



Good News

A PUBLICATION OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

DTR

Years ago, while taking part in a Bible study titled Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman, three letters were the topic of the day - **DTR**. There, it was discovered that these letters are an abbreviation for **Define the Relationship**. In other words, **DTR** is a challenge to define where someone is in their relationship with another person.

For example, if I were to send "**DTR**" in a text message, these letters would carry with them the ability to draw a line in the sand (which makes me thankful that cell phone technology was unavailable when I was a teenager, because I honestly don't think I would've been able to handle that kind of pressure).

DTR (Defining the Relationship) is a **big** deal. **DTR** is a big step in a relationship. **DTR** is risky...because **Defining the Relationship** can change everything.

Let me ask...if someone were to send you a **DTR** message when it comes to your relationship with our heavenly Father, how would you respond? Or maybe I should ask: *Could* you respond? Well...to be certain, mankind has attempted to respond by "defining the relationship", but since the Fall (into sin) back in the Garden, we have failed miserably.

You see...when we attempt to Define the Relationship that we have with God, we often do so with a selfish twist. We like to define things on our own terms; and, honestly, our terms are often dictated by selfish desires and pride.

If you don't believe me, just look at the evidence. How well are you at defining the relationships with those who are close to you? How are the relationships you have with your family members, your friends, your neighbors, co-workers, or your boss? When it comes to those relationships, are they always good, healthy, and strong? And, based on those relationships, do you actually believe that you could successfully define a **right** relationship with our heavenly Father?

When we look at the external evidence (including our track record when it comes to defining relationships with those around us), we've proven that if establishing a right relationship with God was

up to us, we'd be in big trouble. In fact, it makes me all the more thankful that, *when it comes to our relationship with God, it has already been defined for us.*

You see, our relationship with God has been defined (or even more-so, **redefined**) for us in and through Christ Jesus. Take a look at how St. Peter (who certainly understood what it meant to have his relationship redefined) puts it: "*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...*" ~1 Peter 3:18

Peter certainly understood that it was Jesus' perfect life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection that redefined everything for us; and this is exactly what our Baptism into Jesus is all about. In fact, Peter goes on to write: "**Baptism, which corresponds to this** (being brought safely through water), **now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.**" ~ 1 Peter 3:21-22

Baptism?!?! Absolutely! It's just as St. Paul writes when he reminds us that when we were baptized into Jesus Christ, we were baptized into *everything* that He is (**Romans 6:1-11**)...which includes grace...mercy...forgiveness...salvation...new and eternal life...and a LOVE through Jesus that cannot be rivaled. In fact, through our Baptism into Jesus Christ, our relationship with God has been completely redefined for us by a measure of love that is simply immeasurable.

DTR? Defining the Relationship? *Only* in and through Jesus! Which is why we can now boldly say with Paul that: "³⁷**In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** ³⁸**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,** ³⁹**nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" ~ Romans 8:37-39

Christ is risen! Alleluia!!!

~ Pastor Kurt

Setting Goals as God's People

For years, research and studies have revealed that many congregations who were once thriving and filled with passion for the lost discover that, somewhere along the way, they moved from being mission-minded to becoming survival-minded. It seems that a general pattern that occurs among many Christian Churches is that, in no time at all, a congregation can fall into a comfort zone – where outreach and evangelism take a back seat to budgets and buildings. Of course, it's no surprise, then, that complacency and a carefree attitude toward living a life of faith and worship coincide with this lost sense of urgency.

Years ago, while I was still preparing for pastoral ministry, I had the opportunity to witness firsthand an example of a life devoted to faithful stewardship that was driven by a passionate urgency for God's children. Pastor Elmer Scheck who I, and so many others considered a mentor, lived a life devoted to reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, Pastor Scheck would use every opportunity to find ways to share Christ with those he met because he was never satisfied with the status quo.

The same is true when it comes to the worship and faith-life of congregation members. For him, the status quo was never acceptable on this point either...and it shouldn't be for any Christ-follower. In fact, our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ should never be taken lightly, as a consistent worship life (gathering with our brothers and sisters in prayer and praise in the presence of God) helps to fan the flame within each and every one of our hearts.

This is why I don't mind sharing with all of you that I would love to see each and every one you (who are physically able to attend) each and every Sunday. As your pastor, I simply can't settle for less. And the reason? Because our Lord has revealed that there is an ongoing, daily battle with eternal implications.

This is also why we are going to continue to set our weekend worship attendance goal for May (and the months that follow) at (at least) 300 worshipers. While worship attendance continues to rise, our goal is to have at least 50% of our membership on any given Sunday (but I would in no way be offended if every one of you showed up to prove that my expectations are far too low). What a blessing that would be to all of us...and how awesome would it be if every Sunday looked like Easter Sunday and reflected the same in our worship and praise of the One who lived, died, and rose for us.

Looking forward to worshipping with you!

Pastor Kurt

Debbie Kolberg is Retiring!

On Sunday, May 5 at 10:30am, we celebrate Mrs. Debbie Kolberg's retirement after 42 years of service as an Elementary Teacher at St. John's Lutheran School. Please plan to attend as we honor Debbie for her commitment to teach the Word of God.

Thanks from God's Pantry/Social Ministry

Social Ministry would like to thank all those who so generously donated toward the Easter food baskets and to those who helped, including the students who made cards and carried boxes. God bless you all! We will be starting our annual diaper drive for Lakeshore Pregnancy Center on Mother's Day!

Unity Christian Music Festival

Unity is set for August 8-10 at Heritage Landing, Muskegon. (Day Zero on Wednesday, August 7 is free) Tenth Avenue North, Rhett Walker Band, Skillet, Sanctus Real, Switchfoot, Citizen Way, Mandisa and Matthew West are just a few of the groups that will be there! You can purchase discounted tickets (thanks to our generous donor) in the Social Hall May 1 – 31. For more info, contact Sue LaLonde at (616) 607-4209 or suelalonde@charter.net.

Ladies Aid Rummage Sale

Our Ladies Aid Rummage Sale is set for Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29. It's that time to start saving your treasures to donate to the rummage sale. Please no large appliances. Donations should be clean and in good condition and may be delivered beginning at 4:00pm on Wednesday, June 26 until 8:00pm and again on Thursday morning, June 27. Watch for further information in upcoming bulletins.

Save the date! Arnie Redeker Memorial Golf Outing to support St. John's Lutheran School is Sunday, September 15 at Pigeon Creek Golf Course!

Three Thoughtful Giving Ideas

When it comes to giving, here are some thoughts on other ways to support the ministries of St. John's.

1. Did you know that you can give a gift to our church from your IRA? The IRA gift is not a taxable withdrawal, but it is not deductible.
2. Another way to consider is giving appreciated stock to our church. With the growth of the economy and the stock market, a gift of appreciated stock to the church is deductible and avoids the capital gains tax.
3. Also, if you were fortunate to have received a tax refund, consider a tithe of your refund.

If you have questions about any of these ideas, contact Harry Schmidt at (616) 846-2648.

For more information on any of the events on our calendar, please visit www.st-johns-lutheran.com/events/church-calendar and click on the individual event. You can also visit our youth calendar at www.st-johns-lutheran.com/calendars/youth-calendar and our Day School calendar at www.st-johns-lutheran.com/events/school-calendar.

St John's Lutheran Church and School							May 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg 9:30am - Jr./Sr. BS @ Holy 9:30am - Pastor led BS 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Cont Worship	10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders	6:30am - Men's BS 8am - Faith at Home 6:30pm - Men's BS	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 7pm - Celebration Choir	6:30am - Women's BS 1pm - Ladies Aid 1:30pm - National Day of 7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off 10am - Co-Ed Softball	5pm - Worship	8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg 9:30am - Jr./Sr. BS @ Holy 9:30am - Pastor led BS 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Cont Worship 12pm - Debbie Kolberg 4pm - Girl Scout mtg	10am - Quilters 11am - Scoops fundraiser 11:30am - Recorders 7pm - All Boards	6:30am - Men's BS 6:30pm - Men's BS	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 7pm - Celebration Choir	6:30am - Women's BS 7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off	5pm - Worship
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:15am - Trad Worship 9:30am - Augsburg 9:30am - Jr./Sr. BS @ Holy 9:30am - Pastor led BS 10:30am - Cont Worship	9am - Prayer Shawl mtg 10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders 7pm - PPC	6:30am - Men's BS 6:30pm - Men's BS	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel 1pm - Church Staff mtg	6:30am - Women's BS 7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off	Washington DC class trip 5pm - Worship	Washington DC class trip May 18-25, 2019	10am - Quilters 11:30am - Recorders 7pm - Family Matters	6:30pm - Men's BS	9:30am - Ladies BS 10am - Chapel	6pm - Alyssa's baby shower 7:15pm - Praise Team	Pastor Kurt's Day Off	5pm - Worship
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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St. John's Lutheran Church & School

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

527 Taylor, Grand Haven, MI 49417

www.st-johns-lutheran.com

Church: (616) 842-4510

School: (616) 842-0260

Pastor Kurt Wenzelburger

Youth & Family Life Director Craig Kaschube

Administrator/Business Manager Laura Harvey

Early Childhood Education Director Heidi Bohn

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Worship Times:

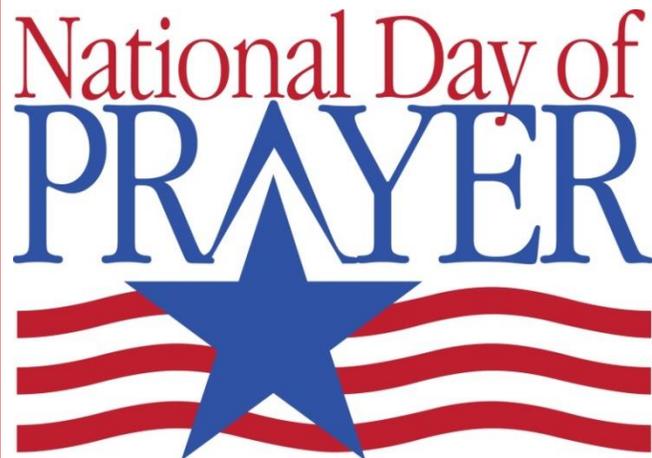
Saturdays at 5:00pm

Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30am

God's Blessings To:

Return Services Requested

You and your
family!



Join us for our
**National Day of Prayer
Service on Thursday
May 2 at 1:30pm at
St. John's
Lutheran Church**