from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade.
2. The student must be a freshman this fall, enrolled and accepted in a college of their choice for an undergraduate program.

The Deborah S. Maxey Scholarship committee consists of a principal, a teacher, and a Maxey family member appointed by the chairman of the St. John Endowment Committee. The grant will be presented at the student's high school awards assembly, if possible.

This scholarship grant shall be remitted to a student upon verification of enrollment into an undergraduate program.

Application for this scholarship should be submitted by the student to the church office by April 6.

DEBORAH S. MAXEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

Name in Full: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Level Goal:  Elementary  Secondary or \_\_\_\_\_

College: \_\_\_\_\_

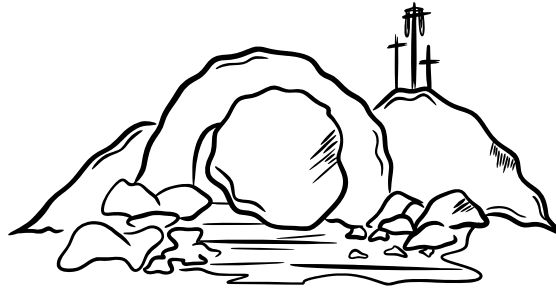
*\*Written Essay (250 words or fewer) \*Must be submitted with application*

Topic: "What impact did being a student at St. John Lutheran have on my life?"

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_



ACT (Adult CrossTraining) class is studying selected Lenten devotions titled “Servant of the Lord”, written by Dr. Kari Voe of the Lutheran Hour Ministries. Dr. Voe speaks to us so that we can relate the familiar Lenten teachings to our everyday lives. We invite you to join us Wednesday evenings, 6:30-7:15, in Adult Ed Room A. We dismiss early so anyone who wishes to attend the Wednesday evening service may do so. We follow the CrossTraining schedule. When CrossTraining has a break, we also have a break. We will not have class on March 26 due to spring break. We are not a “women’s study”; we also have men in our class! Join us for one class or the entire series through April 30 when we complete the series. If you’d like more information, contact Judy Detter (419-783-7932) or Penny Mueller (419-3304-5768).



### **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, April 5th, 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 meeting and enjoying everyone’s company as we share fellowship.  
-Thom Kent

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

**Please support this program.**

**The campaign will run a total of 13 weeks from the dates of:**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025, through**  
**Saturday, June 28, 2025**

**Double Match Day Opportunity Will Continue**

**During the upcoming campaign, the Double Match Day will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025.**

**For every \$10 Simply Give card purchased on these dates, 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 at your partnering store location, in addition to any online sales, Meijer matching, and other promotions, will be converted into Meijer food-only gift cards. These cards will allow our pantry staff members to purchase food and other eligible baby items including food, formula, diapers, and wipes. Thank you for helping keep food on the St. John Lutheran Food Pantry shelves.**

**We were closed a couple days in February because of the weather so our numbers were a little lower. We served 70 families or 205 people the during of the month of February 2025. We had six families visit the pantry for the first time. Two hundred and twenty-one bags of food were distributed. We spent \$86.32 at the Toledo Food Bank and \$761.70 in Meijer gift cards. Thank you to the congregation for their support for this ministry. You are helping people meet one of their basics needs. God bless you!**

- **The Epistle is published the week before the end of the month so March numbers will be in the May Epistle.**



## **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 – April 2025**



Outreach Ministry seeks to share the Gospel of Christ within and outside our walls to proclaim Jesus and the ministry of our church and school locally, nationally and globally.

Outreach had a presence at the school's Roundup Rodeo on March 15. The Rodeo was a community event that welcomed families to learn more about the school and church. Further, Outreach will have a table display at Friendship Sunday, scheduled for September. The committee continues to plan and organize events for 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 in learning 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.

### **Youth Group Upcoming Events:**

**Mid-March thru Mid-April Easter Flower Sales to Benefit Children's Lantern**

**Sun. May 11 8:00-12:00 Mother's Day Flower Sales**

**June 16 - June 21 Garage Sale**



### **LADIES AID**

**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... (1 Peter 1:3)**

**We hope everyone enjoyed the Lenten meal. Thank you to all who supported it. We are having a BAKE SALE on April 12 and 13 in the lower hallway. We hope to see you there. We will not be making noodles this spring due to the price of eggs. Our April meeting is on April 24, 2025 with chair hostess Sharon Keller and her team. The items for the food pantry are detergent and toilet paper.**



# Scouting News April 2025



The Cub Scout Pack has had a busy month! The beginning of March they passed out flyers for Scouting for Food and then the following Saturday they collected it. Between the Pack and the Boy Scout Troop, they contributed 1,586 items to the Food Pantry through the collections they gathered. The Cub Scout also ran their Pinewood Derby! What great fun and fast cars! In meetings they have been learning about healthy choices and meals. In April, they have an Egg Hunt planned for Easter and a mile hike planned. The Boy Scout Troop is busy teaching each other skills they need to advance in rank. We had two Scouts earn new ranks this month. The Troop worked with the pack passing out flyers and collecting canned goods for Scouting for Food. Members of the Troop stayed and helped sort and put away all the donations. They helped contribute 1,586 items. In the month of April, they have a campout at Auglaize Village planned where they will earn service hours working in the concession stand. Please stop out and say hello! The Troop will also be making a trip to the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo to see the Festival of Lanterns. The Troop extends their thanks to all who have dropped off pop cans and newspapers at 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 new 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

## April 80+

Mike McGhee	4/1	(82)
Jack Clark	4/2	(84)
Phyllis Nicely	4/10	(85)
Joyce Stoller	4/15	(83)
DiAnn Wichman	4/16	(86)
Donnabell Sargeant	4/16	(94)
Joyce Stork	4/24	(86)



## HAPPY Anniversary!

Randy & Sally Gerken	April 8th	(42)
Todd & Linda Thurwell	April 13th	(40)
James & Janet Seymour	April 17th	(48)
Mark & Nancy Roehrig	April 17th	(43)
Philip & Roza Shasteen	April 28th	(46)
Donald & Angela Parrish	April 29th	(46)

40<sup>th</sup> plus



# Pulled Pork Dinner

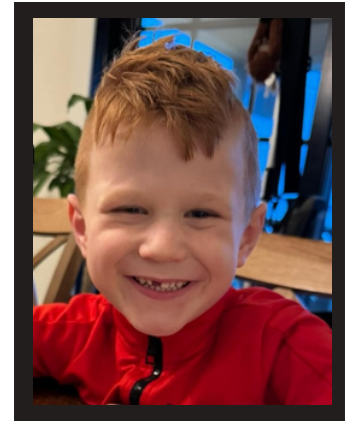
**Tuesday, May 6, 2025**



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

Fundraiser for Marshall's Mountain

Marshall's Mountain was formed when Marshall Joost was diagnosed with Pompe disease. The aim is to uplift the Pompe community by funding research, providing education, and offering patient support. The mission has grown to improve the quality of life of those affected by Pompe disease and other rare diseases and disabilities.



Marshall Joost\*



\* Marshall is the son of Ross and Amanda Joost and grandson of Larry and Mary Mick.



**ADULT MEAL \$12.00**

**Pulled Pork, Sauerkraut, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, Roll, Brownie**

**KIDS' MEAL \$5.00**

**Hot Dog, Chips, Cookie, Drink**

Meals will be distributed in our south parking lot from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on May 6.

**Tickets available April 6 - April 28**

Tickets can be purchased from: Marlene Eberle, George or Sharon Kaiser, Linda Hageman, Jean Hoag, Carolyn Hoyle, Janet Koch, Jan McGhee, Beth Miller, Carolyn Richard, Samira Stelzer, Karen Tobias, Diana Grim, Rita Bergman, Anne Miller, Angie Soukup

OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE . ***Thank you for your support!***

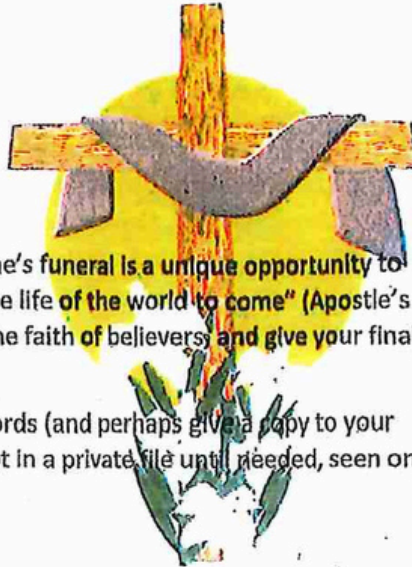
***St. John Lutheran Church***

***655 Wayne Ave., Defiance***

***419.782.5766***



# Preparing for a Christian Funeral



*"For me to live is Christ, to die is gain."* Philippians 1:21

As the Christian gives witness to Christ in life, so even one's funeral is a unique opportunity to give witness to our belief "in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" (Apostle's Creed). It is an opportunity to comfort your family, strengthen the faith of believers, and give your final witness to unbelievers who gather in your memory.

When you complete this form, keep a copy for your records (and perhaps give a copy to your children) and submit a copy to the church office. This will be kept in a private file until needed, seen only by the pastor and church secretary.

## My Walk with Christ

I was baptized on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

I confirmed my faith on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

My confirmation verse / favorite Bible verse is \_\_\_\_\_

## Meaningful Words

**Scripture Readings** I would like to have read at my funeral are:

(Customary readings include an Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel Reading. However, you may choose any readings you wish. Additional readings may be included at the time of your funeral by the pastor or your family.)

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## Meaningful Worship

Three of my favorite **songs/hymns**, that I would like sung at my funeral are:

(Customary hymns are ones of faith, hope in Christ, and comfort for those in grief. Hymns and contemporary songs rich in Biblical hope and comfort may be submitted. Your family and the pastor will make arrangements for musical settings).

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Other things that I would like to request at my funeral are: \_\_\_\_\_

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(over)

You may attach additional pages of notes as necessary. Your family and the pastor will finalize all service arrangements when the time comes.

For a funeral, a graveside **committal service** should follow immediately after the service or after the luncheon that day.

When cremation takes place, the cremains should be committed to the ground with a committal service and prayers as soon as possible. Consult the pastor. Information and forms for the **Our Savior Memorial Garden** are found on our website, in the church lobby, and at the church office.

My plans for burial / committal service / cemetery:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Notes on a Christian Service

The purposes of a Christian Funeral or Memorial Service is to:

- Worship Jesus and praise Him for the gift of eternal life we have through faith in Him
- Comfort the Family and Friends with the Message of Hope
- Celebrate the life, blessings, and grace given and received by the deceased loved one
- Gather the people of God, family and church family, to comfort, encourage, and pray for the family as they mourn with hope of a heavenly reunion.

A *Christian Funeral* means that a casket & body are present

A *Christian Memorial* means there is no casket & body present (cremains may or may not be present)

Our Savior Lutheran Church currently does services only for church members or persons under the pastoral care of our ministry. Only clergy of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are permitted to officiate.

Does your **estate plan** reflect your desire to a final offering to the Lord's work? Contact the church office for resources to help walk you through how to create plans that reflect your faith and Christ's mission.

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





## 2025 Lenten Services

March 5th Ash Wednesday	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
March 12th	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
March 19th	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
March 26th	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
April 2nd	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
April 9th	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
April 17th Maundy Thursday	7:30 p.m.
April 18th Good Friday	1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
April 19th Easter Vigil	5:30 p.m.
April 20th Easter Sunday	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

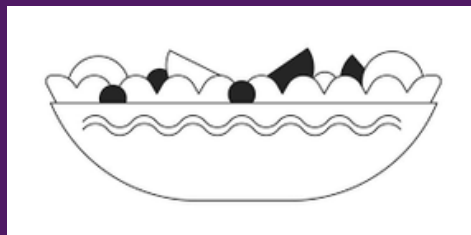
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**UPCOMING LENTEN MEALS 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**APRIL 2ND, SCHOOL BOARD: TACO BAR**

**APRIL 9TH, BOY SCOUTS: SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER**





# April 2025

Lenten Services are @ 1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Lenten Suppers are 5-7 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ 10 10 am Book Club 2 pm Outreach Mtg. 7:00 pm Mews Bible St. 6:30 pm Youth Board 6:30 pm	2 LENTEN SERVICES Services 1:00 & 7:30 pm Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Lenten Supper 5 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	3 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am All Congregation Church Doctors Ministries Report 6:30 -8:30 pm	4 Clothes Closet 10 am	5 COMMUNION Promise & Power of Easter Bible St. 4:00 pm Worship Service 5:30  Confirmation Retreat The Ark Encounter at the Creation Museum
6 COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am  Confirmation Retreat	7 Finance 9:00 am Music Mtg 10 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm TeleCare 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	8 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ 10 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm School Board 5:30 pm Mews Bible St. 6:30 pm	9 LENTEN SERVICES Services 1:00 & 7:30 pm Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Lenten Supper 5 pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	10 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Elders Mtg. 6 pm	11 Clothes Closet 10 am	12 NON-COMMUNION Promise & Power of Easter Bible St. 4:00 pm  Worship Service 5:30
13 NON-COMMUNION Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	14 Finance 9:30 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	15 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ 10 10 am Book Club 2 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Mews Bible St. 6:30 pm	16 Mews' Bible Study 2pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	17 Maundy Thursday Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Worship Ser. 7:30 pm	18 GOOD FRIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Clothes Closet 10 am Worship Ser. 1:00 pm Tenebrae Ser. 7:30 pm	19 COMMUNION Easter Vigil Ser. 5:30 pm
20 Communion EASTER WORSHIP 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Adult Bible Study 10 am	21 Finance 9:00 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	22 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ 10 10 am Knit & Study 1 pm	23 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	24 Clothes Closet 9 am Food Pantry 9 am Romans Bible St. 10 am Ladies Aid 2 pm Parish Planning 6 pm	25 Clothes Closet 10 am	26 NON-COMMUNION Worship Service 5:30
27 Non-Communion Worship: 9:00 & 11:00 am Sunday School 9 am Bible Studies 10 am Youth Bible Study 10 am	28 Finance 9:30 am Life W/ God 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm Lisa Mews BS 6:30 pm	29 Food Pantry 9 am Tuesdays @ 10 10 am	30 Mews' Bible Study 2 pm Hand Bells 5:45 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Cross Tr. / ACT 6:30 pm	1 MAY 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 Worship Service 5:30

