



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

A Place of Hope for a World in Need of Redemption

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Church Office Hours
Mondays
and
Fridays
10:00 AM–4:00 PM

February 2021
Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 AM



LENT

Ash Wednesday Service
February 17 at 7:00 PM
with Imposition of ashes
and Holy Communion

I am intrigued by the notion that we don't need rules and regulations to be imposed on us by the Federal Government or anyone else. There is a predominance of thought that people can and will manage their lives quite well without anyone's oversight. This thought progresses into the belief that banks will regulate their own ethical behavior, the food industry will regulate the safety of food without government interference, the drug industry will decide for itself whether or not a drug is safe, and the coal industry will determine the impact of fossil fuels on our environment. The underlying thought is that people are basically good, and will try to do the right thing in matters of ethics and safety.

I would like to think all of this is true, except I know myself too well. Right from the beginning, I thought I could manage my own life without any regulations. I didn't need to eat my spinach; A hamburger was just fine, thank you. I didn't need to do my homework because I could learn through osmosis. I didn't need to go to school every day, because I already knew everything I needed to know. I didn't need to be nice to people because "might makes right." How dare someone suggest that I be put under behavioral restraints from parents or the school system!

The individualism of our society continues to breed people who don't think they need any boundaries in life. Nor do they think they need to seek the help of outside resources for some clarification of the impact of their actions on others. Inevitably, this results in our propensity for putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

People seem to be under the illusion that we are by nature good and loving people. This idea was perpetuated in the eighteenth century when punishment of a crime was handled by putting someone in a penitentiary. A penitentiary was a particular facility within the prison system whereby an inmate was given an individual cell and kept from the other inmates. This confinement provided an opportunity for the prisoner to commune with his conscience and come to his senses as a reformed person because his goodness would rise to the surface. The inmate would therefore be penitent. The foundation for this thinking was based on the idea that people are basically good, and when sheltered from the influence of the evils of society, a person would return to wholeness once again. Nice idea. Unfortunately, it doesn't work.



As Lutherans, our confession states, “most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves”. People (and the institutions they create) cannot save themselves from their self-centeredness. It is more healthy to confess that we need a higher power beyond ourselves to set us free from the bonds of a fallen humanity. That higher power we find in the God we know through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is not a set of rules and guidelines, but is a liberating power that comes from God’s Spirit. This is the same spirit of which we speak in baptism; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in God’s presence. For us, the root of fairness, compassion, ethical behavior, justice, and a concern for those around us, comes from an outside source: God.

The church is a place where we wrestle with all those things that keep us in bondage to the illusion that we are in charge and can do whatever we want. It is a place where we confront the foggy notion that we don’t need any help from outside ourselves. It is a place where we confess that we cannot save ourselves. It is a place where we can remember what it is like to be reborn as children of God.

I know myself well enough to know that I am by nature sinful and unclean. From the days when I pulled Mary Ann Ferguson’s pigtails to get her attention in grade school, to the time last week when I succumbed to the temptation of driving 80 miles per hour on Interstate 75 in order to save time, I know what self-serving behavior can be. We also know corporations and institutions of our society are always tempted to benefit themselves at the expense of the people they are supposed to be serving. We know why these things happen. And so, we join in a community of faith that focuses on where we can find help. We reach beyond ourselves for the ultimate source of hope for a redeemed world.

It is a joy to be a part of such a community. It is in your church where you can find support in holding on to those things that are healing, life-giving, and eternal. It is in your faith community where we can each find common ground in our awareness that we need God’s presence and power.

Lent is the season of reflection and revelation. In the darkness of winter, we share that through Jesus there can be confession, absolution, and renewal. Through the community of faith of which we are a part at St. John Lutheran Church, we can also support one another in hearing God’s Word for a hurting world. Then, renewed by God’s grace, we are better equipped to deal with the issues of greed and self-serving behavior that we experience in our weekday lives. We give thanks for these gifts every time we gather together. For us, redemption happens in the context of a fellowship of faith.

You will be receiving a packet of material to help you on your Lenten journey, including our schedule of services. For now, remember that our Ash Wednesday service is on February 17th, at 7:00pm. Weekday services will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. My hope is that our Lenten journey will be a meaningful preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Blessings,
Pastor Paul W. Heine

Ash Wednesday service begins at 7:00 PM with
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion



Thank you to everyone for the cards, texts, calls & well wishes after my back injury. I really appreciate all of the love and support!! Thanks again!

Paula Schiml

Gosh you all are the greatest. Your cards and good thoughts have kept my spirits elevated. But your prayers have been felt the most and I look forward to being with you all soon.

Buzz Wright



Please check your edition of St John's directory for Carolyn Studebaker's address. It should be "Twin" road and not "Twin Creek" Thanks!



The Christmas trees last season were in memory of Donnie Degler. Although his ship has sailed, his memory lives on as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, and dear friend to so many. May we salute to you your 86 years of a wonderful, fulfilled life.



COVID-19 VACCINATION
SIGN UP
at
VaccinatePreble.com

APPOINTMENT ONLY

Current Phase: 1B

Those currently eligible for vaccine:

- Those identified in Phase 1A
- **The week of Jan. 18:** Ohioans 80 years of age & older
- **The week of Jan. 25:** Ohioans 75 years of age & older;
- **The week of Feb. 1:** Ohioans 70 years of age & older;
Employees of k-12 Schools
- **The week of Feb. 8:** Ohioans 65 years of age & older

Preble County Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

More COVID-19 vaccination information available at preblecountyhealth.org/vaccine

Hi St. John Ingomar,
Jackie Hicks has sent a message regarding the Meal Train Plus for Home Is The Foundation Homeless Shelter.



Message:

Hello,
I wanted to let everyone know that we have several dishes, containers, and crock pots here at the shelter. If you think you may have something here, please give us a call, or stop by. I want to make sure everyone gets their things back.

Thank you all for providing meals, we appreciate them so much!

Thank you,
Jackie Hicks



You may also call the Health Department at 937-472-0087 use option #1

WACOCA NEWS

Darlene Combs and Pastor Paul attended the WACOCA meeting on January 26 at Salem.

As expected, the Hymn Sing was cancelled. Next meeting will be May 25 with St. John Ingomar hosting.



February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild-Becky Vickers Com. Asst-Earla Donaldson						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
M-Jenny Dawson Acolytes-Lucas & Olivia	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Council meeting 7:00 PM	WELCA 7:00 PM		13
M-Mandy Arnett Acolyte-Ellie	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Ash Wednesday M-Jenny			
					Sleep Mat Project 9-11am	20
M-Jenny Dawson Acolytes-Lucas & Olivia	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Holden Evening Prayer 7:00 pm			27
			Janet & Mandy			
M-Mandy Arnett A-Ellie	28					



THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING

Family of Phyllis Lantis and John Utsinger

MISSIONARIES

Jon & Michelle Voge and family and Michelle's dad, Brian

MEMBERS IN OUR PRAYERS

Marna Beneke	Lori Nelson	Reenie Halsey
Mary Buettner	Cleo Eby	Helen Comer
Catherine Dafler	Janet Ferguson	Bob Combs
Dale Cotterman	Buzz Wright	

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OUR MEMBERS

Paul Conrad	Diana Spencer
Charles Livezey	Wanda DeVilbiss
Martha Watson	Roger Dawson
Andy Eck	Dick Campbell
Cynthia Foster	Eric Walker
Janet Hardin	Norman Warner
Macy Jaeggi	Bette Denius
Ron Piatt	Connie Johnson
Alan Metz	Ashley Combs
Rachel Myers	Shauna Hebbeler
Linda Parks	Andrew Obst
Tom Schamel	Debbie Elmore
Melinda Studebaker	Dorothy Chapman
Taylor Bunch	Stacy Cline
Devin Sholly	Branson Bennett
Rick & Lori Wright	Jim Boyle

In order to keep the prayer list up to date, nonmembers will remain on the prayer chain list for thirty days before being removed unless we are contacted otherwise. Please call the church office at 937-839-5321 or email at stjohnningomar@swohio.twcbc.com