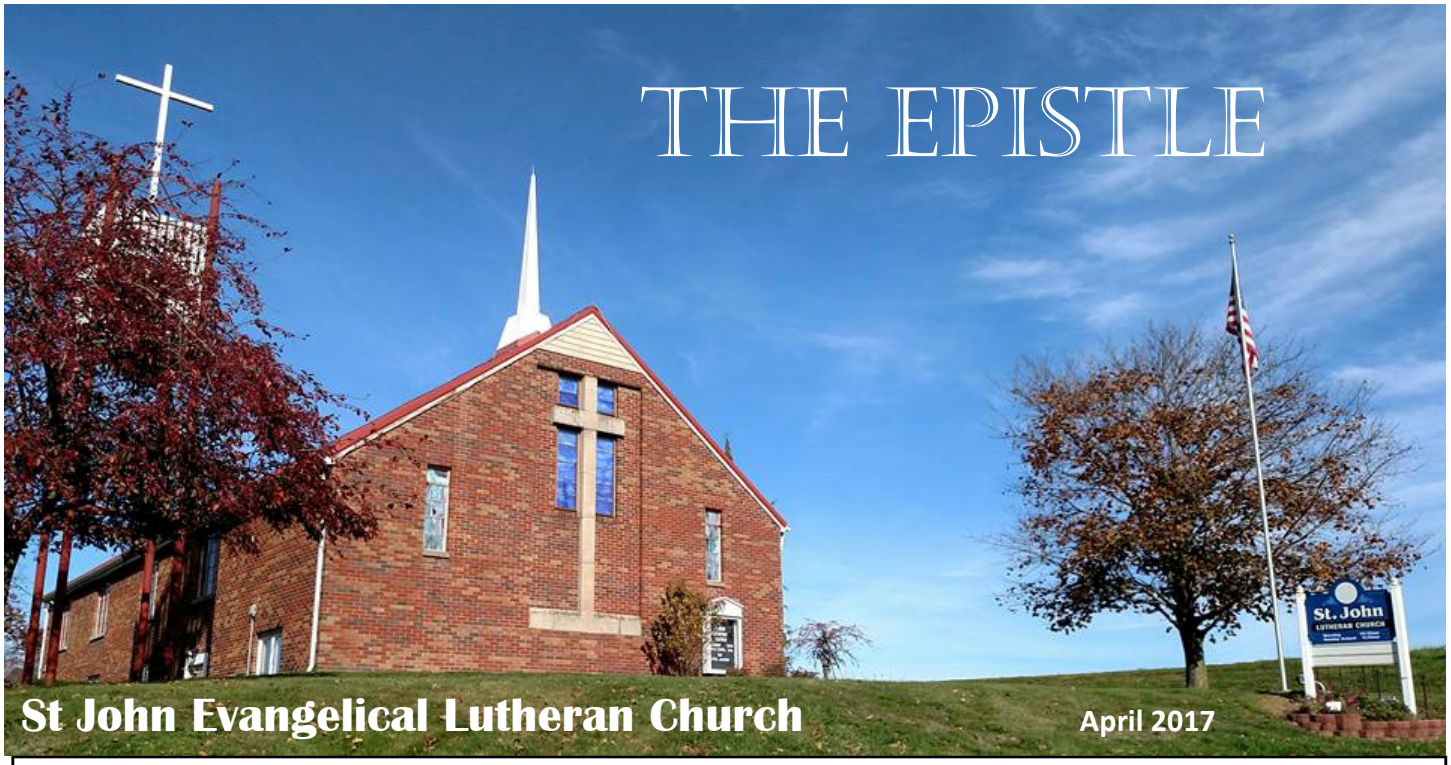

THE EPISTLE

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church **April 2017**

Dear St. John Family,

If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14

A few weeks ago I was chatting with a pastor friend about the upcoming Holy Week. She mentioned that the Good Friday and Easter Sunday sermons were some of the hardest for her to write. I must have had a quizzical look on my face, I mean these occasions are filled with Good News. She went on to explain that we preach death and resurrection every week, how are these days different.

This is true! Every Sunday is considered a mini-Easter, when we celebrate this event. Our God is a God of death and resurrection. God is in the business of bring life out of death, over and over and over again!

Maybe the reason it is hard to write a sermon about death and resurrection during Holy Week is that the texts preach themselves, they need very little interpretation. He was dead and now he is alive! Alleluia! We can see the signs of new life in creation during this time of year. The sun shines more often and it seems like everything around us is growing.

It is harder the rest of the year, when the days are longer and life gets hard. It is hard when friends, or family or we ourselves are sick, when we face our own mortality. It is hard when we watch the news, when we are lonely and scared, when we are in the midst of broken relationships. It is hard simply when things are changing and we realize they will never be like they used to, that we can't go back. At these times, it feels like death will have the last word.

Yet, God is there, in those times. God is still in the business of bringing resurrection, during the rest of the year! God brings love, beauty, possibility: indeed, new life in the midst of the hardest days. We know for certain that God has also promised that when finally we die, we will be raised to new life, just as Christ was!

So, let us remember Jesus death and celebrate his resurrection with joy this month! But also, let us treasure that glimpse of resurrection in our heart, let us remember what it looks like. Then we can go out into the world, into our everyday life, where death seems all too prevalent, and see the resurrection God is bring all around us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agape Feast

Join us for an informal Maundy Thursday worship in the basement at 6pm on April 13th. After a brief communion service we will share in a potluck meal! Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend, or email Pastor Angel, so we can get a rough count for table set-up. There are also opportunities to sign up to provide drink and clean-up! We think of this as a community service, so please feel free to invite friends!

Easter Vigil

This year we will join an ancient tradition of having an Easter vigil. We will meet in the pavilion at 7pm and light the new fire. In the basement we will hear Old Testament stories that trace God's plan of salvation throughout history and sings songs of celebration. Upstairs we will give thanks for our baptism. We will finish outside with s'mores! This service will be a joyful celebration with lots of participation, perfect for kids!

WELCA

St. John Unit, WELCA will meet on Thursday, Apil 6 at 7 p.m. Rebecca Mosher will have devotions. Ruth Mosher will lead the Bible Study on the topic "For Freedom Christ has set us Free."

THANK YOU!

A special thank you from the Altar Committee for all who signed up for Easter plants for the altar for Easter Sunday. Payment is to be made to Elaine Burgett. As you take home the plant(s) you purchased the initial signup sheet will be available. Plants may be taken home anytime following Easter services. If you want to bring other flowering plants in for the altar those will also be so much appreciated.

Building Committee Report

The building committee presented a proposed building project to the church council. Council voted to present this proposal to the congregation. The building presentation will take place during Sunday morning worship on April 30th. During the next three weeks there will be cottage meetings scheduled for the three weeks after the presentation where people can ask questions of the building committee. There will be a vote held on the building project at a special congregational meeting on May 21st, directly after church.

Bake Sale

St. John has once again been invited to have a bake sale booth at Out on a Limb on Route 3 on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28. So fire up the oven and get ready to bake!

Community Garage Sale

A community wide garage sale is being planned for the morning of Saturday, June 3rd. Anyone in the area can participate and we will add their house to a community map. There will be a garage sale at the church where people can donate items to be sold with the proceeds going to the youth fund. Please keep this in mind while you do spring cleaning and consider saving things for our sale!

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.

Sunday School

If you haven't tried Sunday school or have gotten out of the habit, Easter is the prefect season to dive back in! Also, if you come a little early for church, feel free to come into the sanctuary and join Wink's class!

Serving this Month

Lectors
April 2nd Barb Landis

Children's sermon
23rd and 30th are open

Communion Servers
All Sundays open

Assisting Minister Vaughn Puster

Bringing forward the Bread and Wine
April 2nd Hannah and Barb
April 16th Natalie and Barb
April 23 Callihan and Kristy
April 30 Noah and Kevin

April

2 Lenten Service, Mohicanville CC

5 NEO ELCA Lenten Prayer List
St. John Lutheran Church, Lakeville

8 Craft Day

9 Palm Sunday

13 Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at 6pm

14 Good Friday service at 7pm

15 Easter Vigil service at 7pm

16 Sunrise Service at 8:00 AM
Breakfast at 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:20
Worship 10:30
Easter Egg hunt to follow

20 WOW Bible Study

22 Earth Day

25 Pastor Parish Relations Committee 6:00 PM
St.John's Council 7:00 PM

27 WOW Bible Study

May

7 Lakeville Fire Department Chicken Dinner

10 Mother-Daughter Banquet

11 WOW Bible Study

13 Craft Day

14 Mother's Day Breakfast

21 Rogation Sunday-Blessing the Fields and Tractors, Sunday School Meeting after church

23 Pastor Parish Relations Committee 6:00 PM
St.John's Council 7:00 PM

25 Ascension Day WOW Bible Study

27 West Holmes HS Graduation

28 Triway HS Graduation
Memorial Day Service at Fairview

June

3 Relay for Life in Ashland
McZena Community Garage Sale

4 Pentecost - Confirmation
Loudonville HS Graduation
Hillsdale HS Graduation

8 WOW Bible Study

9-10 NEO Synod Assembly at John S. Knight Center,
NEO Synod Summer LYO Lock-In

10 Craft Day

11 Holy Trinity Sunday <u>Worship in the Pavilion</u>

14 Flag Day

17 AED Pie Auction

18 Father's Day Breakfast

19, 20, 21 Vacation Bible School

21 Summer Begins

27 Pastor Parish Relations Committee 6:00 PM
St.John's Council 7:00 PM

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Luke Scarberry
2 Lenten Service, Mohicanville CC	3 Linda Mosher	4	5 Jodi and Tom McDonnell NEO ELCA Lenten Prayer List	6 Pat Winkleman	7	8 Craft Day
9 Palm Sunday	10 Kim McCullough	11 Anna Puster	12	13 Maundy Thursday Agape Feast at 6pm	14 Good Friday service at 7pm	15 Easter Vigil service at 7pm
16 Paul Sigler Sunrise Service at 8am Breakfast at 8:30 am Sunday School 9:20 Worship 10:30 Easter Egg hunt to follow	17	18	19	20 Ruth Mosher Dustin Taylor WOW Bible Study	21 Randy Shiver Rick & Linda Catrone	22 Earth Day
23 Mindee Fisher	24 Carolann Puster	25 Lee Sigler Pastor Parish Relations Committee 6:00 PM St.John's Council 7:00 PM	26 Derek Reutter Gary & Sharon Snyder	27 Kathy Reynolds WOW Bible Study	28	29

Easter Word Search

P I E R C E D S
I A S L R U R P
E C S A S A T K
C N E S C I B L
E P D W O R N B
S N Q F Z V I Y
O O S L S O E F
K Z O U K H J R C Y J F I N E H Y K R I E K A U Q H T R A E
D R O B E Q B T J T O S T D O Y U V X X C L Z S E V E I H T
E T H R E E D A Y S S I C L K F I H O V I E J C F A G W A N
A P O S T L E S S D E L E O U L G N O I X I F I C U R C N U
T N J T N Y Q V Y C P V R T I C R O W N O F T H O R N S T V
H I G H P R I E S T H E R F V G J U D A S I S C A R I O T I
R U V B C Y L U
R S K P S T P C
B E T R A Y A L
Q R T Q O S E F
T D V S N X N G
F O R A A H E O
N B M I K E R L
V O O B I B Y G
R P V I N W C O
Q D R T G V F T
D M J J C F O H
B L O O D E N A
C B X V L S O J
I S G P L E M E
S R M I T T I S
A E A A X S S U
T N L V T H Y S
P I G O C R S C
P U N E A V R H
D E U V L O E R
M A L N G S I I
T A R A C C D S
C I R K M M L T
V R Z Y N B O Y
R Y O R E E S G
K I C S Y D S G
P N H N S Q E S

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST
JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB

MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS
SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB

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!