

2024

OCTOBER

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
West Alexandria, OH 45381
P.O. Box 32
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Church Office Hours
Mondays and Fridays
10:00-3:00 pm
Sunday
Worship Service
10:00 am



REFORMATION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 27



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

FROM
THE
PASTOR



Dear friends and family of St John Church, I hope this article finds you well and prospering in the Saving Grace of Christ our Lord! This article is based on Matthew 5:13-16. In these verses Jesus is making it clear that we are redeemed for a specific purpose. In Jesus we have been called to be full of light and spirituality salty so we can have an impact in this world. Over the years I have seen a lot of believers who seemed scared of this world and afraid they would be destroyed by

it! Rest assured that this world is a force to be reckoned with. But God said that we were in the world but Not of the world. The enemy of our souls is out in the world currently creating monumental amounts of chaos and foolishness which none of us care for. The purpose for our salt and light is so that we can touch the world with forces far stronger than evil! We often sell ourselves short in the spiritual realm. Remember friends we have Jesus and His Name on our side and should never fear what man can do to us. Second Timothy 1:7 declares that we have been given power, love, and a sound mind, not a spirit of fear. While Jesus was on earth, He was always ready for any situation because He was full of salt and light. The same strength He offers us in His grace and mercy. If we believe in Jesus and have been Baptized, then we are good to go and by the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we can defeat the Goliath of this world. Jesus wants our light to shine which will overcome darkness. Salt has long been used to preserve things and add savor to our foods. Likewise, Gods Word and Spirit preserve and keep us, and cause us to be light in a world that has lost its way. Our church is an awesome family that has a lot to offer. But we must shine brighter and brighter and be prepared for the future which sees this age drawing to a close. God bless. PB



Be These.

Matthew 5:13-16

WACOCA NEWS
West Alexandria Church- es Organized for Community Action, organized in 1969, is looking for lay members to join in making a untied witness to the community. By attending a regular meeting is all that is needed. The next regular meeting will be January 28, 2025 at the First Brethren Church on Third St.

WACOCA Thanksgiving Service this year will be November 24, 7:00 pm at Community Christian Church located at 11 Dorsey Akers.

Trunk or Treat



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

4:00—6:00 PM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CLEAN OUT YOUR TRUNK!

BE CREATIVE!



MISSIONARY NEWS MISSIONARY NEWS

Hello from Cyprus!
 Just a quick message to ask for prayer. As many of you heard this summer, we have plans to open a refugee community center here in Limassol. Since getting back to Cyprus, we have been praying and looking at spaces. Yesterday, we found a place that we both feel would fit our present needs, and the price is less than we were imagining- 700 euro/ month- 8400/ year (about \$10,000). We are praying and asking God for confirmation if we should move forward with this place. We will need to make a decision in the next couple of days. Please be praying with us! Also, if you have felt led to give financially towards the refugee community center, please let us know, so that we can send you the giving details.
 Thanks so much for standing with us. We are excited and expectant for what the Lord is going to provide for us!
 Blessings, Michelle and Jon

Dear Friends,
 We did want to follow up on what we shared last week regarding our ministry space...WE GOT IT! It was amazing to see God’s hand in the whole process. We see God’s perfect timing and greater understanding, and are so thankful for His faithfulness.

A bit of the story regarding this space...
 As we shared last week, we both saw this space and were surprised at how we both sensed it was the right fit for this season. It was a little smaller than we imagined, and in an area we hadn’t originally been looking. But somehow, we both sensed right away, this is the place. We both had such a great peace about the place. After this, we prayed and invited others to pray as well. Things began to stand out to us regarding this place...it’s a bit hidden as it’s off a main street, it’s a 10 minute walk from the short term hostel we have been reaching out to, and in the same neighborhood of the school their children go to. On the outside of the building, it’s surrounded by papaya trees, which you don’t really see here. And we felt good about the landlord, a young Cypriot guy who seemed open for the work we are doing. The price also felt like a manageable starting point for us. So we prayed over the weekend, and on Monday, we went to see the landlord to negotiate a contract. He was agreeable to everything, and we felt to move forward in faith and to say yes even without knowing exactly how we would pay for this place. Immediately after this, the landlord began messaging and calling- he seemed to be getting cold feel about the kinds of people we would be helping (Muslims in particular) and how it would affect the neighborhood. (there is a lot of fear and prejudice against refugees in Cyprus) So eventually he told us he would let us know by Wednesday. We felt like a balloon with the air being let out. It was a bit confusing since we had felt like God was opening the door for this place, but then with the landlord’s questions we wondered if it really would be comfortable there. We prayed with our team/ community and felt peace to just wait and hold it before the Lord. Then on Wednesday, he continued to ask questions but said he would let us know by a certain time. Right before that, we were on a call with a colleague and he encouraged us, isn’t there usually opposition when we are moving towards the promises of God? We felt like we needed to keep moving forward in faith. Right after that, the landlord wrote and said, ‘let’s do this’. We clarified the details and then the next day gave him our final answer, asking if we could rent for 6 months and in that time see if it’s a good fit for him and us. He was agreeable- we paid 600euro partial rent payment and gave us the keys. We can start moving in anytime, but the contract will start on October 1st.

This was such a testimony for us of God’s promises fulfilled. Since moving to Limassol, the Lord kept leading us to Isaiah 37:30&31 with instructions for the first year to simply serve in the land, the second year to do the same, and the third year to build and plant vineyards (Ministry location). As we are entering the 3rd year, we had a strong sense that a ministry space would open up for us in September, so that we could be planted and even more fruitful in the city. And it happened in this time!

“And this shall be the sign for you: this year, you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that. Then in the third year sow and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.”
 Isaiah 37:30, 31

Thank you for praying with us and believing for the promises of God to unfold here! We are so excited to begin preparing this place that will be a blessing to the refugee community we have been reaching out to here. Please continue to pray for the provision for all that’s needed for this new refugee center in Limassol.

Love and Blessings,
 The Voges
JM.Voge@protonmail.com



PRAYER CONCERNS UPDATED September 27, 2024

Norman & Phyllis Warner, Charlotte Eversole, Barbara Klinger, Joan McAfree, George Henry, Carolyn Brubaker, John Matteucci, Patsy Waldren, Todd Rukrigl, Jack Walker, Diane Walker, Chris Dawson, Brad Pettit, Lynn & Susie Mercer, Sue Johnson, Dolly Shelton, Andrew Obst, Eric Walker, and Dana Spitler.

MISSIONARIES: Jonathan & Michelle Voge & Family

ST JOHN FAMILY: Linda Paulus, Melissa Collins, Paul Beneke, Lynn Voge, Paula Schiml, Bill Dafler, Butch Spitler.

SHUT-INS: Catherine Dafler, Marna Beneke, Janet Ferguson.

It's Ronald McDonald House Pantry Partner Time! Would you consider continuing to support RMHC by helping to stock the shelves again in 2024? Below is a list of needed items. Please have your items in by October 20!

Disinfectant wipes	Boxed mac-n-cheese
Laundry detergent	Canned chicken
Canned soup	Crystal Light or generic drink mix
Hot Chocolate	
Individual fruit snacks	Granola bars
Poptarts	Ramen Noodles
Individual cereals	Ravioli
Swiffer wet jet cleaning liquid	Baggies
Individual chips, pretzels, crackers	Plastic wrap
Cheese & peanut butter crackers	Paper towels
	Plastic spoons & forks



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Lucas Erbaugh 10/1

Jim Robsion 10/25

Laura Metz 10/27

Betty Peters 10/29

The next Fellowship Dinner hosted by our friends from St. Andrew's in Farmersville will be on October 23, 6:30 pm at The Village Inn, Farmersville. Please let Chris know if you would like to attend so you can be included in the reservation count. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors to join in the food, fun, and friendship!

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN MEETING MINUTES

The September meeting for the Women of St. John was held on Sept. 12 with 10 members present. Janette presented the topic "Fall Holidays and Their Biblical Meanings".

Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer reported an August ending balance of \$781.45. Kathy reported 16 cards were sent. Carolyn reported Women's Council will meet this month.

Stephanie reported the Ice Cream Social made a profit of \$1,800 which will go to the disaster relief fund. She also stated that we will not need to give to the lunch program at Twin Valley South this year as all student are receiving free lunches this year. Janette stated they will still need snacks same as last year.

We were reminded that items for the Ronald McDonald House must be in by October 20.

The homeless meal this month will be provided by Kathy and Earla.

Meeting closed with the Missionary Benediction.

Refreshments were served by LaVerne and Darlene.

The Women of St. John meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. All women are welcome to attend!



THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TWO DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE AND TWO KEY POSITIONS OPEN, TREASURER AND VICE PRESIDENT. THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT AND GROWTH OF MINISTRIES THE WOMEN'S GROUP SUPPORTS. INTERESTED MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STEP FORWARD AND REACH OUT TO JUDY ERBAUGH TO EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST AND DISCUSS THE ROLES FURTHER.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Church Council minutes from September 11, 2024

Present: Pr. Bill, June Souleyrette, Fred Boebel, Steve Dafler, Mark McKinley, Janette Hittle, Lorey Collins, and Stephanie Cotterman

Pr. Bill had devotions.

Minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER: July/August filed. It was decided that Benevolence money would be divided as follows: Half to LCMC and NALC; then the balance divided equally to 3 charities on a rotating basis. The charities are The HIT Foundation, Women's Shelter, Birthright, NALC Shared Ministries and NALC Disaster.

Memorial Fund monies in the amount of \$8,435.27 will be transferred to Window Fund. (moved/seconded June/Janette) passed unanimously.

PROPERTY

New Doors have been installed. There was some discussion that they needed further finishing.

It was brought to council attention that the front doors to church sanctuary are in need of refinishing. PB and June will check it out and see if it can be done by members. PB offered to do the sanding and June and others can stain. We need to find out if anyone has addressed the soffit situation.

OLD BUSINESS

Ice Cream Social profit sent to NALC Disaster was \$1,839. Since Thrivent paid for the ice cream, the leftover will be served on Sundays and sold for \$2/qt. A St. Andrew member attended and asked about renting our ice cream freezer unit that we dip out of. After much discussion, it was decided it was too risky due to damage risk during transportation.

Stained Glass – proposal and deposit of \$11,600 was sent to the company doing the restoration, leaving a balance of \$105,000 due on completion. It will be done in 3 phases, with each phase taking approximately 6 weeks. This will start after Easter '25. It was suggested that we take \$90,000 out of our Ameriprise account and put into CD's to go toward the windows. Fred will look into the feasibility of doing this.

Pastor's Report – PB attended Lutheran Family Reunion at Grace, Bible Study coming up soon, made member visits, and is getting to know our members, building relationships.

NEW BUSINESS

New tables were brought up, with the desire to get lighter tables that are easier to handle. June will check with Salem as to where they got theirs.

After much discussion, the proposed budget for 2025 was approved (move/seconded; Janette/Mark) passed unanimously. The budget will be presented at our Annual Meeting on November 10 along with reports from various groups. Janette, Fred, and Melissa are going off council. Janette and Fred have graciously agreed to serve another term.

New T-shirts/polo shirts with St. John on them was brought up as it has been a while since we got them. June will check with her granddaughter to see if she can do this and get us a price.

The Success Program was explained. Since the school has free breakfast and lunch we are not donating to that Program. Janette would still like to see us provide snack items for the little ones who eat late and get hungry before their lunch.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Thank You, Stephanie, for taking down the minutes for September in my absence! CI

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CA-Lorey C. AG-Earla D.	Ushers-Scott H. and Mark M.	1 Bible Study 6:30 pm	2	3	4	5
6 M-Mandy A. LR-Mark M. 20 Pentecost Holy Communion	7 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	8 Bible Study 6:30 pm	9	10 Women of St. John 7:00 pm	11	12
13 M-Jenny D. LR-Barbara S. 21 Pentecost Healing	14 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	15 Bible Study 6:30 pm	16 Worship & Music Committee 6:30 pm	17	18 Stephen's Ministry 6-8:00pm	19 Sleep Mat Project 9-11:00 am
20 M-Carol M. LR-Chris I. 22 Pentecost Holy Communion	21 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	22 No Bible Study	23 Fellowship at Village Inn 6:30 pm	24	25	26 Trunk or Treat
27 M-Mandy A. LR- Janette H. Healing	28 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	29 Bible Study 6:30 pm Homeless Meal Laverne & Chris 6:00 pm	30	31		
Pantry Deadline	Newsletter Deadline					
Reformation						