

THE EPISTLE

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church

September 2017

St John Cemetery

“Ashland’s Eternity Acres” states: St. John Cemetery is a triangular, two acre former churchyard on the West side of St. 179 at its junction with County Round 91 (now Co. Rd. 2575). About 1840 an Evangelical church was erected on this site, with a congregation predominantly German. In the course of time the church declined, and by 1900 the building was moved from the site. The Northern side of the cemetery is a slope crowned by a wooded ridge, it approaches weed grown and neglected. The South side, in contrast, seems a recent addition. Actually, it was lately improved by persons who hoped thereby to create sentiment in favor of a perpetual endowment. These hopes were not realized, and the historic old markers of the North section still sag over the sunken, weed-covered graves. Only the natural beauty of the countryside, and especially the background of trees, keeps this spot from being an eyesore. The cemetery is the burial place of the Kaylor family, pioneer settlers of the region known as Kaylor’s Ridge, near Loudonville. Among others buried here are the Kantzer, Fulmer, Bernhard, Kick, and Rheinhart families, all of whom came from France and Germany between 1825 and 1850. Christian Sprang, who served under Napoleon, is buried at St. John; and high among the rocks and brambles of the North ridge are the remains of the feuding Chessrown family, whose six brothers in 1888 fought each other and the law for the estate of their mentally broken father.

St. John’s Cemetery was originally read between 1936 and 1941 by the Sarah Opus Chapter of the D.A.R. Their original work appeared in the 1979 reprint of the ASHLAND COUNTY CEMETERY BOOK. During 1985 it was noted that St. John’s Cemetery had been partially vandalized, with some stones broken and tossed at the edge of the cemetery. Despite this vandalism the cemetery is now well cared for. During December of 1985 it was noted that St. John’s Cemetery Hazel Sigler, her grand-daughter and Esther Harris re-read this cemetery as follows—starting at the West side next to the creek bed.

Note: Lake Twp. Trustees have been in charge of the cemetery for many decades.

Dear St. John Family,

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life . . . And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?” Matthew 6:25-27

Oh, Jesus, if only it were that easy. I’m reading a book about anxiety in the church right now and I was struck by the root of the word. It comes from the Greek *ananke* meaning “throat” or to press together.” It is also related to the Latin word *angere* which means “to choke or strangle” and our own “angina” which describes the tight sensation in the chest that accompanies dread. Anxiety is uncomfortable we don’t like and we often do anything we can to ease it.

We all know this, but we live in a world that encourages it. The cable news and the internet rely on our anxiety. Their headlines are built to make us worry about something, “after this break we will tell you what household product might kill you,” or “click here to learn why you should never eat this food you thought was healthy.” It is usually common sense stuff and hardly ever as bad as we feared, but they have to keep us worried so we stay through the commercial or click through their advertisements.

A life lived in constant anxiety is not helpful. We know that it leads to health issues, it can make us act before we have time to think. We can hurt those around us by trying to protect ourselves against some perceived threat. Anxiety keeps us from trying new and creative solutions and it makes us doubt our own abilities and sometimes our own worth.

We recently took the kids to see the movie “Nut Job 2.” There is a lot of drama, since that makes for more dramatic resolution. Every times something happens, little or big, there is a little mouse who announces, “We’re all gonna die.” Even the people of God live like this sometime. It has been true since God lead the people out of slavery and into the wilderness. Every time the food ran out, the water got short, Moses left their side, the people acted like, “We’re all gonna die!” It led them to make very bad choices (consider the golden calf incident.)

A life lived in worry is also the opposite of what God wants for us. Not because it expresses some moral failing on our part, but because God wants better for us. God has promised to walk with us and care for us. This does not mean that we go back to bed and wait for God to solve all of our problems, we are certainly called to live our lives fully. It means that we expect to provide us further opportunities, more options, if not complete solutions.

A life lived in God’s care means that we don’t have to yell “we’re all gonna die” when a scary thing happens, or even a positive thing that means our world might change. Because we know that God cares for the sparrow and even more so than us, we know that God will be in the new things too.

There is no way to insulate ourselves from anxiety, it is simply a part of living life. We can’t see the future, we don’t know what will happen next. But when our world starts to close a little, we can take a deep breath and know that God is in the future unknown, just as God held our pasts and all those who have come before us.

Blessings,

Pastor Angel

P.S. I want to acknowledge that chronic anxiety can be a serious mental health issue that can be greatly mitigated by therapy and medication. I would encourage and support anyone who might suffer from it to talk to their doctor or see me for a referral.

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 10th. We will not have a traditional worship service. Instead, we will meet in the community to offer God our hands to help our neighbor. Please see the sign-up in the narthex for opportunities or contact Pastor Angel for more information.

Potluck with the Bishop

The people of Zion Lutheran Church in Loudonville have invited us to a potluck on Sunday, September 10, 11:30am. Bishop Allende will be sharing information on how benevolence dollars benefit others in a wide variety of areas. Anyone interested is welcome!

St. John on the Radio

You can tune in to WZLP FM95.7 in the Loudonville area or livestream on wzlpradio.com anywhere in the world. St. John airs on Fridays at 2pm.

2017 Council Members
 President – Dean Slates
 Vice President – Barb Landis
 Secretary – Linda Fisher
 Treasurer – Carol Endslow
 Deacons – Karla Abele, Sharon Snyder, Nathan Winkleman
 Elders – Patty Spreng, Melissa Puster
 Trustees- Jared Sigler, Dave Garver, Mike Baldner

The council meets at 7pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month. If you have something to bring before council you are very welcome to come to any meeting. Let Dean know that you have a topic and he will put it on the agenda. All guests will be allowed to speak first and then may leave or stay for the rest of the business. If you have questions or concerns but cannot make it to a meeting, please see any of the members listed above or Pastor Angel.

WELCA NEWS

St. John Unit, WELCA will meet on Thursday, Sept.7 at 7 p.m. Pat Winkleman will have devotions. The Bible Study titled "We Believe in God" will be presented by Elaine Burgett. All women of the church are invited to attend.

CROP Walk

The Ashland CROP Walk will be held Sunday, October 1st. We will have a second offering on September 17th and 24th as a chance for people to give to this valuable hunger ministry. Helping Hand Food pantry in Loudonville receives a portion of the local proceeds!



Serving this Month

Please share your gifts with our community during worship!
 You can sign up in the narthex or email Pastor Angel

We need people to fulfill all of the worship leadership opportunities this month! Assisting Minister Lectors Communion Servers
 Kids to bring forward the bread and wine Children's Sermon



October

- 1 CROP Walk—Ashland, 2:00 PM
- 3-7 Loudonville Free Street Fair
- 3-7 World Dairy Expo - Madison, Wisconsin
- 9 Columbus Day Holiday observed
- 12-14 Rostered Women's Ministries Retreat at Lutheran Camp Memorial
- 14 Capital Campaign Kick-Off Event
- 15 Sunday School meeting
- 24 Mutual Ministries Committee 6:00 PM St.John's Council 7:00 PM
- 28 Craft Fair
- 29 Reformation Sunday
- 31 Halloween
- 31-16 Nov. North American International Livestock Exposition Louisville, Kentucky



November

- 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends ... turn back clocks All Saints Sunday
- 7 National Election Day
- 10 Veterans Day Holiday observed
- 11 Veterans Day Holiday
- 19 Thanksgiving Sunday St.John's Thanksgiving Dinner
- 23 Thanksgiving Day observed
- 25 Ohio State – Michigan Football Game Ann Arbor, Michigan
- 26 Christ the King Sunday
- 27-3 Dec. Ohio Deer Gun Season
- 28 Mutual Ministries Committee 6:00 PM St.John's Council 7:00 PM

Excitement is mounting as the Capital Campaign ***Building our Future to Expand God's Work*** Committee has been planning for the financing the first phase of our building project! There are two separate events that will be happening in October.

October 14 we are having our Kick-Off Campaign Celebration for the Community. Get out your dancing shoes as this will be a Hog Roast and Square Dance to be held at the church on Saturday Oct. 14. The food will begin to be served at 5:00 and the square dance will begin at 6:30. We will be setting up a tent in the parking lot and have alternate parking planned. Invite your friends and neighbors to this party!!! Barry Joliff will be calling our square dance.

Funds will be collected from community businesses members that chose to sponsor this event and they will receive advertising because of their sponsorship. A donation box will also be available for folks who attend and wish to contribute something. We are getting many items needed donated. So far a big thank you goes to Kim and Linda McCullough for the hog (which will come roasted ☺), Loudonville Lions for the tent, and Lakeville Fire Department for lighting.

What can I do to help with the Kick-Off Campaign Celebration?

Pray for the event and the committee

Speak to folks you do business with, or know in our greater community and ask them for a sponsorship. Attached to this newsletter you will find a sponsorship letter that you can take to them or mail as you discuss this opportunity with them. All sponsorships contributions will be recognized that evening. As you can see by the letter-if they chose to be an event sponsor there are more opportunities for advertising.

Volunteer to help that evening. To name a few we will need help with set-up, tear down, food donations, serving and clearing and other opportunities. Contact the Kick-Off committee Patty Spreng, Barb Landis or Linda McCullough for opportunities.

The second Capital Campaign event that will be happening in October is a mailing from the Wayne County Community Foundation. This mailing will be for members of St. John's congregation and folks that have been touched through the years by St. John's ministry. As you know we have been working with the Wayne County Community Foundation. The funds that we have collected so far toward our building project are invested at the foundation. Our money is invested along with the money of over 400 other funds that are managed by the foundation. This past yearly interest was 11.5%. Our current balance with them for our capital fund is \$34,888.78. As you know our goal phase 1 is \$350,000.

The mailing will be for individuals to indicate their planned financial support for our building project over time. Responses will be mailed back directly to the Foundation. You will be hearing more about this important mailing in the future.

What can I do to help with the Wayne County Community Foundation Mailing on behalf of St. John Capital Fund?

Pray for the building project

Please email or give addresses of extended family, friends and others who have benefited from St. John ministry to Pastor Angel. The Wayne County Community Foundation will mail out 500 letters at no expense to St. John. The mailing will be to members and those with connections to St. John Church.

If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns about activities of the Capital Campaign Committee-please contact any member. Members are; Ann Obrecht, chairman, Kim Derr, Betty Hall, Jacklyn Endsloew, John Messner, Fran Puster, Patty Spreng

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Allison Fleming	2 Debbie Garver
3 Terry & Bea Murphy	4 Lauren Mosher Riley & Maya Spencer Scott & Christina Fisher Labor Day	5 Keith & Heather Reutter Mike & Rachell McIntire	6	7 Jenny Fisher JoAnn & Scott Lorentz Jodie Reutter	8	9 Richard & Pat Winkleman Craft Day Wayne County Fair
10 Mike Mosher God's Work Our Hands – No Regular Worship Zion Lutheran Potluck Wayne County Fair	11 Bob Burgett Wayne County Fair	12 David Pennington Dave Lackey Pastor Angel at conference in Texas Wayne County Fair	13 Pastor Angel at conference in Texas Wayne County Fair	14 Pastor Angel at conference in Texas Wayne County Fair	15	16 Matt Young Music Benefit 7:00pm
17 Keith & Jacklyn Endslow Sunday School Kick-Off CROP Walk special offering Ashland County Fair	18 Ashland County Fair	19 Ohio State Farm Science Review Ashland County Fair	20 Jon Erbacher & Caitlin McHugh Ohio State Farm Science Review Ashland County Fair	21 Ohio State Farm Science Review Ashland County Fair	22 Katie Foxx Autumn Begins Ashland County Fair	23 Jane Sheaffer Auction fundraiser food stand Ashland County Fair
24 CROP Walk special offering	25 Jennifer Rahde Carol Slates Ann Obrecht	26 Mutual Ministries Committee 6pm Church Council 7pm	27	28	29	30

**St. John Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

46 Ashland County Road 2575
Lakeville, Ohio 44638

Great ministry happens at St. John. Our worship is energized with the gift of the Holy Spirit and much musical talent, our Sunday school is enlivened by a sense of community where people, young and old, are encouraged to dig deeply into God's word, and all of our gatherings are blessed with abundant and delicious food.

Even more importantly, the people of St. John take very seriously, God's call to serve each other and their

neighbors. They generously give of their time, talents and money to support their whole community. When people here at St. John talk about what they love most about their congregation the most common answer is "it's home." This comes from lifelong members and those who have just recently started to worship with us!

