

November 19, 2023

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Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sermon & Text: "End-Time Life – Gospel Centered" *Matthew 25:14–30*

Order of Service: *Divine Service, Setting Four LSB page 203*

Hymns: 516 ~ "How Rich the Treasure" ~ (Communion: 632, 560, 508) ~ 348

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome all who have come to worship our God with us today! Each day we live is a priceless gift from God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights into His great truths. May we be showered with those blessings as we together profess His Name today. Please fill out the Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the doors as you leave today.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS MORNING

- ✠ Renee Petzoldt, *Organist* ✠ Evelyn Szabo & Erin Damman ✠
- ✠ Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg, Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller, *Altar Guild* ✠

Thank You!

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR NIERMANN – From the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone for the event last Sunday marking my 25th anniversary as pastor at St. John. They say time flies when you're having fun, but I would modify that to say that time flies when you're being blessed, because that has certainly been the case for Bonnie and I since coming to St. John in 1998. We are so thankful for our St. John church family and for this place that we have come to call home. Thank

you to everyone who brought all that delicious food last Sunday afternoon, for all your kind words of congratulation and encouragement, and for the cards and gifts. Thank you most of all to everyone through the years who has partnered in ministry by giving of your time, talents and treasures. No pastor can serve in his office without the willing service of each member. I thank God for each and every one of you! ~Pastor Niermann

CONFIRMATION CLASS CANCELED THIS WEEK! Catechumens and their families should take note that with the Thanksgiving Eve service this Wednesday at 7:00, we will cancel confirmation class this week. We will gather again on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the regular time, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 5:00 PM	Communion Service Adult Bible Study; Sunday School LYF Meetings (both groups together)
Mon.	7:00 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	School Chapel <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group Chipotle Night Fundraiser until 8 PM (<i>see bulletin note</i>) Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	7:00 PM	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK Thanksgiving Eve Service ; Offering: <i>Henry County Christmas Cheer</i> Acolytes: <i>Zeek Kramer, Cayden Ruffer</i> Ushers: <i>Neil Badenhop, Doug Dietrich, Joe Badenhop, Nick Sonnenberg</i> Altar Guild: <i>Elaine Buenger, Deb Von Deylen, Teresa Weller</i>
Thurs.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Fri.		NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	Worship Service Children's Christmas Practice following the service; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp"

MATTERS FOR PRAYER – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling and Norma Damman*, at Genacross – Napoleon
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen, Sue Hurst, Dave Crandall, Eddie Harris*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, who broke a hip from a fall and is recovering at Fulton Manor – Wauseon
- ❖ *Elaine Hesterman*, experiencing further vision problems because of shingles
- ❖ *Robert Nemoyer*, recovering from a back procedure this past Thursday
- ❖ *Delia Blake*, for her recent diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. She was the exercise instructor here for several years and made lasting friendships with several of our members.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP – “Come, ye thankful people, come,” and “*Let us Bless the Lord!*” (*Pastor’s sermon title*). Join us this **Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 7:00** for our Thanksgiving Worship Service. As always, we encourage you to consider two offerings that evening – the regular monetary offering for Christmas Cheer, and the offering of food items for our ***Bread From Heaven Food Pantry***. Nothing says thanks to God like helping your neighbor!

POINSETTIAS – If you meant to order poinsettias but weren’t able to, there were a few extras ordered. So if you are still interested in getting one, please call Joyce at church and she can take care of you. These acknowledgements will be published in the bulletin the Sunday the poinsettias are placed in the sanctuary.

CHIPOTLE NIGHT FUNDRAISER: Come out and support this fundraiser for our school on Tues., Nov. 21st from 4-8PM. Additional flyers are available on the narthex table. Similar to the Hawk's Community Day fundraiser, you can order online or go to Chipotle in Defiance (only) and place your order. You will have to mention the "promo code **KQBXG2W**" along with our name, St. John Lutheran School. St. John will receive 33% of the event sales, so please try your best to support this event. Pass this information on to your family members, relatives, neighbors, etc. Thank you all!

JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL LYF - Both groups will be meeting today at 5:00 PM at the Youth Center. We will be having a Thanksgiving feast and signing Christmas cards for the shut-ins. There will also be game night competition! Bring a friend! Also, please note a date change for the December meeting. The meeting will be on December 10th instead of December 17th.

MY DEVOTION BOOKLETS for the next quarter, *December, January, and February*, are available on the desk in the narthex. These are nice kid-friendly for family devotions. Take time to be together and grow in your faith. Pick up a copy today!

Opportunities for Growth in Faith this week...

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS --- *A Longer Look at the Lessons*

Not all Christians are gifted in the *same* way, but all of us are gifted in *some* way, for the service of the Gospel. What matters is faithfulness in using what God has given us to do the work He would have us do.

We hope you can join us for Bible study this morning as we take a look more deeply at today's readings. Please join us for *A Longer Look at the Lessons*. The coffee is on!

THE LAMP (Youth Bible Study) is changing things up a bit this year. The Lamp will not be in session on the Sundays that the LYF meetings are being held. The devotion and topic will be done at the meeting. We want to welcome all youth and young adults to join us at the Youth Center across the road for Bible Study, snacks, games, discussions and fellowship!! Staying in God's Word is so important in this crucial time in life! Come join us!



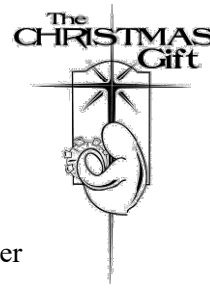
GRIEF SHARE is a grief and loss support ministry to help those dealing with grief by giving them valuable, Christian-based guidance and tips leading to healing, comfort, and peace of mind. The group is led by our member, *Nancy Nemoyer*, a commissioned Deaconess of the LCMS. It's never too late to join us.

2024 OFFERING BOXES: Offering envelope boxes will be available in early December. The financial commitments you make as well as how you contribute are between you and God. The church provides offering envelopes to our members in order to promote faithful and joyful giving as well as to serve as a means to record member contributions throughout the year for charitable tax purposes. Due to the costs of these envelope boxes, members who elect to not use their envelopes over the course of two years (*for whatever reason*) will no longer be issued a box of envelopes. If at any time a member would like to resume using envelopes, please contact Jerry Langenhop, Finance Trustee.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PLANS – The children's service comes early this year, on **Sunday, Dec. 17** (one week before Christmas Eve).

Parents, parts will be assigned this week, so if you have not yet let us know that your child will be participating, please do so right away. A sign-up list is in the narthex where you can sign them up. Or call the church tomorrow to let us know.

- Music rehearsing will begin right away at SJLS.
- **The first rehearsal and read-through will take place next Sunday.** Full rehearsals take place during the Sunday School hour on the Sundays of December (3, 10 and 17).



We are still looking for a person or team of people who can lead and direct rehearsals. Please speak with Pastor Niermann to review the script if interested.

BULLETIN STUFFER VOLUNTEERS: Want to get involved? Why not try volunteering to help with stuffing the bulletins for worship services. It's not too difficult and can be done either at church or in the comfort of your own home. The bulletins are pre-folded. We are looking for about 11-12 couples/families to sign up for this task in 2024. If you feel you would like to give this a try, please sign up on the sheet at the narthex table. You can even pick the month that works best for you. We can accommodate your busy schedules. **NOTE:** *If you have stuffed bulletins in the past year, thank you for your service. We ask that you please sign up again and choose your month. You can also call Lori Langenhop at 419-966-3472 or email her at lahop@bright.net.*

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 11/12/23	\$8,228.00	\$170.00	\$290.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 143

DECK THE HALLS! IT'S TIME TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY – The School Board will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas **a week from this Tuesday on Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m.**, and they would very much appreciate your help! Many hands do indeed make light work! We expect decorating to take approximately an hour (no more than 1½ hours), after which we will sit down together for some pizza and fellowship.



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6th – Because of the way the calendar falls this year, there has been some confusion about when Advent and our midweek services begin. **Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 3**, which puts the first midweek Advent service on the following Wednesday, Dec. 6th. Midweek services will be at 7:00 p.m.

Our midweek Advent theme this year is **“Resounding Psalms.”** “Resounding” means “reverberating,” and the Psalms definitely reverberate with good news that God comes to **RESTORE** His people (Psalm 80), **REVIVE** them (Psalm 85), and **RETURN** them to the life He always intended for them. Join us each Wednesday during Advent for these special evening worship services, as we prepare our hearts and minds for a fitting celebration of the Christ's birth!



“HERE WE COME A-CAROLING” – This year we will go a-caroling the old fashioned way, and make our way around to our shut-ins at home and in nursing care facilities to bless them with companionship and the carols of Christmas. Join us three weeks from today on Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We’ll warm up our voices and then get on the way!



Also, bring a treat or snacky item to share when we arrive back at the church. Please mark your calendar and join us for the fun. Touching the lives of our shut-ins in this simple way means the world to them! **Come a-caroling with us, and be a blessing!**

NOMINATION PROCESS – **Letters have been mailed** as the Stewardship Board begins the process of nominating individuals for the various offices of our congregation. Please keep this process in prayer, as it is often difficult to identify willing candidates. And please, if you are asked about accepting a nomination, give it prayerful thought, and consider how God may want to use you in service to His people, for the blessing of us all!

SCRIP FOR CHRISTMAS: Christmas shopping the easy way this year. Pick up a form at the narthex table and shop in the comfort of your home. Additional SCRIP order forms are available in the “School Info” rack outside the school office. Thank you and happy shopping!

ATHLETIC BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP: St. John Athletic Booster membership drive is underway. Fees remain the same as in the past with \$20 for husband/wife; \$10 for a single membership. Make checks payable to *St. John Boosters*. Forms available on the narthex table.

IT’S CHRISTMAS CHEER TIME AGAIN! Henry County Christmas Cheer is beginning its annual campaign for monetary donations ONLY for the purchase of food for low income and needy persons in Henry County. The campaign runs from now through December 3rd. If you would like to make a donation, please drop it in the container marked “Christmas Cheer” on the narthex table. **Make checks payable to Henry County Christmas Cheer.**

LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT – How You Can Help? If you have used prescription or nonprescription glasses or sunglasses in your drawers, desk, or closet, you can donate them now! Children’s glasses are especially needed. Both plastic and metal frames are accepted. There is a box under the narthex table for the collection of these used glasses.

AREA EVENTS

- ◆ **CHRISTMAS VILLAGE CRAFT SHOW** will be held at the Ridgeville Legion Hall, Sun., Dec. 3rd from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Come and browse the shops!
- ◆ **THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY** will perform a Christmas Concert at St. Paul Lutheran Church – Napoleon Township, on Wed., Dec. 13th at 7:30 PM. Tickets go on sale tomorrow (11-13) thru their church office at 419-758-3522. See flyer!
- ◆ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY** will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Twp., 16976 Co Rd Q1 on Sat., Dec. 16th at noon. See flyer by the order forms on the narthex table.

**KEEP THIS PAGE HANDY SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT
ON CHURCH EVENTS IN DECEMBER!**

(This will be updated if/when things are added)

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER – Please mark your calendars for some important events and happenings coming up at St. John next month.

- **Sunday Dec. 3, 10, 17 ♦ 10:15 a.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE REHEARSALS**
Rehearsals may last a little longer than the normal Sunday School hour, perhaps till 11:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Dec. 3 ♦ 5:00 p.m. TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING**
We'll hop in our cars and visit our shut-ins, both at home and in nursing care facilities, with the carols of Christmas. Bring a snack that you can share when we gather back at the church!
- **Wednesday Dec. 6, 13, 20 ♦ 7:00 p.m. MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES**
Our midweek Advent theme this year is "Resounding Psalms." Join us for the first three Wednesdays in December for these special evening services, as we prepare our hearts for birth of our Savior.
- **Sunday Dec. 10 ♦ 10:15 a.m. VOTERS' MEETING**
After worship, while the children are rehearsing, the voters will gather in the fellowship hall to discuss primarily the 2024 budget and the matter of seeking outside consultation for the purpose of creating a vision for ministry here at St. John.
- **Sunday Dec. 10 ♦ 2 – 5 p.m. LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY**
Please plan to attend if you are able. The theme is "Party with a Purpose." There will be snacks and treats provided. This is open to any women in the congregation. We hope to see you there!
- **Sunday Dec. 17 ♦ 5:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE**
The children will be ready to present you with a very special gift and blessing, as they lead us in the worship of our new-born Savior!
- **Sunday Dec. 24 ♦ CHRISTMAS EVE**
Regular Sunday Morning Service at 9:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Divine Service of Candlelight & Communion – 7:00 p.m.

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Food For Thought...

"Thanksgiving Day is not a good day to be my pants!"

*"And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God
for the good land he has given you." (Deut 8:10)*