

# Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word, preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.

We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.

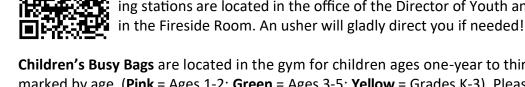
# Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship the Lord together. We hope you feel God's love in a refreshing way. Please let one of our ushers know you're new (they may have already noticed your new face!) so they can give you a welcome bag filled with helpful information about our church. We also invite you to fill out a quick survey so we can get to know you a little better. Simply scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera while you're waiting for worship to start!



### **Nursery Care/Diaper Changing Stations**

Nursery Care is offered during our 10:30AM service for children ages four months through preschool in the Fireside Room just off the gym. Parents can register children for Nursery Care online at www.stjohnsarchbold.org/nursery or by scanning the QR code to the left before checking into the nursery for the first time. Diaper changing stations are located in the office of the Director of Youth and Young Adults and



**Children's Busy Bags** are located in the gym for children ages one-year to third grade. Bags are marked by age (**Pink** = Ages 1-2; **Green** = Ages 3-5; **Yellow** = Grades K-3). Please be sure to return bags at the end of our service today. If you would like to mark a bag specifically for your child (ren) each week, please contact the church office.

#### Give & Take Board

Do you need a little peace in your day? Confidence? What about self-control? Are you in need of a spiritual pick-me-up? Could you use a quick bit of kindness after a long week? Or do you have these things to spare? Then stop by the Give and Take Board outside of the Preschool Room! Give what you can and take what you need. You just might feel or fill someone's heart with the love of God and make their week brighter!

Large Print Bulletins are available at a table in the chapel narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "loop system" switch position.

Let's Connect!







#### **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!**

Enter to Worship God in the Fellowship of Others

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise." (Psalm 100:4)

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

"To the Glory of God, and for the Calling of the Faithful to Worship." (Inscribed on the Bells)

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 5

Prelude "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

"A time of centering our thoughts on our worship of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

† (8:00) Hymns of Praise

pg. 6, "The Joy of the Lord"

pg. 7, "Little Is Much When God is in It"

† (10:30) Hymns of Praise

"Come Unto Jesus"

"In Christ Alone"

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Special Music

Jim McCurdy & Mike McRobbie

"Harvest Time"

**Scripture Reading** 

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

† Sermon Hymn

pg. 8, "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Sermon

"Seek Righteousness"

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Close to Thee"

Second Offering for Our Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign

† (8:00) Closing Hymn

pg. 9, "Seek Ye First"

† (10:30) Closing Hymn

"Shine Jesus Shine"

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

pg. 10, v.1, "Freely, Freely"

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalm 5:1-12 Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. <sup>2</sup> Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. <sup>3</sup> In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. <sup>4</sup> You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. <sup>5</sup> The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. <sup>6</sup> You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors. <sup>7</sup> But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple. <sup>8</sup> Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies -make straight your way before me. <sup>9</sup> Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with destruction. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongue they speak deceit. <sup>10</sup> Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall. Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you. <sup>11</sup> But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. <sup>12</sup> For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup> "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' <sup>29</sup> "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

**Matthew 13:36-43** Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. <sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup> They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

### SERMON NOTES: "SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS"

#### Parable – a comparison or illustration

- Jesus shared illustrative stories drawn from human life and nature
- There are almost forty parables of Jesus in Matthew, Mark and Luke
- The parables made use of illustrations the Galileans would have known

#### The Parable of the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)

- A practical parable, One of five parables Jesus shared from Matthew 13
- ◆ The purpose "The kingdom of heaven is like..."
- ♦ Roles and Elements:
  - ♦ A man, the owner
  - ♦ An enemy
  - ♦ Field
  - Good seed
  - ♦ Weeds
  - ♦ Servants
  - ♦ Harvest/Harvesters

#### The Parable of the Weeds Explained (Matthew 13:26-43)

- Jesus left the crowd, his disciples asked for an explanation of the parable
- ◆ Explanation:
  - ♦ The man, the sower the Son of Man (Jesus)
  - ♦ The field the world
  - ♦ Good seed the sons, people, of the kingdom

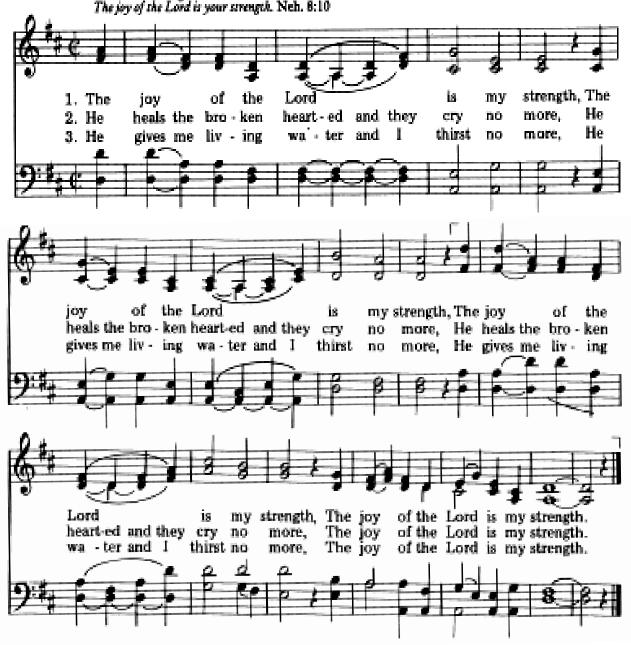
  - ♦ Enemy the devil
  - ♦ Harvest end of the age
  - ♦ Harvesters angels

#### Learnings

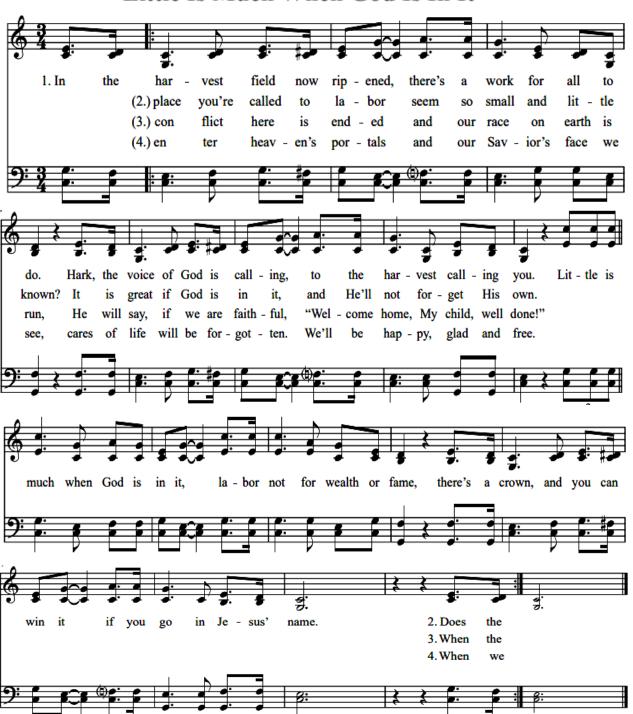
- ◆ The Son of Man sows good seed in people and the world
- A hostile, evil power exists in the world
- Two kinds of influence one to nurture, one to destroy
- Be ever on guard
- Difficult to know who is of the kingdom and who is not
- Must not be quick in our judgments of people
- ◆ Judgment comes in the end by the only one with the right to judge God

The Joy of the Lord

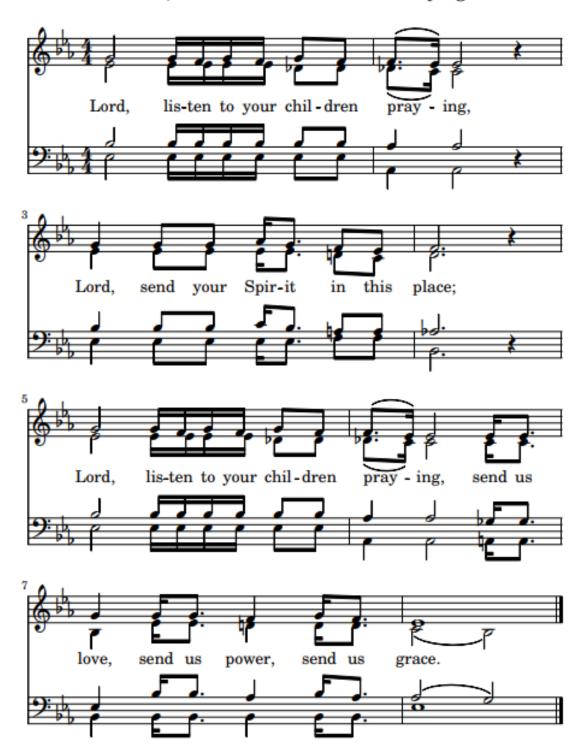
The joy of the Lord is your strength. Neh. 8:10



## Little Is Much When God Is In It

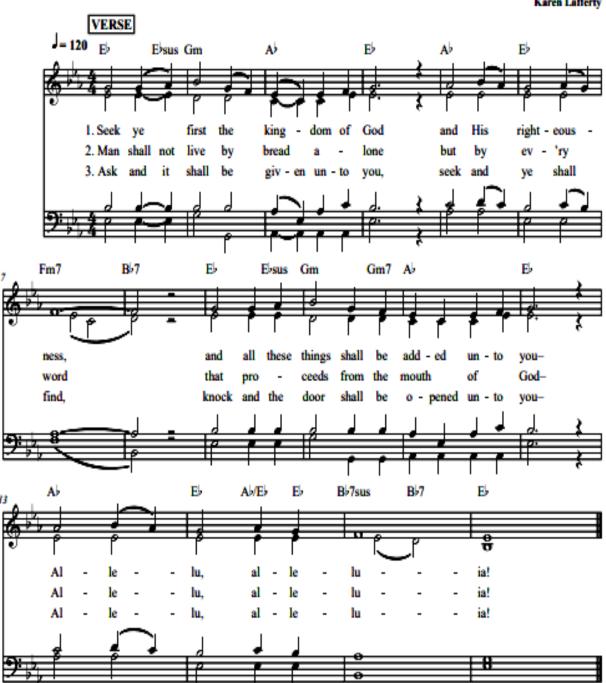


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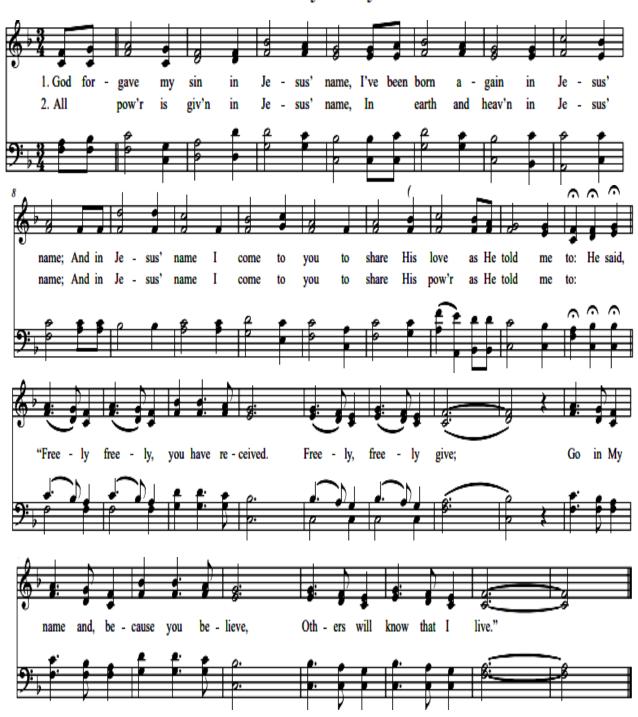


## Seek Ye First

Words and Music by Karen Lafferty



## Freely Freely



### MISSION-A-MONTH - SEPTEMBER - TOLEDO GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

During the month of September the church had the opportunity to participate personally in missions through TGRM. They provide housing, meals and assistance to the homeless in the Toledo area. Someone from the mission will be here **TODAY** to share about the difference our contribution makes, and then take the items we collected back to Toledo. To learn more about TGRM and the many services they provide, visit tgrm.org. You can financially give to TGRM by marking either line 11 or 12 of your offering envelope or by selecting "TGRM" in the "Give to" drop-down menu in Breeze's online giving feature.

### MISSION-A-MONTH - OCTOBER - LIFEWISE

October's Mission A Month is LifeWise Academy-Archbold. This program is offered to K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students during school hours and is structured as an off-campus Bible learning experience. With parental approval, K-4 students are transported once weekly to the LifeWise classroom in Archbold Evan church or 5<sup>th</sup> grade students' classroom at the Ruihley Park Scout Cabin. During their class time students learn bible stories, scripture and positive character traits and how to apply them in their daily lives. And did you know you can volunteer to help in this program? To learn more about the program and how to volunteer visit lifewise.org. To financially support this mission, mark your offering envelope M-A-M or LifeWise Academy. Please pray for LifeWise Academy as they continue to reach our children with the Gospel.

## **DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL** Below is the list of daily readings for this

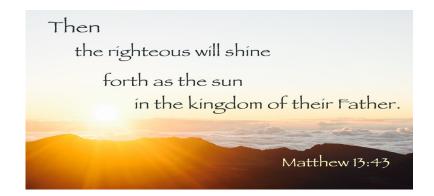
Sept 28 Penitence And Assurance	Psalm 6
Sept 29 Glory Through Humiliation	Philippians 2:5-11
Sept 30 We Work God Works	Philippians 2:12-18
Oct 01 Two Gospel Co-Workers	Philippians 2:19-30
Oct 02 Where's Your Confidence?	Philippians 3:1-11
Oct 03 Press On!	Philippians 3:12-21
Oct 04 Keep Your Focus!	Philippians 4:1-9

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Grace in Chaos: A Bible Study for Moms Calling all moms of infants thru pre-teens! We'll be starting a Bible study using the resource, "Grace in Chaos: Biblical Hope for the Hard Days of Motherhood." This is a hybrid study that will be held in a private Facebook group and will meet in person several times throughout the fall and winter during the 9:15AM Sunday school hour (location TBD). If you would like to join the discussions, please contact Jocelyn in the church office.
- Organ Recital at St. Martin's St. Martin's Lutheran Church opens its 2025–26 Concert Series TODAY, Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 3PM (203 S. Defiance Street, Archbold) with "Of Spirit, Strife, and Serenity", an organ recital by Matthew Wachtman. Matthew serves as Director of Music and Worship at St. Martin's and was recently appointed Lecturer of Organ at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Performing Arts. He is a prizewinning organist, active composer, and published scholar, recognized for his engaging recitals across the country. The program brings together music of Diemer, Rorem, Locklair, Price, Langlais, Franck, and Wachtman himself—works that embody the concert's expressive themes. Admission is free, and all are invited to help us begin a new season of inspiring music at St. Martin's.
- ◆ **Volunteer Opportunities** As we prepare to move back in the sanctuary and some of the second floor classrooms, we could use help with the following:
  - October 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9AM cleaning of the sanctuary dusting, vacuuming, mopping, returning hymnals and Bibles to the pew racks, moving new worship chairs to the front of the sanctuary, resetting altar ware and chancel items.
  - ♦ **October 11**<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9AM clearing the gym and moving some items from the storage building to second floor classrooms.
- Starting Point at SJCC Whether you're new to St. John's or simply wondering how you can further explore your calling in the church, we'd love to see you at Starting Point, a new program here at SJCC that will be held on the first Sunday of each month during the 9:15AM Education Hour! Starting Point will meet in the gym on October 5<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will give attendees a chance to meet some of our staff and leaders, learn more about who we are and why we're here, and help you discover how you can get involved and live out your own faith life. If you have any questions prior to our gatherings, please contact Pastor Erich in the church office. We look forward to seeing you!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED:**

- ◆ Community Meals are scheduled to begin again starting Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Another church was scheduled to provide the meal, but St. John's is covering for that church as their meal team leader is dealing with a serious health issue. So we will be in need of 5 to 6 volunteers to help serve the meal and 2 to 3 volunteers to help serve coffee and clear tables. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and the meal team would appreciate people signing up ahead of time. Thanks
- ◆ **SECOND Thursday Senior Luncheon Thursday, October 9**<sup>th</sup>, 11:30AM in the gym. Come on the Second Thursday for a wonderful meal and great fellowship around the table. Note week change for the month of October only.
- Worship Techs With updated and upgraded tech systems in the sanctuary, as orientation and training sessions are about to occur, it is an opportune time to join the tech team sound, video, projection and live stream. If Pastor Erich can learn the basics, it doesn't take too much knowledge or experience to get started! And we have a good group of team members who will offer continual encouragement and support after the initial training. Interested people may speak with Pastor Erich or Jocelyn Walker.
- Altar ware Volunteer We are seeking a volunteer who would be willing to work at cleaning and polishing the candlestick stands, flower stands, cross and Bible stand from the sanctuary altar. We have a recommended polish in the church office for this process. Please contact the church office if you would be willing! Thank you.
- ◆ SAVE THE DATE! Shalom's Annual BBQ Fall Fundraiser will be Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 11AM-1:30PM at Ruihley Park in Archbold. Dine in or Carry-out meals will be served with your choice of a BBQ chicken or a pulled pork meal by donation. Help us help others in need of mental health services!



# BULLETIN STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Operating Fund Year to Date Report						
202	5 Operating Budget	\$	437,965.00			
Tot	al Donations	\$	257,362.73			
Tot	al Expenses	\$	276,655.81			
Net	Operating Balance	\$	(19,293.08)			
Mission Fund Year to Date Report						
202	5 Mission Budget	\$	173,000.00			
Tot	al Donations	\$	115,317.22			
Tot	al Disbursements	\$	96,028.68			
Net	: Mission Balance	\$	19,288.54			
Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign						
2025 Project Budget			\$	2,757,000.00		
F	und Balance (EGR)	\$	968,993.13			
В	uehrer Fund Current	\$	1,744.50			
F	und Balance (F&M)	\$	79,374.06			
E	Expenses to Date	\$	1,647,115.12			
Т	otal	\$	2,697,226.81			
Fur	nds Still to be Raised		Currently	\$	59,773.19	
Fur	nds Still to be Raised		as of 2/2/25	\$	196,763.00	
Change from 2/2/25 to 9/18/2025		\$	136,989.81			

## **BUILDING PROJECT STATUS REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

#### **Building Access**

- The railings for the exterior concrete steps and landings have been installed at the south vestry door, the north gym door, the Fireside Room, and the kitchen.
- The work of replacing the concrete floor and steps of the south porch, as well as the installation of the new ramp, was pushed to September 29<sup>th</sup> due to weather.
- Once the south entrance is closed off, access to the building will be through the two
  east entrances and the Fireside Room entrance. The hope is that the new automatic
  doors at the carport will be functioning as we move worship back to the sanctuary for
  October 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### South Restrooms

 Both of the family restrooms are ready for flooring and installation of plumbing fixtures.

#### Sanctuary

- Carpet installation will begin on September 29<sup>th</sup> and we wait its completion.
- The engineer from Torrence Sound Equipment is working to finish installation and set up the system so techs can be trained on the new system.
- Volunteers are being sought to assist with a final cleaning of the sanctuary and associated rooms on October 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9AM.
- While the narthex is ready for installation of flooring to begin, there are two more ceiling lights to install and final painting to be done.
- As the narthex gets completed, the mother's room will be addressed as well.

#### Other areas:

- Elevator The elevator is scheduled for installation to begin on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ HVAC Final connections need to be completed, but most all of the ductwork is installed, wrapped and sealed. The crews are working to connect all of the thermostats throughout the building to a central computerized monitoring system.
- First Floor Rooms Bulkheads were framed on Thursday and are ready for drywall.
- Second Floor Classrooms Carpet has been laid in four of the five rooms, with two other rooms scheduled to have LVT flooring. Work in the fifth room, the Confirmation room, will begin once the elevator shaft has had drywall installed.
- ♦ The Second Floor Restroom, Custodial Room and Elevator Shaft need final framing and drywall to be accomplished.

It remains the intent of the Mel Lanzer Company to complete the entire project by Nov. 1st.

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

	Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
		8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
		9:15AM	Faith Village / Sunday School
		10:30AM	Worship (Parish Hall and YouTube Live)
`	Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
		10:30AM	Staff Meeting (Fireside Room)
	Wed	6:00PM	LOGOS (Gym) / Confirmation (Confirmation Room)
		7:00PM	JYF (Fireside Room / SYF (Youth Room)
	Thur	7:00PM	Mom's Bible Study (Bernath Home)
	Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
		8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
		9:15AM	Faith Village / Sunday School / Starting Point
		10:30AM	Worship (Parish Hall and YouTube Live)

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS**

	Accompanist	Lynne Christman
	Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman
	Worship Leader	Kim Walker
	(10:30) Easy Worship	Jenna Stuckey
	(10:30)Sound	James Grime
	(10:30) Live Stream	Cayla Swisher
	(8:00) Usher	Shawn Stuckey
	(10:30) Head Usher	Richard Spiess
	(10:30) Ushers	Peg Ehrman, Shirley Sullivan, Ken & Cathy Laub
	Nursery Assistants	Collin & Emily Walker
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## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

#### Please pray for...

- The children and youth at St. John's and the community who participate in Wednesday ministries here during the school year. Prayers are requested for a safe, fun, and faith-filled year of ministry as these young hearts grow in faith together each week.
- Jace Bernath had a scope done at Cleveland Clinic and was referred to a Sports Cardiologist and will be seen at the end of the month. He has officially been diagnosed with asthma and has seen a tremendous improvement on pulmonary testing this week by using a daily inhaler. He has begun a new medication for chest pain and discomfort and we are hopeful for improvements within the next few weeks.
- Greg and Deb Weddleman, as the latest PET scan showed improvement. Greg finished his latest chemo treatment on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> and waits three weeks for the next treatment to start.
- Charlene LaFountaine, who is in the Rupp Rehab Center for a time of therapy.
- Denise and Justin Beck, grandson of Bud & Tootie, as Denise continues through treatment of cancer, doing as well as can be expected, and still going to work regularly.
- Chloe Merillat, while doing well at college, had new scans performed last week and they await results.
- Mason, a grandson of Sharon VonDeylen, is dealing with some medical issues and saw a specialist last week.
- Josie Grieser, diagnosed with MS, continues to do well and continues to work every day. She goes to Cleveland Clinic every six months for scans and infusion treatment.

#### Care Center Residents...

- Marilyn Baron, Fulton Manor, 725 S. Shoop Ave, Wauseon 43567
- ♦ Linda Hayes, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 401, Archbold, 43502
- ♦ Charlene LaFountaine, 500 Haven Drive, Apt. 108, Archbold, 43502
- ♦ Mike Meyer, Fountain Park, 1391 N. Main St., Room 130, Bryan, 43506
- ♦ Dencel Miller, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 166, Archbold, 43502
- ♦ Josephine Short, 407 E. Lutz Road, Room 152B, Archbold, 43502
- Alice Tedrow, 600 Haven Drive, Apt. 111, Archbold, 43502

## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS CONTINUED:

#### Missions/Missionaries

M - Praising God for a successful move to a new area of the city; praise for a complete teacher's training, praying for another one that will happen in October; pray for the team's upcoming annual conference; pray for a second language assessment she has; pray for peace in the country.

#### And those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ Kyle Ducey, San Antonio, TX (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ♦ MAJ Jared Kuntz, Hawaii (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Taylor Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Shayne Pitts, Middle East (Air Force) (Grandson-in-law of Nan Neill)

#### St. John's Christian Church

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502 419-446-2545 † www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)
Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jocelyn Walker (Cell: 419-575-4218)
Director of Music Ministry - Buffy Riley (Cell: 419-572-6880)
Administrative Assistant - Gloria Beck (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)