

MAY 2025

Pastor Schilling
Invites anyone
with pastoral
needs to reach
out to him at
937-477-6502

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 32
West Alexandria, OH 45381
937-839-5321
Email: stjohningomar@swahoio.twcpc.com
www.stjohningomar.org

Church Office Hours
Mondays and Fridays
10:00-3:00 pm
Sunday
Worship Service
10:00 am

FAMILY NIGHT AT ST. JOHN
FRIDAY, MAY 7 AT 6:00 PM
INVITE FAMILY & FRIENDS FOR A FUN, FAMILY-
FRIENDLY NIGHT. WE WELCOME BACK
MIKE HEMMELGARN TO SHARE HIS CREATIVE COMEDY!

St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church comes together to love God and one another, serve others and share God's word. We do these things by God's Grace that comes through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ

George Graham Vest (1830-1904) served as U.S. Senator from Missouri from 1879 to 1903 and became one of the leading orators and debaters of his time. This delightful speech is from an earlier period in his life when he practiced law in a small Missouri town. It was given in court while representing a man who sued another for the killing of his dog. During the trial, Vest ignored the testimony, and when his turn came to present a summation to the jury, he made the following speech and won the case.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOG

George Graham Vest, Trial of Old Drum, September 23rd, 1870

Gentlemen of the Jury:
The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads.

The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish

world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. He will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounters with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

If fortune drives the master forth, an outcast in the world, friendless



and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death.

G. G. Vest

MAY CELEBRANTS



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO MARK & CAROL
MCKINLEY—MAY 13
AND JIM & CINDY ROBSON—MAY 16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO
JANETTE HITTLE—MAY 5
JANET EBY—MAY 11
STEVE DAFLER—MAY 11
RHONDA HAYNES—MAY 18
STEVE STOCKSLAGER—MAY 18
DICK LENTZ—MAY 19



*I want to thank everyone for their
prayers, calls, cards, and texts during
my recent illness.*
Earla Donaldson



West Alexandria Food Bank

St. John Church
20 E. South St.
West Alexandria
937-839-1615
Mons & Weds:

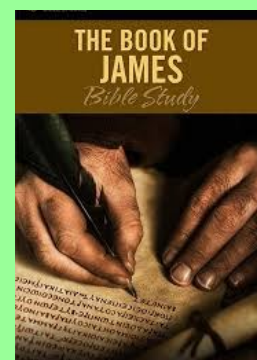
10:00am – 12:00pm

Also open on the 2nd & Last Wednesday
each month, 6 – 7:30pm

The Food Bank's current needs are tuna,
shampoo, egg noodles, ramen noodles.



Pastor Bill continues to
lead Bible study on the
book of James on Tues-
day evenings at 6:30 in
the fellowship hall. All
are welcome to attend.
The study will conclude
on May 27 until we
begin a new study on
September 2.



FAMILY NIGHT 2025!

Mark your calendar for Friday, May 9 at 6:00 pm.
Bring a dish to share and we will provide everything else
for an enjoyable, family-friendly night. We will welcome
back Mike Hemmelgarn to share his creative comedy
with a unique & unforgettable blend of variety!



Read God's Word with Bible App

Take God's Word with you wherever you go by downloading the free Bible App. Listen to audio Bibles, create Prayers, study with Friends, and much more—all for free. Choose from more than 2,400 Bible versions in over 1,600 languages on your computer, phone, or tablet.



PRAYER CONCERNS updated May 2, 2025

Jim Mitchell, Craig Dunbar, Phil Coffman, Adeline, Joanie Hemmelgarn, Stacey Creech, Andy Eck, Marjorie DeGarmo, Gayle Rich, Trent Ray, Jeff Beneke, A.J. McKinley, Joey Latvala, Jack Walker, Sue Johnson, Andrew Obst, and Eric Walker.

GRIEVING FAMILIES OF: John Matteucci, Frankie Jeffcoat, and Bob Blair.

MISSIONARIES: Jonathan & Michelle Voge & Family

ST JOHN FAMILY: Russell Worley, Earla Donaldson, Buzz & Nancy Wright, Glen Behnken, Amy Stockslager, Rhonda Haynes, Melissa Collins, Ginny Nepomuceno, Hartmut Buettner, Jenny Dawson, Ellie Arnett, Marlene Neff, Butch Spitler, Paula Schiml, Bill Dafler.

SHUT-INS: Marna Beneke, Janet Ferguson.

PRAY

Hello Friends!

Hope and pray you are well! The season of spring has arrived in Cyprus and we are enjoying the comfortable weather and flowers blooming.

It's been a busy start to the year for us with running a 3 month YWAM internship. We had 4 ladies join us to grow in understanding and developing their call into the Middle East. The internship included Arabic language training, input on spiritual formation, personal development, and cross cultural ministry. We also provided hands on training by giving them opportunities to help us develop our refugee community center. It was a full and fruitful season. We ended our time together last Friday, and it was so encouraging to hear how the Lord met with each of the interns and solidified their call and next steps in ministry. Two of the ladies will be joining our team for the next couple of years, one returned to minister in Iraq, and the other one hopes to continue on with Arabic studies in Jordan. We are thrilled that each one will continue on in this part of the world! It was a joy to pour ourselves into this internship, but also were ready to get back to normal rhythms of life.

Some of the highlights with refugees during the internship:

- Hosting movie nights - Narnia.
- Hosting Ramadan meals with families.
- Facilitating a weekly Drop In Cafe focused on English language practice, refugee info and advice, and building community.
- Facilitating a weekly Women's Café, pouring into their God given identity and value through creativity.
- Organizing a couple of after school children's events - having fun and sharing Biblical stories.
- Organizing our yearly backpack distribution (70-100 bags) - this year we gave some in Limassol and Nicosia. We were able to pray and give out Bibles to most of these recipients as well.
- Serving refugee ministries in other cities during the kids midterm break - we organized a program in Nicosia with a ministry to women who have survived trafficking, and we organized a children's event at a refugee ministry in Paphos.
- Getting into the local Mosque on the Night of Power (Jon).

We are so thankful for the grace of the Lord during a busy season. We felt He strengthened us so that we could pour into our family, the interns, and refugees. We would appreciate prayers personally as we need the Lord's refilling and refreshing.

And now, Cyprus will begin celebrating Easter. It's a beautiful season here with lots of symbolic celebrations. We are excited that Michelle's parents and sister will be here to celebrate with us! They will be visiting for 2 weeks. Also, we will celebrate Lily's 13th birthday while they are here.

Then the first week of May, Jon has a trip to Iraq. He will be speaking at the YWAM staff gathering there. We would appreciate your prayers.

Hope you have a wonderful Easter celebration! Thank you for your continued prayers for our family, we appreciate you!

Blessings,
The Voge Family

*We have attached a couple of photos from the past couple of months.

**Please do not post or redistribute this email without our permission. Thanks!



SHARING THE GOSPEL
AND GOD'S LOVE IN
LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AG-Rhonda H. CA-Steve D.	Ushers-Scott H and Dave Weaver			1	2	3
4 M-Mandy A. LR-Mark M. G-Lorey & Judy E	5 Adult Choir Practice 6:30 pm	6 Bible Study 6:30 pm	7 Fellowship Meal With St. Andrew Dixie Diner 6:30 p	8 <i>Women of St John will meet June 12 @ 7PM</i>	9 Family Night 6:00 pm	10
Communion						
11 M-Carol M. LR-Stephanie C. G-Steve & Cindy D.	12	13 Bible Study 6:30 pm	14	15	16	17 Sleep Mat Project 9-11:00 am
Healing						
18 M-Jenny D. LR-Kathy B. G-Jim & Cindy R.	19	20 Bible Study 6:30 pm	21 Council Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23	24
Communion						
25 M-Mandy A. LR- G-Al & June S.	26	27 Bible Study 6:30 pm	28 Worship & Music Committee 5:00 pm	29	30	31
ASCENSION OF THE LORD COMMUNION		Homeless Meal LaVerne & Chris WACOCA @ St. John Church 7pm				