

December 10, 2023

VOL. 88 NO. 50

Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181
School: 419-598-8702
Church Website: www.sjl.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sermon & Text: “Comfort in the Wilderness” *Isaiah 40:1-3*

Order of Service: Matins *LSB page 219*

Hymns: 347 ~ 344 ~ Te Deum (pg 225) ~ 349

**WELCOME
TO OUR
VISITORS**

Advent is a season of repentance and preparation for the Coming of Christ. We warmly 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. If you are a visitor, 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

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Zeek Kramer & Evelyn Szabo, *Acolytes* ✠
- ✠ Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Diane Von Deylen, Lou Ann Rosebrock, *Altar Guild* ✠

FLOWERS THIS MORNING: The flowers today are in memory of the 10th anniversary of the passing of *Norma Dietrich* on December 8, 2013. These are placed by Ron Dietrich & Family.

VOTERS’ MEETING TODAY – After worship this morning the voters will meet in the fellowship hall to discuss the business of God’s house, including: 1) discussion and adoption of the 2024 budget; 2) election of officers; 3) discussion about engaging the consultation and coaching services of the *FiveTwo Network*

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASS --- Sunday Bible study is cancelled today so that the congregation can assemble for the December Voters’ Meeting in the fellowship hall. We will resume our study next week, *Joseph – Carpenter of Steel*.

In God's House This WeekOnline church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:20AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Worship Service w/Communion following Voters' Meeting Children's Christmas Practice following the service Ladies Christmas Party (<i>until 5 pm</i>) Jr High and High School LYF Christmas Get-together
Tues.	8:35 AM 10:00AM	School Chapel <i>GriefShare</i> Support Group
Wed.	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Midweek Confirmation Class (<i>until 6:45 PM</i>) Advent Service 2 Offering: <i>Cherry Street Mission</i> Ushers: <i>Dean Badenhop, Dennis Showman, Richard Elling, Dave Von Deylen</i> Altar Guild: <i>Lou Ann Rosebrock, Diane Von Deylen</i>
Thurs.	9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Secret Santa Workshop B-ball: Gr. 4-6 Girls; 6:30 PM Gr. 4-6 Boys @ Solomon - Woodville
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM 10:30AM 5:00 PM	Communion Service Children's Christmas Practice – Full run through until 11:30AM; Adult Bible Study; "The Lamp" School Board & High School LYF sacking Christmas candy bags Children's Christmas Service (<i>see bulletin note</i>)

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, Delia Blake*, health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Marian Damman*, recuperating and healing at home from a broken hip
- ❖ *Lowell & Renee Petzoldt*, both of whom are dealing with serious health issues. Renee is currently hospitalized at the Toledo Hospital

LYF DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER – The Junior High and High School *Lutheran Youth Fellowship* groups will be gathering together at the Youth Center **today at 5:00 PM**. There will be food, cookie decorating, and gifts. We encourage you to bring a friend too!

SACKING CANDY: The School Board and High School LYF members will be assembling the Christmas sacks on Sun., Dec. 17th during the Sunday School hour in the gym.

VOLUNTEER(S) TO PICK UP POINSETTIAS – Due to Joyce being out of town on Saturday, Dec. 16th, she is looking for a volunteer to go to St. Paul Lutheran in Napoleon (Glenwood Ave.) at 10 a.m. to pick up the poinsettias that were ordered for this year. You would bring them back to St. John and can either set them around in the front of the church or leave them in the narthex. If someone is available to do this, please give Joyce a call at the church office (419-598-8961). Thank you!

LIST OF 2024 CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS: (as of today)

ELECTED: Vice Pres. – *Dean Badenhop*

Treasurer – *Cathy Gerken*; Financial Trustee – *Ryan Bostelman*

Elder – *N/A, N/A*

Stewardship Board – *Lisa Bockelman, Karen Lulfs*

Board of Education – *Linda Miller, Amy Rosebrook, vacant (add'l 1-yr term to be filled)*

Alt. Delegate Syn – *vacant, vacant*

APPOINTED Secretary – *Nicole Stier* Church Deacon – *vacant*

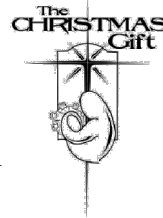
Trustee – *Dennis Showman, Kurtis Kramer*; Cemetery Sexton – *Ben Kruse*

Cemetery Board – *Michael Cohrs, Gavin Gerken, Jake Myles*

Asst. Sunday School Supt. – *vacant*

NOTE: The installation of our newly elected and appointed officers for the year 2024 will be conducted in the regular Sunday service on January 7th.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE PLANS – Parts have been assigned, and full Sunday rehearsals have begun each Sunday during the Sunday School hour.



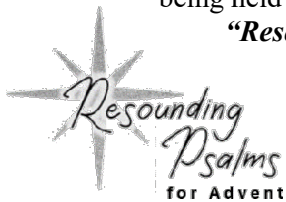
- **Parents, thank you for making the extra effort to have your children at these rehearsals.** It helps them to build confidence as they prepare to stand before the congregation on December 17 to share the good news of Christ's birth for us!
- **Please try to avoid congregating in the narthex** as the children are rehearsing – the lower noise level is a tremendous help for their rehearsals.
- **Arrival time next Sunday (Dec. 17) is 4:30 p.m.**
- **Dress Code** for the Children's Christmas Service is as follows: Girls should wear either a dress or dress pants and a blouse or sweater. Boys should wear dress pants or khakis (*no cargo pants*) and a sweater or dress shirt and tie (*optional*). No jeans, please!

ADVENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS are available on the narthex table. They are titled *What Child is This* and are provided to us through Lutheran Hour Ministries. Pick up a copy today!

SCRIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS: The last **SCRIP** order will be placed on **Wed., Dec. 13**. **SCRIP** orders will resume when school is back in session on Thurs., Jan. 4. Order forms are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to share with family and friends. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to the SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email honemann@embarqmail.com**

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES – During the season of Advent, special midweek services are being held on Wednesday evenings 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!



OFFERING BOXES AVAILABLE: With gratitude to God for the generous support of our members to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this place, the 2024 offering envelopes are available today in the narthex. If you give electronically, you will still need to pick up your offering box for the “special” services during the year, and newly confirmed members will have boxes labeled for them also. Please pick yours up, and may God prosper the work of our hands and the giving of His people! If you did not receive a box of envelopes but would like one, please contact *Jerry Langenhop* (419-966-3473).

WOMEN OF FREEDOM – The 2024 Women of Freedom program booklets are available at the narthex table. Please pick up your copy today. If for some reason the meeting you’re scheduled to serve does not work for you, please switch with someone. If you spot any errors, such as incorrect phone numbers or emails, please contact the church office.

LWML QUARTERLIES & ODE’s: Pick up the Winter issue of the LWML Quarterly and ODE in the tract rack in the narthex. All women of the congregation are welcome to take one for your reading enjoyment during the winter months.

<u>FINANCIAL FACTS:</u>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec’d 12/03/23	\$10,157.00	\$222.00	\$201.00

ATTENDANCE: Sunday – 152

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please note that there is no offering envelope in your boxes for the Children’s Christmas Service next Sunday at 5:00 PM. If you wish for your offering at that service to be recorded, use any spare Sunday envelope in your set. Regardless of which envelope you use, unless you specify otherwise on the envelope, your offering will go to the *Orphan Grain Train – Care of Maui*.



AN EASY OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT ST. JOHN SCHOOL: What if you could give more without it costing more? What if that giving helped St. John School? Learn how you can do both by contributing to the Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization (LSGO), recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS.

- The LSGO’s purpose is to raise scholarship dollars for students to attend Lutheran schools throughout Ohio, with priority given to students from low-income households.
- Contributors to the LSGO of Ohio qualify for a non-refundable tax credit for their donations; the tax credit will be able to be applied to their Ohio state income tax liability, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$750. Couples filing jointly may donate a total of \$1,500, where each person separately donates \$750.
- When you specify St. John School on your form, your entire donation will be used to benefit our students in Preschool thru Grade 8.

For more information about LSGO, please go to <https://www.lsgoohio.org/>. There are individuals in the side hallway today to help you understand LSGO better or to assist you with making your donation.

Psalm 85:1-7 [tone C]



¹LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your | people;***
you covered | all their sin.

³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,***
and put away your indignation | toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

⁶**Will you not revive | us again,***
that your people may re- | joice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SHCEDULE DURING ADVENT – During the Advent season the Wednesday confirmation class is meeting from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., dismissing in time for the midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m. In the new year, we will be back to our regular schedule once again.

USHER AND ALTAR GUILD SIGN-UP – If you are interested in serving God’s people here at St. John in a way that is much needed and appreciated, would you consider joining an usher or altar guild team? The demand on your time in either area is minimal, but the blessing of rendering service to the LORD is tremendous. We are preparing the 2024 usher and altar guild schedules so this is the time to sign-up at the table in the narthex. **The sign-up deadline is Sunday, Dec. 17th.**

ADULT CHOIR: There has been interest shown in starting up the Adult Choir again. If you’ve been pondering becoming a choir member, now is your chance. Practices will not be weekly, and the choir will only be singing at some of the special services during the church year. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table. If you were previously in choir and intend to come back, please sign-up also. You can also call the office (419-598-8961) to sign up.

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

(This will be updated as things are added)

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS – Please mark your calendars for some important events and happenings coming up at St. John this month.

- **Sunday Dec. 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.
- **Wednesday Dec. 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: 1) 2024 budget; 2) Nomination/Election of 2024 officers; and 3) 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. See the flyer in today's bulletin. Additional flyers available at the narthex table. This is open to any women in the congregation. Bring a friend! We hope to see you there!
- **Sunday Dec. 10 ♦ 5 p.m. LYF CHRISTMAS GATHERING**
Jr High and High School LYF will gather at the Youth Center sat 5 PM for food, cookie decorating, and gifts. Bring a friend!
- **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 Service of Carols & Candlelight (NO Communion) – 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday Dec. 25 ♦ CHRISTMAS DAY**
Christmas Day Divine Service and Holy Communion, the "Christ Mass" – 9:30 a.m.

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Food For Thought...

The Second Advent Candle – BETHLEHEM

*"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days." (Micah 5:2)*